



COUNCIL on AGING

YOUR SOURCE AND VOICE ON SENIOR ISSUES

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The mission of Council on Aging is to transform Charlotte-Mecklenburg into a *senior-friendly** community through education and advocacy.

CURRENT EMERGING ISSUE STATUS REPORT

DATE: 03/16/09

IDENTIFIED ISSUE: SENIOR DISASTER REGISTRY

Council on Aging's [Annual Conference 2007](#), "**Emergency Planning and Older Adults: Why Planning for the Worst is Your Best Plan of Action**" identified the community's need for an accounting of frail or homebound seniors who may need help in the event of a disastrous situation. Currently, there is not a **senior disaster registry** system available to address the needs of frail, homebound, or elderly citizens of Mecklenburg County who would need assistance in the event of an emergency or disaster.

CURRENT SITUATION:

- As of July 1, 2008, the population of adults age 60 and older will be over 108,000, which constitutes approximately 35% of Mecklenburg County's population.
- In the event of a major emergency or disaster occurring in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area, more than 34,000 frail or homebound older adults would be at risk.
- These older adults would likely need assistance from medical response personnel during time of an emergency.
- Currently, there is not a comprehensive registry of at-risk older adults in Mecklenburg County.

COUNCIL ON AGING EDUCATION / ADVOCACY EFFORTS:

- Staff have been hired to research and plan a Senior Disaster Registry system for Mecklenburg County to be hosted by Council on Aging;
- Staff has finalized the Registry system database;
- The Registry system has the capacity to gather information on the registrant's physical address, whether they live with a caregiver, level of mobility, medical needs, medications, medical provider, etc. This information will be useful in determining the registrant's level of need in the event of an emergency;

- To ensure effectiveness and efficiency of the Registry system, stakeholders have been involved in the development and implementation process. Stakeholders include: MEDIC Mecklenburg EMS Agency, Charlotte Fire Department, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management Office, Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Mecklenburg County Health Department and Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners.
- Council on Aging has developed a Senior Disaster Registry brochure, form and emergency checklist to educate likely registrants, caregivers and families in the community.
- Council on Aging is currently [scheduling presentations](#) to agencies, organizations, businesses, community groups, clubs and centers to educate the public and service providers on the Senior Disaster Registry system.

RESOURCES / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Council on Aging [Senior Disaster Registry brochure](#) / checklist (*electronic version*)
- Council on Aging [Senior Disaster Registry form](#) (*printable version*)
- Council on Aging [Senior Disaster Registry flyer](#) (*printable version*)
- Council on Aging [Senior Disaster Registry e-mail](#)
- Council on Aging [Personal Disaster Plan](#)
- Council on Aging [Annual Conference 2007: "Emergency Planning for Older Adults: Why Planning for the Worst is Your Best Plan of Action"](#)
- www.ready.gov
- www.redcross.org
- www.fema.org
- www.redcross.org

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Help Council on Aging raise awareness about the Senior Disaster Registry system. **Schedule a presentation** for your agency, organization, club or center today! Contact Council on Aging, 704-391-5216 or SeniorRegistry@charmeckcoa.org.
- Raise awareness about the importance of personal emergency preparedness. Visit Council on Aging's [Speakers' Bureau](#) to learn more about available educational programs.
- Prepare a [disaster plan](#) for you and your loved ones.
- [Register](#) yourself or your loved ones NOW for the Senior Disaster Registry.
- [Donate](#) today to help ensure a *senior-friendly* tomorrow.

*A *senior-friendly* community allows aging adults to maintain independence, dignity and quality of life.