



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: 06/09/08

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 is currently finalizing the registry system database;
- Staff is currently building the registry form to have the capacity to gather information on the senior 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;

- Staff has identified and met with stakeholders such as MEDIC, Charlotte Fire Department, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Emergency Management Department, 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 to make the system as effective and efficient as possible for medical response personnel.
- Council on Aging is currently creating a Senior Disaster Registry brochure and PowerPoint presentation to create heightened awareness and to educate likely registrants, caregivers and families in the community.

RESOURCES / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Council on Aging [Senior Disaster Registry](#)
- 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 need for the senior disaster registry system effort and the importance of registering all older adults who might need assistance by having this information presented to your organization, business or club through the Council on Aging [Speakers' Bureau](#).
- Prepare a disaster plan for you and your loved ones.

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