

SECTION 1500 - EMERGENCY PROCEDURES/DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

1501. Emergency Care (II)

The facility shall provide for the care of residents in an emergency and make available appropriate equipment and services to render emergency resuscitative and life-support procedures.

1502. Disaster Preparedness (II)

A. All facilities shall develop, by contact and consultation with their county emergency preparedness agency, a suitable written plan for actions to be taken in the event of a disaster and/or emergency evacuation. In the event of mass casualties, the facility shall provide resources as available. The plan shall be updated, as appropriate, annually, or as needed, and rehearsed at least annually. A record of the rehearsal, including its date and time, a summary of actions and recommendations, and the names of participants shall be maintained.

B. The disaster/emergency evacuation plan shall include, but not be limited to:

1. A sheltering plan to include:

a. Facility occupancy at the time of the disaster;

b. Name, address and phone number of the sheltering facility(ies) to which the residents will be relocated during a disaster;

c. A letter of agreement signed by an authorized representative of each sheltering facility which shall include: the number of relocated residents that can be accommodated; sleeping, feeding, and medication plans for the relocated residents; and provisions for accommodating relocated staff members and volunteers. The letter shall be updated with the sheltering facility at least every three (3) years and whenever significant changes occur. For those facilities located in Beaufort, Charleston, Colleton, Horry, Jasper, and Georgetown counties, at least one (1) sheltering facility shall be located in a county other than these counties.

2. A transportation plan, to include agreements with entities for relocating residents, which addresses:

a. The relocation needs of the residents and staff contingent upon the type of disaster/emergency confronted;

b. Procedures for providing appropriate medical support, food, water and medications during relocation based on the needs and number of the residents;

c. Estimated time to accomplish the relocation during normal conditions;

d. Primary and secondary routes to be taken to the sheltering facility.

3. A staffing plan for the relocated residents, to include:

a. How care will be provided to the relocated residents, including licensed and nonlicensed staff members that will meet the staffing requirements of Section 606 for residents who are relocated;

b. Prearranged transportation arrangements to ensure staff members are relocated to the sheltering facility;

c. Co-signed statement by an authorized representative of the sheltering facility if staffing, bedding, or medical supplies are to be provided by the sheltering facility.

C. In instances where there are proposed changes in licensed bed capacity, the disaster/emergency evacuation plan shall be updated to reflect the new licensed bed capacity and submitted to the Division of Health Licensing along with the application for bed capacity change.

D. Only those nursing homes located in the coastal counties of Beaufort, Charleston, Colleton, Horry, Jasper, or Georgetown may request exemption from an emergency evacuation order.

1. Facilities in the above counties may elect to seek an exemption from having to evacuate the facility in the event the Governor issues a Mandatory Evacuation Order for an impending hurricane. Facilities located in Beaufort, Charleston, Colleton, Horry, Jasper, or Georgetown counties may request an exemption from an emergency evacuation order if the facility has previously submitted the following to the Department:

a. A Critical Data Sheet, updated annually, that certifies emergency power supply is available for a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours, a seventy-two (72) hour supply of food, water, and medical supplies is on site, and that adequate staff will be available and on duty to provide continual care for the residents;

b. A copy of the engineer's report concerning the wind load the facility should withstand; and

c. A current approved evacuation plan prior to a declared emergency.

2. Once the prerequisites are met and an emergency has been declared, the facility shall draw down the census of the facility and then contact the Division of Health Licensing to request an exemption from the evacuation order.

3. A facility shall comply with the mandatory evacuation order unless an exemption from evacuation of the facility for a specific storm has been received from the Department.

1503. Licensed Bed Capacity During An Emergency (II)

A. A facility desiring to temporarily admit residents in excess of its licensed bed capacity due to an emergency shall:

1. Request that the Department concur that an emergency situation does exist by contacting the Division of Health Licensing;
2. Determine the maximum number of residents to be temporarily admitted;
3. Establish an anticipated date for discharge of the temporary residents;
4. Outline how and where the temporary residents will be housed; and
5. Contact the county emergency preparedness agency to advise of additional residents.

B. Other issues such as who will staff the care of the temporary residents, physician orders, additional food for the temporary residents, and handling of medications shall be resolved ahead of time by memoranda of agreement, internal policies and procedures, *etc.*

C. The facility shall notify the Division of Health Licensing in writing when the temporary residents have been discharged.

1504. Emergency Call Numbers (II)

Although the facility may be in a location that has access to "911" services, emergency call data shall be immediately available, posted in a conspicuous place, at least at every staff work area, and shall include, at a minimum, the telephone numbers of fire and police departments, ambulance service, and the Poison Control Center. Other emergency call information shall be available, to include the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of physicians and staff members to be notified in case of emergency.

1505. Continuity of Essential Services (II)

There shall be a written plan to be implemented to assure the continuation of essential resident support services for such reasons as power outage, water shortage, or in the event of the absence from work of any portion of the workforce resulting from inclement weather or other causes.

1506. Use of the Facility or Services in Response to a Public Health Emergency (II)

The Department, in coordination with the guidelines of the State Emergency Operations Plan, may, for such period as the state of public health emergency exists and as may be reasonable and necessary for emergency response, require a nursing home to provide services or the use of its facility if the services are reasonable and necessary to respond to the public health emergency as a condition of licensure, authorization, or the ability to continue doing business as a nursing home. When the Department needs the use or services of the facility to isolate or quarantine individuals during a public health emergency, the management and supervision of the nursing home shall be coordinated with the Department to assure protection of existing residents and compliance with the regulation in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. Section 44-4-310 (1976, as amended).