



HURRICANE AWARENESS MONTH

Nursing home hurricane preparedness is the key to protecting your loved one. Hurricane season has begun. This time of year brings up a unique set of potential health risks for the elderly. With hurricanes come power outages and evacuations. This can lead to stress on what may already be a weakened state.

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TRAINING AND EMERGENCY PLANS

Florida's long term care centers train year-round to prepare staff and residents for the potential dangers of hurricane season, including:

- **Emergency power plans** that include strengthened steps for both evacuation and shelter-in-place scenarios.
- **Disaster drills** and ongoing trainings to test power plans and ensure that all staff members are familiar with the steps to be taken during an emergency.
- **Communication** with local emergency and other officials to ensure that those authorities have a clear understanding of the centers' residents and the complexities of their medical needs.
- **Hour-by-hour checklists** must be completed by each facility prior to an approaching storm to ensure center operations are in order and outside resources are in position.

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Counting Down to an Impending Storm

When a storm is projected to make landfall within **five days**, long term care centers in that area have a lot to do to get ready covering four main categories: **Disaster Plan & Emergency Supplies, Fuel Checks & Generator Preparation, Communication with Outside Contacts,** and **Facility Hardening & Maintenance.**

120 Hours: 5 Days Out

Disaster Plan & Emergency Supplies
Fuel Checks & Generator Preparation
Communication with Outside Contacts
Facility Hardening & Maintenance



i.e. coordinate with transportation vendors, receiving facilities and other essential suppliers; activate Emergency Response Team

96 Hours: 4 Days Out

Disaster Plan & Emergency Supplies
Fuel Checks & Generator Preparation
Communication with Outside Contacts
Facility Hardening & Maintenance



i.e. check Plant Operations Emergency Kit; pre-stock batteries; check communication devices; fuel vehicles

72 Hours: 3 Days Out

Fuel Checks & Generator Preparation
Facility Hardening & Maintenance
Communication with Outside Contacts



i.e. recheck grounds and roof for loose items; perform required generator checks; review residents' specific medical conditions; prepare for staffing needs

48 Hours: 2 Days Out

Fuel Checks & Generator Preparation
Facility Hardening & Maintenance
Disaster Plan & Emergency Supplies
Communication with Outside Contacts



i.e. install plywood over windows and doors; ensure 7-10 days of essential supplies are stocked; communicate sheltering plans with staff and family members

24 Hours: 1 Day Out

Fuel Checks & Generator Preparation
Communication with Outside Contacts



i.e. coordinate with nursing home administrator on status updates to AHCA's online emergency status database and the local Emergency Management Office

This planning tool resulted from a series of discussion-based exercises for FHCA members, funded by FPL and conducted in partnership with the Florida Department of Health. The tool was further refined by the FHCA Emergency Preparedness Council and made available to FHCA members. For additional resources on Emergency Preparedness for Health Care Facilities, please visit www.fhca.org, or contact the association at (850) 224-3907.