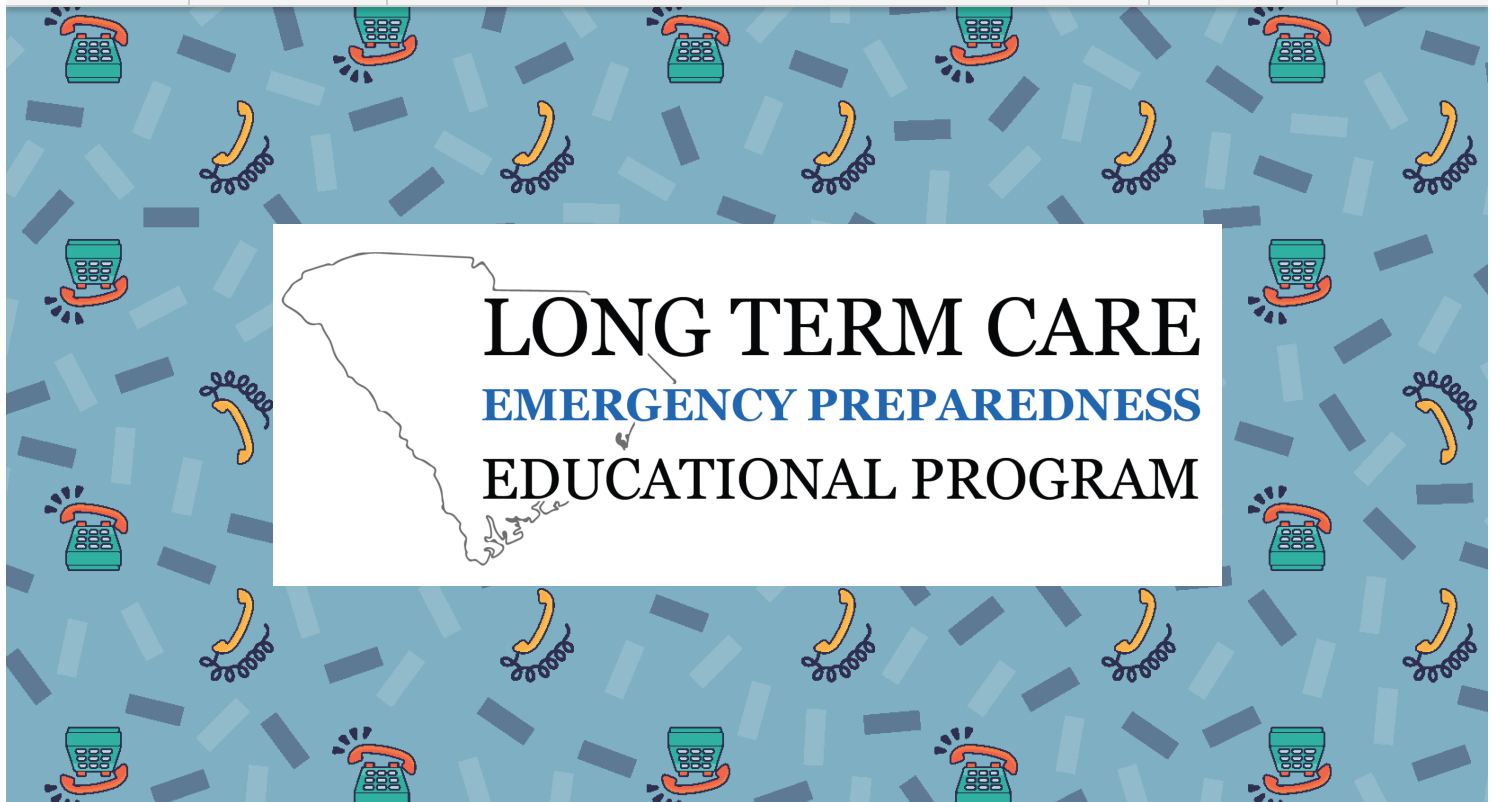


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South Carolina Long Term Care Emergency Preparedness E-Newsletter: Spring 2022

Welcome, we're glad you're here.

Another perk of attending a South Carolina Long Term Care Emergency Preparedness - Basic 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 helpful resources.

[SC LTCEP Webpage](#)



Focus Area: *Community Partners*

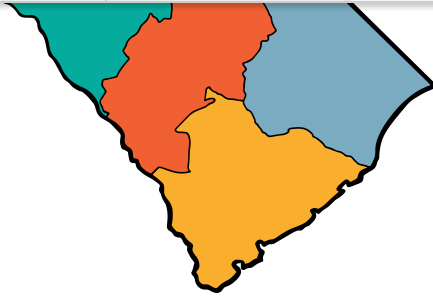

When disaster strikes, all health care organizations, from the largest hospital to the smallest long term care facility can be affected. Decisions made by one healthcare organization will impact others. In order to effectively respond to an incident and work towards recovery, healthcare organizations will need to communicate and coordinate with additional community partners.

Community partners can include public safety agencies (i.e. fire, police, emergency medical services (EMS)) emergency management officials, public health agencies, surrounding providers and suppliers, as well as other emergency preparedness partners such as healthcare coalition leadership.

Knowing who your community partners are before a disaster strikes is critical. The weakest link in any disaster is communication, but identifying and building a relationship with your community partners now can lessen a disaster's impact later. We have included several resources below to assist with identifying those community partners, specifically your healthcare coalition and county emergency management.

Planning together saves lives!

Healthcare Coalitions

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The healthcare coalition (HCC) is a multi-agency coordinating group made up of all types of agencies involved in healthcare preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. HCC's member organizations can include area hospitals, long term care facilities, public safety, fire departments, EMS, behavioral health providers, university system partners, and military installations as applicable. The mission of the HCC is to assist and support via communication and coordination.

In South Carolina, there are four healthcare coalitions which each have a Region Healthcare Coalition Director and Healthcare Preparedness Program Coordinator. Each HCC meets several times each year to share information about best practices, available resources, and upcoming training or disaster exercises. There are no costs associated with being a member of the HCC, it's free! The HCCs also invite members to share what information or resources are needed by the community so they can assist with those needs. By participating with your HCC, you can build and strengthen relationships with other healthcare organizations in the area and ease any discomfort about reaching out to emergency management officials during a disaster.

County Emergency Management



County emergency management agencies or divisions, are also an integral community partner. They assist with many emergency planning activities such as conducting a hazard vulnerability analysis (HVA), emergency preparedness plan reviews, and disaster exercises, as well as resource requests as needed. It's important to know who your county emergency manager is before a disaster, and make sure they know who you are. Involve your county emergency managers in your facility's disaster exercises, invite them to tour your facility,

mass-notification alert system as applicable.

In order to locate your county emergency manager, go to

scemd.org.

Then, hover over “Who We Are,” and select County Emergency Managers from the drop-down menu. You can then select your county or scroll down the page to locate the contact information for your county’s emergency manager.

Upcoming Courses

See below or download our [flyer](#) for a list of upcoming Long Term Care Emergency Preparedness Basic Course offerings.

- **Midlands:** April 8, 2022 ONLINE
- **Lowcountry:** May 5, 2022 in North Charleston, SC

Check out our [webpage](#) for more info!

Emergency Preparedness Resources

- [South Carolina Emergency Management Division](#)
- [South Carolina Healthcare Coalition Webpage](#)
- [South Carolina Healthcare Coalition Contact List Flyer](#)
- [South Carolina Healthcare Coalition Map](#)
- [South Carolina Public Health Region Map](#)
- [South Carolina Health Care Association Website](#)

