



Healthcare Facilities Newsletter

Issue No. 1

Severe Weather and Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans



Visit Pasco County Emergency Management [Website](#) for the latest information on Healthcare facilities

Quick Tip:

Sign up for Alert Pasco to receive emergency notifications and threatening severe weather messages. Click the [link](#) to get started.

SEVERE WEATHER

Severe Weather Awareness Week: January 14th-January 18th

Severe weather is an opportunity to learn about the different weather hazards that frequently impact the state and how families, along with businesses, can prepare for these natural events.

Take part in Florida's Statewide Tornado Drill: January 16, 2019 @ 10am

Florida averages over 70 thunderstorm days per year with much of the Gulf Coast experiencing between 80 to 100 days a year. Hazards include: lightning, hail, gusty winds, heavy rain that can cause flooding, and tornadoes. When severe thunderstorms threaten your location, go to an interior room on the lowest floor of your building and stay away from windows.

In terms of tornadoes, the small and short-lived nature of most tornadoes makes it difficult to give advanced warning. The National Weather Service will issue a Tornado warning when a tornado is either seen by a severe weather spotter or indicated by Doppler radar. *Do you know the difference between a watch and a warning?*

A Tornado Warning means a tornado has been indicated by radar or spotted on the ground, while a Tornado Watch means that conditions are favorable for tornadoes to develop.

When a Tornado Warning is issued, remember these three steps: get in, get down, and cover up.

- 1) Get in: get into a sturdy building and put as many walls between you and the outside as possible
- 2) Get down: get as low in the building as possible
- 3) Cover up: flying and falling debris are a storm's number one killer. Use blankets, pillows, etc. to cover up and protect yourself

<p>WARNING</p> <p>A warning is issued when a hazardous weather or hydrologic event is occurring, imminent or likely. A warning means weather conditions pose a threat to life or property. People in the path of the storm need to take protective action.</p>
<p>WATCH</p> <p>A watch is used when the risk of a hazardous weather or hydrologic event has increased significantly, but its occurrence, location or timing is still uncertain. A watch means that hazardous weather is possible. People should have a plan of action in case a storm threatens and they should listen for later information and possible warnings especially when planning travel or outdoor activities.</p>
<p>ADVISORY</p> <p>An advisory is issued when a hazardous weather or hydrologic event is occurring, imminent or likely. Advisories are for less serious conditions than warnings, that cause significant inconvenience and if caution is not exercised, could lead to situations that may threaten life or property.</p>
<p>OUTLOOK</p> <p>An outlook is issued when a hazardous weather or hydrologic event is possible in the next week. Outlooks are intended to raise awareness of the potential for significant weather that could lead to situations that may threaten life or property.</p>

COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANS (CEMP)

Workshop on CEMP development will be held January 10th and January 16th

A CEMP is a managerial plan created to provide a framework that reduces vulnerability to ALL HAZARDS, whether natural, technological, or human caused.

Quick Tip:

Your facility's CEMP should address more than hurricanes

For Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes that are required to have an Emergency Environmental Control Plan:
Visit this [link](#) to help locate licensed engineers

Common mistakes that occur within plans:	Things to consider:
Submitting original plan	Submission should be a copy; Facility should keep original
No organizational chart	Create a chart that is easy to read and can be edited
Mutual Aid Agreements in the same flood zone	Make sure you are paying attention to where your host facility is located at; It is required for facilities to have a Regional Evacuation Plan (outside of Pasco, Hillsborough, Hernando, and Pinellas)
Not providing procedures	One sentence does not suffice – explain in detail how each step will take place. The more detailed your plan is, the more prepared you are in an event
All facilities have agreements with the same Ambulatory Services	Get creative! Think outside the box!
Only plan for hurricanes	Florida has other weather related incidents; manmade incidents; plan for ALL HAZARDS

When updating:

- Consider updating your facility's fire plan at least three months before your CEMP is scheduled for review to avoid delays
- Consider providing a past history tab to show how your plan has changed over time and what your facility has tried in the past
- Consider adding supplemental plans (i.e., flooding, severe weather, tornadoes, active shooter, etc.)

When submitting:

- Create title page
- Have page numbers
- Place plan in a binder
- Have tabs
- Do not fax

Contact Information

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