

**WILL ANYONE CONTACT ME  
AFTER I ENTER INFORMATION?**

An automated email will be sent to you annually requesting you check the currency of the information previously provided. It is crucial that your information is updated so adequate services can be provided to you during a disaster emergency.

The last page of the survey will ask if you would like the American Red Cross to contact you and provide information on how you and your family can prepare yourselves for disasters. There is "NO COST" for this service. If you answer "NO", you will not be contacted.

Everyone is encouraged to prepare for disasters. A good rule of thumb is to have enough supplies to survive in your house for three days without outside assistance. The American Red Cross can assist you in meeting this goal.

In Bloomsburg, call: (570) 784-1395

In Berwick, call: (570) 752-7221

**THE SPECIAL NEEDS SURVEY  
TOOL IS A DISASTER  
PREPAREDNESS SERVICE  
PROVIDED BY YOUR  
COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

Columbia County EMA  
PO Box 380, Court House  
Bloomsburg PA 17815  
Phone: 570-389-5720  
TDD: 570-389-5745  
Emergencies Dial 9-1-1  
FAX: 570-784-2975

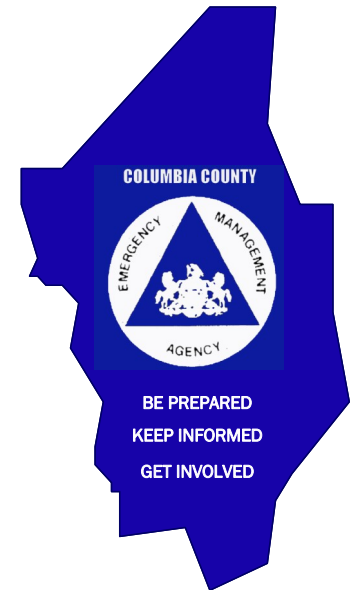
E-mail: [specialneeds@columbiapa.org](mailto:specialneeds@columbiapa.org)  
Web: [www.columbiacountyema.org](http://www.columbiacountyema.org)  
Click on "Special Needs Survey"

**A PROJECT FUNDED BY THE:  
EAST CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA**



**COUNTER TERRORISM TASK FORCE  
A COOPERATIVE EFFORT OF BERKS,  
COLUMBIA, LUZERNE, MONTOUR,  
NORTHUMBERLAND, SCHUYLKILL AND  
WYOMING COUNTIES**

**COLUMBIA COUNTY  
INDIVIDUAL SPECIAL  
NEEDS SURVEY TOOL  
HELP YOUR COMMUNITY'S  
EMERGENCY RESPONDERS  
HELP YOU!**



**GO TO:**

[www.columbiacountyema.org](http://www.columbiacountyema.org)

**CLICK ON:**

**"Special Needs Survey"**



## WHAT MAKES A “SPECIAL NEEDS” INDIVIDUAL?


Columbia County Emergency Management defines special needs population as, “Individuals who are likely to require assistance in excess of that provided to the general public in a time of disaster, particularly in the event of a large scale evacuation.” This includes individuals who are physically or mentally challenged, without radio or television, or lacking necessary transportation.

## WHAT IS THE SPECIAL NEEDS SURVEY TOOL?

The Special Needs Survey Tool is an effort by your county officials to better identify residents who are most at risk during a disaster. These individuals are designated as part of the “special needs population.” The tool is a data collection device for these individuals.

## WHAT ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE SHOULD INDIVIDUALS ENTERED IN THIS DATABASE EXPECT?

The answer to this question depends on the nature of the emergency at hand. The intention of this tool is to identify our special needs population so that community officials can make informed decisions about how to best assist them.



## HOW DO I USE THE SPECIAL NEEDS TOOL?

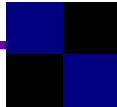
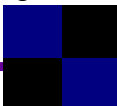
Type [www.columbiacountyema.org](http://www.columbiacountyema.org) in your computer’s web browser. Click on the link “Special Needs Survey”, and follow the instructions on the screen. Once you create an account, you can enter as many people as you need. The program is self-explanatory; however, if you need assistance, call 570-389-5725. If you have a “special needs” friend or neighbor, encourage them to sign up.

## HOW WILL MY INFORMATION BE USED?

This information will be maintained and stored by County and Municipal Emergency Management personnel. It will **NEVER** be used for **ANY** purpose other than to help emergency responders assist you in an emergency.

## WHAT IF I DON’T HAVE A COMPUTER?

Computer entry is the only way to get your information into the system. If you have friends or family, ask them first. Most public libraries provide computer access at no cost. If these options aren’t available, you can call the Columbia County Emergency Management Agency at 570-389-5725 for assistance. Residents over 60 years old may call the Area on Aging at 570-784-9272.



## I HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER WHO LIVES IN A NURSING HOME/GROUP HOME/ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY/ ETC. SHOULD I ENTER THEIR INFORMATION?

No. This tool is designed to collect information about persons living in private residences. Other initiatives have been accomplished to ensure that individuals residing in these structured living arrangements are identified.

## I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS. I AM NOT SURE IF I SHOULD PARTICIPATE.

Register on the site and look over the information being requested. If you are not interested in participating at that point you can delete your entry. If you want to speak with someone about questions or comments you may have, contact Columbia County Emergency Management at:

Phone: 570-389-5725

Email: [specialneeds@columbiapa.org](mailto:specialneeds@columbiapa.org).

### TO FILL OUT THE SURVEY:

GO TO:

[www.columbiacountyema.org](http://www.columbiacountyema.org)

Click on:

[“Special Needs Survey”](#)

