South Carolina Long Term Care Emergency Preparedness e-Newsletter: Fall 2023

Welcome, we're glad you're here.

Another perk of attending a South Carolina Long Term Care Emergency

Preparedness - Basic/Advanced Course is gaining access to this bi-annual newsletter curated for nursing home staff members like you. Be sure to check out our webpage for other helpful resources.

SC LTCEP Webpage

NEW EDUCATIONAL VIDEO! Emergency Preparedness Kits

LONG TERM CARE

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KITS Click the image above to view the educational video on items to consider including in your LTC Facility Emergency Preparedness Kit. **Upcoming Courses:**



Mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

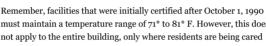
Space Staff Ability to Provide Care



provide care on a normal day. During a disaster, those spaces can often

must maintain a temperature range of 71* to 81* F. However, this does

be modified and used for different functions.



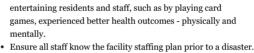
for. If your facility's relocation plan is to move residents from their rooms to the dining area, make sure the space is large enough to hold them and staff who are caring for them.

alternate care site after evacuating, consider what other staffing, supplies, and system needs will be necessary to provide care. Other space considerations are listed below: • Trim or remove trees or other landscaping near your facility's roofs, HVAC system, storage buildings, power lines or other areas

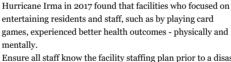
in the pipes and produce Legionella bacteria. Also, in sub-freezing temperatures, undrained water in pipes may freeze and cause

which could be impacted if a tree were to fall. Install 'frost-proof' faucets on exterior building spigots. • If your facility is evacuated for an extended period, ensure your emergency preparedness plan includes HVAC and plumbing inspections before returning. If left unattended, water can remain

- them to break or burst meaning water leaks for your facility. · If your plan includes staff staying at the facility for multiple shifts,
- Include other groups in your plans for space such as volunteers, residents' families, staff families, and their pets. · Before a storm, your facility may order additional supplies such as medications, linens, or food and water. Where will those additional items be stored? Are there any special storage requirements such as refrigeration?
- Clinical and non-clinical staff are critical in providing care to residents. See below for staffing considerations:



Staff



Implement refresher training before being impacted - if a hurricane is on its way, review who is on the staff A team and B team and their schedules.

Supplies There is a long list of supplies needed to provide care on a normal day, and even more may be needed during a disaster. When reviewing your emergency preparedness plans, policies, and procedures, make sure each of the following categories are considered for supply needs. This

o manual can openers $\circ~$ supplies for preparing and serving food in different areas, while transporting to another facility, or at an alternate care site

is not a comprehensive list.

• Water



o food preparation o linens/laundry handwashing many anti-bacterial bathing wipes buckets o water filters/water purification tablets

here! • Temperature Regulation o portable heaters

portable generators to electrical equipment inside the facility! • Medications/Medical Supplies pharmaceuticals

o emergency blankets

- o hardcopy/paper Medication Administration Records o pens, clipboards Lighting
 - o personal lighting: flashlights and headlamps (for all staff/volunteers) o area lighting: lanterns and light stands
 - o duct tape o zip ties o cords/rope

for LTC here! • Transportation

o evacuation kits/bags

- pillows, sleep masks, ear plugs, fans, etc. Restful sleep is critical for physical and mental health, especially in a crisis.
- **Systems** The healthcare industry is becoming more reliant on a multitude of systems to operate on a daily basis. Think through each of the systems

o power water o natural gas o medical gas/vacuum (suction)

sewage

o phone

· Communications Systems



for LTC here! · Transportation Systems blocked roadways (incoming and outgoing paths) o supply shortages Suppliers/Services

- HVAC \circ plumbing o medical supplies

o pharmaceuticals linen service o medical waste

- South Carolina Healthcare Coalition Webpage · South Carolina Healthcare Coalition Contact List Flyer · South Carolina Healthcare Coalition Map
 - Webpage

Click here to download the full schedule with links to register. Remember, emergency preparedness is everyone's responsibility. All positions are invited to attend!

AERONAUTICAL TRAINING CENTER: 7000 RIVERS AVENUE, NORTH CHARLESTON, SC 29406 OCT 12, 2023 (THURS) LOW COUNTRY MANCHESTER MEADOWS: 337 E MT GALLANT RD, ROCK HILL, SC 29730

Mitigation Strategies As we transition into the winter season, now is the time to review your emergency plan, policies & procedures and identify wavs to make improvements. There are four key areas that affect your facility's ability to provide care for your residents. The areas are: Space, Staff, Supplies, and Systems. We'll cover some mitigation strategies for each.

If your resident care space is relocated within your facility or to an

ensure there are spaces for them to rest and shower.

- · If utilizing the incident command system (ICS) consider what space may be needed for an emergency operations center or incident command post.
- $\bullet\;$ Express the importance of family preparedness to your staff members. The more their household is prepared for disasters, the $\,$ more likely they are to report to your facility in times of need. · Maintaining high resident and staff morale during a disaster is

crucial. A study from nursing homes who were impacted by

- · Don't forget about volunteers! Get connected with your community partners and local volunteer groups and then invite them to your preparedness trainings and exercises.
- Food $\circ~$ additional food for staff and family members who may arrive o non-perishable items - items that require minimal cooking and do not require water are preferred

o drinking water bathing/showering toileting

- o pocket guides/reference cards on how to filter and/or disinfect water hand sanitizer $\circ~$ reminder - watch our video on Emergency Water for LTC
- $\circ~$ portable air conditioning units o ponchos o ice/ice maker o warm hats and blankets

o remember: extension cords cannot be used to connect

o medical equipment o personal protective equipment o drug information guides $\circ \ \ oxygen \ wrench$

 bleeding control kits and supplies o medical gases including tanks

- o many extra batteries and chargers for lights General Tools o multi-tools
 - o Ziploc bags o reminder - watch our video on Emergency Preparedness Kits
 - $\circ~$ medical transport equipment: wheel chairs, beds, cloth litters, stair chairs, etc. o proper storage of medical gases (e.g. tank holders, carts) $\circ~$ bags and/or boxes to transport supplies along with many Ziploc bags in assorted sizes

o resident tracking supplies or systems

o Include in your plans, policies and procedures strategies to prevent the theft of supplies in a disaster.

o Whenever staff or residents are sleeping somewhere unfamiliar, make the experience more comfortable with appropriate supplies: air mattresses, cots, blankets,

below and consider how to modify or replace each if a system outage or • Utility Systems

o internet/intranet o radio o electronic health records $\circ~$ reminder - watch our video on Emergency Communications

- o medical gases o staffing agencies
 - **Resources** · South Carolina Emergency Management Division Website
 - South Carolina Public Health Region Map · South Carolina Health Care Association Website • CDC Use Safe Water After A Natural Disaster or Emergency