

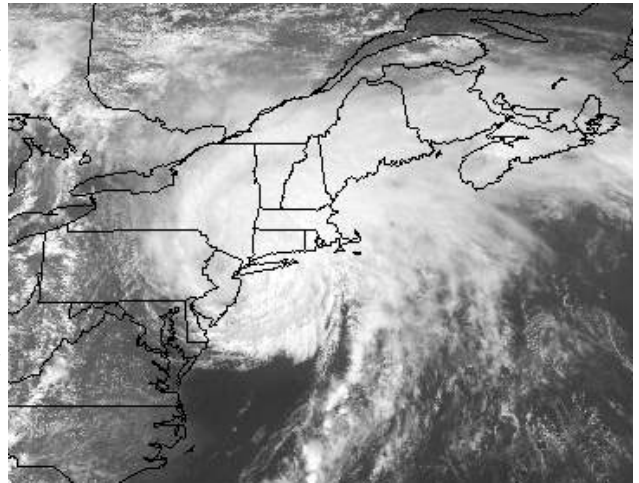
For emergency planners, the spring and summer months bring natural hazards such as flooding, severe thunderstorms and hurricanes. For home based care agencies, it is essential to have plans in place so that you can meet your patients needs when faced with a natural event.

In this edition of *Wired for Access* you will find information to aid in emergency planning for naturally occurring crisis.

Hurricane Preparedness

Last week was Hurricane Preparedness Week, sponsored by the National Hurricane Center, and the National Weather Service. The event was designed to encourage all citizens to prepare for the 2010 hurricane season.

Early predictions by the Forecast Team at Colorado State University suggest an active hurricane season for the Atlantic. The Forecast Team, which has been forecasting hurricane activity for the past 27 years, based its prediction by comparing weather conditions from April 2010 with historical data. This past April's conditions have similarities to early April conditions in the years 1969, 1998 and 2005— the year Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans.



With this in mind, it is important for emergency planners to have preparedness plans in place to address hurricanes and their associated hazards which include high winds, flooding, storm surge in low lying coastal areas and tornadoes.

AHRQ wants to help “Prepare Your Community for Hurricane Season”

<http://www.ahrq.gov/prep/hurricane.htm>

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has added several new resources to their website to assist community and emergency planners prepare strategies for emergency response during a hurricane or other natural disaster. “Mass Medical Care with Scarce Resources” and “Altered Standards of Care in Mass Casualty Events” are two of the many important topics covered on this website.

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Flooding a Statewide Concern

<http://www.semo.state.ny.us/info/publicsafety/floodprepare.cfm>

Flooding is a fairly common occurrence through most of New York State. Hurricanes, Nor'Easters and heavy rain storms can cause severe flooding in coastal and inland areas alike. It is important for your staff, as well as patients, who travel to and live near areas that tend to flood to be prepared. The State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) website provides excellent information for New Yorkers on what to do before, during and after a flood.

“Nearly half of all flash flood fatalities are vehicle related. Even the largest and heaviest vehicles will float. Two feet of water will carry most cars away.”

-SEMO Website

See the last page for a “tear away” on flooding safety.

Encourage your Employees and Patients to be Prepared

An effective Emergency Preparedness Plan for a business should include your employees and patients. By encouraging preparedness planning by your staff and patients with their own families, your business can be better positioned to weather any situation.

Below is a list of several sites that provide comprehensive information for citizen preparedness in the event of a natural disaster.

<http://www.greathurricaneblowout.org/>

<http://www.ready.gov/>

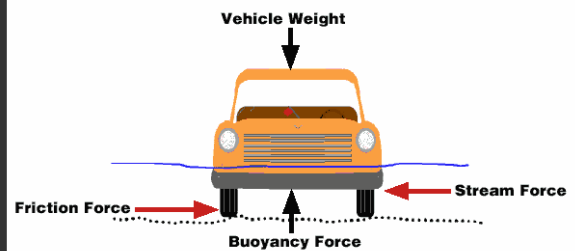
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/>

http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/disaster_prevention.shtml

Forces on Vehicles Crossing Streams

The car will float downstream when:

Stream Force > Friction Force



Regional NYS and NYC All-Hazard Alerts

Available on Your PDA!

<http://www.nyalert.gov/>

<https://a858-nycnotify.nyc.gov/notifynyc/>

<http://www.advancewarningsystemnyc.org/>



Tornados a Reality in New York

Many New Yorkers associate tornadoes with the mid-west, but tornadoes can and have developed in New York State. Last July, a tornado caused significant damage in Western New York (picture at left) and one touched down in Brooklyn during a serious thunderstorm in 2007. While tornadoes are a less-likely hazard, they do develop in New York and deserve consideration as one of the many weather related hazards your staff and patients may face.



Get Connected Through Social Media

Several state and federal agencies have recognized the value of social media to connect with the general public and are now using Facebook and Twitter as a means of disseminating emergency information and updates. Facebook users are now able to “Like” Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Weather Service (NWS). Twitter users are able to receive regular “tweets” from NY-Alert, the New York State Emergency Management Office’s (SEMO) alert system.

Receiving emergency updates regarding weather, traffic accidents or other emergent threats through social media is an easy way for your employees, your patients and their families to be in the loop regardless of the situation. Get connected today!



Keep Current with COCA — Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity Updates

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/clinregistry/>

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) sponsored Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) updates offer clinicians a monthly venue via conference calls as well as weekly email updates on emerging disease and terrorist threats. It is an excellent tool for a health practitioner’s emergency preparedness arsenal.



2010 Emergency Preparedness Annual Meeting Coming in June

HCA Education and Research will be hosting the 2010 Emergency Preparedness Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 10, 2010 from 10:00 am to 3:30pm at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Castleton, NY.

The agenda includes an exciting line up for an Emergency Preparedness Best Practices discussion. Rochelle Eggleton from Lourdes at Home will discuss their Home Health Care Patient Tracking System database developed by the Broome County Home Care Coalition; Shelly Raffle from Visiting Nurse Service of New York will talk about the Emergency Communications Strategy employed by Visiting Nurse Service of NY; Tracey Sokoloff from Isabella Home and Community Based Services will share information about Fire Safety and Emergency Disaster Planning for Homebound Elderly; and Laura Raisor and Jay Roorbach from Visiting Nurse Service of Western New York will discuss the establishment of an Incident Command System for Home Care.

Meeting attendees will also participate in a table top exercise designed to test their agency’s communications strategy. An update on the importance of Influenza Immunization and information on the Health Provider Network/Health Commerce System is also on the agenda.

HCA Education and Research staff looks forward to seeing you there!

June 2, 2010

Health Commerce System Portal Transitions to Phase II

As of June 1, 2010, all Health Provider Network (HPN)/Health Commerce System (HCS) users will be directed to the new HCS portal after logging on to the system. The outdated HPN page will still be accessible via a link on the HCS portal. Users are encouraged to learn more about the HCS portal by consulting the *HCS Orientation Guide* available on the portal or register for a live webinar training session at: <http://nyvbcc.webex.com>.

In support of the deliverables on a DOH grant, HCA Education & Research makes this e-newsletter available, free of charge, to all NYS home care providers.

Questions or comments concerning the grant deliverables may be directed to Lexi Silver, Vice President of Policy and Clinical Affairs, at (518) 810-0658 or asilver@hcanys.org; or Mandy Fallon, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, at (518) 424-1358 or mfallon@hcanys.org.

~Clip and Share with employees and patients~

Flooding—Act Now and Be Prepared

<http://www.semo.state.ny.us/info/publicsafety/floodprepare.cfm>

- Learn the safest route from your home or business to high, safe ground should you have to leave in a hurry.
- Develop and practice a 'family escape' plan and identify a meeting place if family members become separated.
- Make an itemized list of all valuables including furnishings, clothing and other personal property. Keep the list in a safe place.
- Stockpile emergency supplies of canned food, medicine and first aid supplies and drinking water. Store drinking water in clean, closed containers.
- Plan what to do with your pets.
- Have a portable radio, flashlights, extra batteries and emergency cooking equipment available.
- Keep your automobile fueled. If electric power is cut off, gasoline stations may not be able to pump fuel for several days. Have a small disaster supply kit in the trunk of your car.
- Find out how many feet your property is above and below possible flood levels. When predicted flood levels are broadcast, you can determine if you may be flooded.
- Keep materials like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting and lumber handy for emergency water-proofing.

Attention New York City Residents: Do you live in a Hurricane Evacuation Zone?

Click on the link below and enter your address to see if you live or work in one of NYC's Evacuation Zones.

<http://gis.nyc.gov/oem/he/index.htm>