

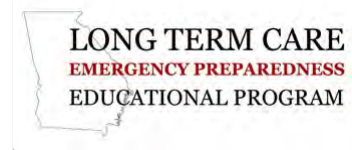
LTC Emergency Preparedness Digest

February 2019 - GA Newsletter

This e-newsletter is designed to provide Long Term Care facilities with information about recent events, conference opportunities, and upcoming classes around Georgia, in addition to emergency preparedness tips and focus areas to consider. We hope you will find this useful, and we always encourage and welcome feedback to help us improve.

LTC Emergency Preparedness - Basic Course

We have now completed 14 Long Term Care Emergency Preparedness - Basic courses. We are proud to announce we had a total of **511 attendees representing 195 certified nursing homes!** Thank you all for your commitment to emergency preparedness.



Later in 2019, we will be offering more basic courses as well as a new advanced-level course. We hope you are able to attend! (If you want to be notified when these courses become available - email us at GeorgiaLTC@uga.edu)

February Focus Areas

Focus Area - Severe Weather

As we head into Spring, it is important we prepare for all the extreme weather this new season brings. February 4-8, 2019 was Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Georgia. Included below is some of the information Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA) provided regarding all of the severe weather threats Georgia may experience.

Be Prepared



- Know your risk
- Build a kit
- Make a plan
- Be informed- get the warning (NOAA Weather Radio + Wireless Emergency Alerts)

Thunderstorm and Lightning Safety

- When thunder roars go indoors!
- Stay indoors for 30 minutes after you hear the last clap of thunder
- Do not seek shelter under a tree or remain in an open area
- Unplug appliances and do not use landline phones
- Do not take a bath or a shower during a thunderstorm
- Thunderstorms may create hail, cause tornadoes and flash flooding

Flash Flooding/ Flood Safety

- Flooding kills more people than any other weather hazard
- A Flood Watch or a Flash Flood Watch means that detected conditions could lead to flooding
- A Flash Flood Warning means that flooding is imminent and you should take action immediately
- If flooding occurs get to high ground
- Do not attempt to cross flowing streams or roadways
- Remember: **turn around, don't drown**

Focus Area - Tornado Preparedness

What is your facility's plan in event of a tornado?

Tornado season in Georgia peaks during the months of March, April and May. Since 1950 EVERY COUNTY in Georgia has recorded at least one tornado. That is why it is important to start preparing and educating yourself now.



Know the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning:

- A tornado watch alerts us that weather conditions *could potentially produce* a tornado and that one could develop in your area
- A tornado warning signifies that a tornado *has been spotted in your area* and shelter should be taken immediately

If you are under a tornado warning, **nd safe shelter immediately:**

- Seek shelter in a sturdy building if it is safe to do so
- Go to a safe room, basement, or storm cellar
- If the building does not have a basement, find a small interior room on the lowest level
- Stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck

Prepare NOW

- Know your area's tornado risk
- Know the signs of a tornado, including a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud; an approaching cloud of debris; or a loud roar- similar to a freight train
- Sign up for your community's warning system
- Pay attention to weather reports
- Identify and practice going to a safe shelter in the event of high winds

Focus Area - Emergency Power (POTENTIAL FUNDING)

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH), Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency (GEMHSA), Georgia Health Care Association (GHCA), and the University of Georgia's Institute for Disaster Management (UGA-IDM) have begun a collaborative partnership to examine the emergency power capabilities within Georgia's Certified Nursing Centers. **These agencies are working together to determine IF funding opportunities exist to assist facilities that may have limited or no life-sustaining emergency power capabilities.** To that end, a survey is being distributed to assess the emergency power capabilities of skilled nursing facilities across the State.



Based on this assessment, facilities may qualify to be included in any potential grant project that may provide skilled nursing centers with emergency power equipment. **To be considered for this project, facilities must complete this survey by March 1, 2019.**

If you are at one of Georgia's 360 CMS Certified Nursing Homes and wish to complete the survey, you may do so using the following link:

https://ugeorgia.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eDMLmw3GSydTAs5

NOTE: As stated above, this IS NOT a currently funded project - a state workgroup will use collected data as a needs assessment as we work to see what (if any) potential grant funds are available or may be procured from state/federal agencies.

Long Term Care in the News



Evacuation Drill Saves Nursing Home Residents From Fire

As part of an annual exercise, Caressant Care Nursing Home trained with their local emergency response partners on how to evacuate their facility in case of fire. Three months later, they used that training to save the lives of their residents.

Coalition Aids Evacuation of Nursing Home Residents After Major Gas Outage

St. Clare Newport Nursing Home had to evacuate after freezing temps caused a major gas outage in the area. Over the course of 12 hours, all 84 residents were transferred to 14 other facilities. The nursing home credits evacuation planning and the support from their coalition in a smooth evacuation process.

[Read the full article here](#)

Upcoming Events

Mutual Aid Task Force Meeting (Georgia)

The Mutual Aid Task Force (MATF) is a State-wide Quarterly Meeting where attendees representing healthcare facilities and emergency management agencies share ideas, experiences, and best practices. *Keep this date on your calendars and contact your coalition for more information.*

WHEN: Friday, March 22, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM

WHERE: Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC): 1000 Indian Springs Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029



Emergency Management Association of Georgia Conference

The Emergency Management Association of Georgia is excited to welcome professionals from emergency management, public health, healthcare coalitions, and others to the 2019 Emergency Management Summit and Training Sessions.

There will be speakers and sessions designed for emergency management professionals from EMA, EMS, hospitals, specialty care, as well as other community partners.

WHEN: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 8:00 AM to Friday, April 19, 2019 11:00 AM

WHERE: Savannah International Convention and Trade Center:
1 International Drive, Savannah, GA 31421




[Click here to learn more about the EMAG Conference!](#)



Contact Us

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If you have questions about this newsletter or upcoming events, please contact Tawny Waltz via phone or email!

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