



**State of Vermont
Enhanced 911 Board**
100 State Street, Ste. #400
Montpelier, VT 05620-6501
E911.info@vermont.gov

[phone] 802-828-4911
[fax] 802-828-4109
[TTY] 802-828-5779
[800 VT] 800-342-4911

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Barbara Neal, Executive Director
802-828-4911
barbara.neal@vermont.gov

Citizens Assistance Registry for Emergencies

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Those who need special assistance during a disaster or evacuation can alert local responders of that need before emergencies. The CARE (Citizens Assistance Registry for Emergencies) program allows the elderly, people with limited mobility, or those who require specialized medical equipment to get extra help during a disaster.

Local officials can provide special assistance to those who face unique challenges during evacuations, power outages, or extended periods of isolation. For those who have registered, CARE allows local emergency responders access to their information so they can better help these individuals during an evacuation, power outage or similar event.

CARE grew out of a partnership of statewide non-profits and government agencies. Following Tropical Storm Irene, the project gained momentum and launched its pilot in Lamoille County, thanks to the leadership and support of Sheriff Roger Marcoux of the Lamoille County Sheriff's Department. CARE's key partners are the United Ways of Vermont, Vermont 211, Vermont Emergency Management, and Vermont 911. The program is a voluntary database for which users register using their preferred contact information.

Online registration is available at e911.vermont.gov/care. When registration is complete, submitted information is entered into a database linked to the Vermont 911 system. All records are confidential and will only be shared with responders involved in helping to keep people safe in an emergency. Please be aware that it is up to emergency response agencies to decide whether and when to use CARE information. Citizens must remember that they are responsible for calling 911 if they feel they are in danger at any time.

If you, or someone you know, like a grandparent, or parent, would need special help in a wide-scale event, please visit the website for more information and to register. A hard copy of the form to print and mail is also available on the site.

If you have questions about the CARE program or about registration, call 211 or the Enhanced 911 Board at 800-342-4911.

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