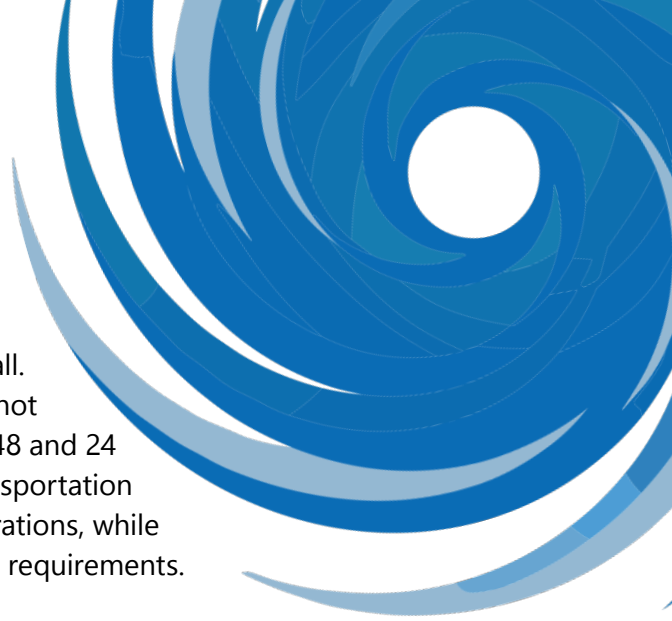


HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Healthcare facility hurricane preparedness begins well before landfall. Prepare early, communicate often and use facility-specific triggers, not weather timelines alone, to guide decisions. Take action at 120, 72, 48 and 24 hours before projected landfall to support evacuation, staffing, transportation and vendor planning. Prioritize people first, then property and operations, while ensuring compliance with all state, local, licensing and accreditation requirements.



120 Hours Before Landfall

- **Monitor** official forecasts and local emergency updates
- **Review** emergency plans, contact lists and leadership roles
- **Identify** high-risk patients and continuity needs
- **Review** evacuation, shelter-in-place and transfer triggers
- **Check** medications, food, water, oxygen, fuel and critical supplies
- **Contact** vendors, emergency management and healthcare coalition partners



72 Hours Before Landfall

- **Activate** the incident command or emergency operations team, as needed
- **Start** regular staff briefings and establish a communication schedule
- **Finalize** essential, ride-out and relief staffing plans
- **Test** backup communications, generators and emergency power
- **Confirm** transportation and receiving-facility arrangements, if applicable
- **Reassess** evacuation or shelter-in-place decisions



48 Hours Before Landfall

- **Back up** health records and verify paper downtime forms
- **Stage** emergency supplies in protected, accessible locations
- **Secure** outdoor items and protect equipment and records from water
- **Confirm** patient transfer decisions and tracking methods, if applicable
- **Reduce** or reschedule elective services or routine appointments
- **Confirm** lodging, meals and basic needs for staff remaining onsite



24 Hours Before Landfall

- **Complete** planned patient evacuations, if applicable
- **Transition** to emergency staffing and accountability procedures
- **Verify** medications, medical supplies, fuel and backup power
- **Secure** entrances, windows and exposed facility areas
- **Notify** staff, patients and families of closures or service changes
- **Report** facility status and urgent needs to emergency partners

First 72 Hours After the Storm

Assess and Restore



Conduct a safe facility damage assessment



Assess staffing, patient care capability and remaining supplies



Confirm power, water, phones, internet, fire safety and security systems functionality



Resume services gradually according to facility priorities

Communicate and Improve



Notify staff and patients of operating status



Track response costs, damage and resource use



Report any unmet needs and status to emergency partners



Conduct an after-action review and update improvement items

Priority Actions by Care Setting

Priority	Hospital	Nursing Home	Physician Practice
Evacuation/transfer readiness	High	High	As applicable
Shelter-in-place continuity	High	High	Moderate
Emergency power and fuel	High	High	As applicable
Patient tracking	High	High	As applicable
Supply and medication continuity	High	High	High
Reduce services and notify stakeholders	Moderate	Low	High

This information provided is designed to supplement, not replace, your organization's Emergency Preparedness Plan or Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). All facilities should follow their established emergency procedures. For additional preparedness resources, coordination assistance, or situation-specific guidance, contact your regional Healthcare Coalition (HCC), local emergency management agency, and county public health department.