Emergency Preparedness Challenges Facing Long Term Care
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Major Objectives for Today’s Session

• Learn about challenges facing LTC’s as they develop enhanced Disaster Plans

• Review the draft CMS Emergency Preparedness & Response Plan and discuss status

• Examine awareness of NIMS and ICS in LTC

• Learn about security concerns for LTC’s when disaster strikes
Emergency Preparedness Challenges Facing Long Term Care

Disaster!
Do we have a plan?
Key Issues Facing LTC’s

- Outdated plans with no annual review protocol
- Low awareness level of NIMS/ICS and Surge Plans
- Few “All Hazards” plans
- Multiple contracts with same vendors; trans, energy, food
- Little involvement with local EM resources
- “Shelter in Place” not incorporated in many plans
- No/few “Family Evacuation” elements of plans
- Little or no awareness of CMS draft Emergency Preparedness & Response Plan
- No system to track residents, meds, belongings (Evac)
- No security management plan in place
LTC Disaster Plan Best Practices

• Key information distribution to staff and emergency providers
• Resident special needs and acuity levels for evacuation
• Plan Elements: Mission, Purpose, Executive Summary – Customize, Applicability and Scope – Customize, Record of Distribution, Organizational Chart/Recall Roster, Emergency Information, Key Contacts Information, Succession of Command
• NIMS/ICS Incident Command Post
• Developing Relationships & Partnerships With Emergency Resources
• Alternate Facility (Relocation Site) Assessment
  • At least two relocation sites, with one being at least 50 miles away from facility
  • Must provide same level of care or higher
Disaster Preparedness in LTC: Tips to Implementing/Enhancing a Disaster Plan in LTC

What Are We Seeing in the Field?

- Strong "Stated" Commitment to Overall Program
- Poor to Average Implementation of Overall Program
- Good Focus on Obvious Threats and Perils
- Good Compliance with Fire and Life-Safety Issues
LTC Issues

- Facilities attempting to create plans independently with or without County support
- Lack of consistency among facility plans and levels of readiness
- Tragic events of Hurricane Katrina and Rita that brought national attention to the lack of coordination and planning for long term care facilities and their residents
Challenges To Achieve Higher Level Disaster Preparedness in LTC

- Create an All Hazards Plan to consider various hazards and disaster scenarios
- Incorporate a Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA)
- Incorporate CMS guidelines
- Standardize Color Code System
- Incorporate Incident Command System (ICS)
Implementation

• The implementation process must be managed by senior managers with involvement from the whole team

• Utilize Safety/Risk Committees to assist in completing this Plan

• Should be a joint effort with facility staff members and the governmental agencies

• Share efforts with residents and family members
DRAFT - Survey & Certification
Emergency Preparedness & Response Plan
22 Key Components

A- Develop Emergency Plan
B- “All Hazards” Emergency Management
C- Collaborate with Local Emergency Management Agency
D- Collaborate with Suppliers/Providers
E- Analyze Each Hazard--HVA
F- Decision Criteria for Executing Plan
G- Communication Infrastructure Contingency
H- Develop Shelter-in-Place Plan
I- Develop Evacuation Plan
J- Transportation & Other Vendors
K- Train Transportation Vendors/Volunteers
DRAFT - Survey & Certification
Emergency Preparedness & Response Plan

L- Facility Re-entry Plan
M- Residents & Family Members
N- Resident Identification
O- Trained Facility Staff Members
P- Informed Residents & Patients
Q- Essential Provisions
R- Res tracking-reporting
S- Review Emergency Plan
T- Conduct Exercises & Drills
U- Contact Ombudsman Program
V- Loss of Resident’s Personal Effects
NIMS and the Incident Command System (ICS)

The way this nation prepares for and responds to domestic incidents is about to change. It won't be an abrupt change; best practices that have been developed over the years are part of this new comprehensive national approach to incident management known as the National Incident Management System (NIMS). But it will change – and for the better. Developed by the Department of Homeland Security and issued in March 2004, the NIMS will enable responders at all jurisdictional levels and across all disciplines to work together more effectively and efficiently. Beginning in FY 2006, federal funding for state, local and tribal preparedness grants will be tied to compliance with the NIMS. One of the most important 'best practices' that has been incorporated into the NIMS is the Incident Command System (ICS), a standard, on-scene, all-hazards incident management system already in use by firefighters, hazardous materials teams, rescuers and emergency medical teams. The ICS has been established by the NIMS as the standardized incident organizational structure for the management of all incidents.

http://www.fema.gov/txt/nims/nims_ics_position_paper.txt
Emergency Response
Basic Incident Command Structure

Expanded Incident Command Structure
What does “prepared” look like?
“When Disaster Strikes”

What LTC’s can do to Prepare:
Security Considerations

- Security management plans to include
  - Written directives
  - Emergency guard service
  - Assignment of “auxiliary” security officers
  - Interaction with law enforcement
Emergency Preparedness Challenges Facing Long Term Care

P2T2® for Facility Security

- **People** – Assigning the right people to the right security tasks

- **Programs** – Written management plan in place and rehearsed

- **Training** – All staff trained on facility security and methods of protecting residents, staff, and property

- **Technology** – Making sure the right technology and equipment are available
Vulnerability Assessment and Mitigation

Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA)

- Evaluating:
  - Probability
  - Risk
  - Preparedness
Vulnerability Assessment and Mitigation

Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) Tools

- County Hazards History
- Flood Mapping
Security Concerns for Long Term Care Facilities
“When Disaster Strikes”

LTC’s have everything a rogue individual or rioting group could want...

• Food
• Water
• Power (All SNF’s have generator systems)
• Drugs
• Shelter
Lessons Learned
Emergency Preparedness Challenges Facing Long Term Care

- LTC staff unprepared for mass regional evacuation
- Plans do not address “All Hazards”
- Weak resident tracking systems
- Little awareness of impact of “Surge” plans that are in place now
- Evacuation processes affected by lack of communication tools regarding resident transport needs with first responders
- Lack of NIMS/ICS protocols
- No/weak staff family evacuation plans
- Weak Security Management Plans
Emergency Preparedness Challenges Facing Long Term Care

QUESTIONS?

Thank you!