



# Harrison County Civil Defense

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## NEWS RELEASE

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9/25/2002 9:27 AM

### **SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER TO OPEN**

Harrison County Civil Defense will open a special needs shelter at 2:00 today.

A "special needs shelter" is only for individuals with medical conditions that do not require hospitalization but do confine them to bed, require continuous oxygen or may require other attention when outside the home for up to 72 hours.

Civil Defense officials do not release the location of special needs shelters, to enable better care for these patients. Individuals who believe they need this special shelter should call 228-865-4093 for more information. Officials will release location of all regular shelters at 10:00 a.m. today.

Area hospitals are near full capacity and may not be able to accommodate special needs patients. This special shelter will help keep hospital beds open for potential acute victims of the storm.

Patients should bring their medicines, oxygen, suction units or any other medical supplies that will be needed for 24-72 hours. If the patient is on a special diet, they should bring enough food for up to 72 hours. A personal care giver **MUST** accompany the patient to the shelter and must remain with the patient throughout the stay at the shelter.

Since this storm is not expected to be severe, patients should decide if they can safely stay at home. It may be better to stay at home when the patient lives in a sound structure outside a flood-prone area, has emergency power of when emergency power is not needed.

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