SECTION 14.0 PERSONNEL

14.13 An in-service educational program shall be conducted on an ongoing basis, which shall include an orientation program for new personnel and a program for the development and improvement of skills of all personnel. The in-service program shall be geared to the needs of the aged and shall include annual programs on... fire prevention and safety...

SECTION 37.0 DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

37.1 Each facility shall develop and maintain a written disaster preparedness plan that shall include plans and procedures to be followed in case of fire or other emergencies. The plan shall include provisions for evacuation of the facility in the event of a natural disaster. The plan and procedures shall be developed with the assistance of qualified safety, emergency management, and/or other appropriate experts and shall be coordinated with the local emergency management agency.

37.2 The plan shall include procedures to be followed pertaining to no less than the following: a) fire, explosion, severe weather, loss of power and/or water, flooding, failure of internal systems and/or equipment, and other calamities; b) transfer of casualties; c) transfer of records; d) location and use of alarm systems, signals and fire fighting equipment; e) containment of fire; f) notification of appropriate persons; g) relocations of residents and evacuation routes; h) feeding of residents; i) handling of drugs and biologicals; j) missing residents; k) back-up or contingency plans to address possible internal systems (e.g., food, power, water, sewage disposal) and/or equipment failures; and l) any other essentials as required by the local emergency management agency.

37.3 A copy of the plan shall be available at every nursing unit.

37.4 Emergency steps of action shall be clearly outlined and posted in conspicuous locations throughout the facility.

37.5 Simulated drills testing the effectiveness of the plan shall be conducted for all shifts at least quarterly. Written reports and evaluation of all drills shall be maintained by the facility.

37.6 All personnel shall receive training in disaster preparedness as part of their employment orientation.
37.7 The administrator of the facility shall notify the licensing agency (Office of Facilities Regulation) immediately by telephone of any unscheduled implementation of any part of the facility’s disaster preparedness plan and shall provide a follow-up report in writing within three (3) business days using the form supplied in Appendix “E” herein.

37.8 Each nursing facility shall agree to enter into a memorandum of agreement with the licensing agency and the local municipality in which the nursing facility is geographically located to participate in a statewide distribution plan for medications and/or vaccines in the event of a public health emergency or disease outbreak.