

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency preparedness is a priority at *Redi-Nurse*. Upon admission and during care our staff are continuously developing and preparing our patients and clients for a potential emergency. Every effort will be made to make sure you receive the care you deserve and need. The safety of our staff and patients/clients are always of the utmost importance.

During times of inclement weather, natural or civil disaster *Redi-Nurse* will do everything we can to meet our patients and clients medical care needs. When streets are unsafe for travel or the local authorities limit travel, we will notify patients of scheduling issues and develop an alternate plan for care. Through our Emergency Preparedness Plan for the agency, all patients are prioritized by their level of skilled care needed and attended to by an acuity level.

Be Prepared Emergency Preparedness Information:

When faced with an impending emergency situation, such as a hurricane, there are many you can take to help yourself and your family get through the situation safely. Here is some information you should know and use!

BEFORE

Get well prepared before the storm comes. Stock up on food items that don't require refrigeration or cooking especially special dietary needs. Have several containers for water for drinking and cooking. (Estimate one gallon per person PER day) Be sure to have a manual can opener, disposable plates, cups and silverware. Have a battery operated radio & flashlights with plenty of batteries. Have at least two weeks worth of your medicines and a first aid kit. Fill your vehicles with gas. Place your important papers in water tight bags. Be sure your homeowner's insurance policy is safe and easily accessible.

Remember your pet, plan for food and water for them as well. Protect your home by covering the windows with shutters or plywood. Most of the damage done is when a window breaks and the rain comes in. Anchor down outside items or remove them to an inside shelter.

DURING

Stay indoors away from windows and doors. Fill your bathtub and any available containers with water. If you lose electricity, turn off major appliances. Listen to your local radio stations for news and guidance. Use artificial lighting only as needed. Stay calm. Listen for orders to evacuate in your area. Persons living in mobile homes will most likely be advised to evacuate. LISTEN to the recommendations; they are for your own safety and protection. If you do evacuate you should try to stay with family or friends, in the event you are unable to stay with someone you will need to go to a regular shelter in your area (see list). When evacuating: turn off appliances, take supplies with you (food, water, clothing, bedding, medications, medical supplies, flashlights, and diversions such as cards or games).

Special Needs Shelters – The special needs shelter should be used as a place of last refuge. The evacuee will not receive the same level of skilled care received from staff in the home, and the conditions in a shelter might be stressful. In most cases, you must be registered in advance of the crisis to be permitted access to the shelter. Medical shelters often require your doctor's verification that you do need this special shelter for you to be accepted. If you have NOT pre-registered, you will be DENIED access.

(1) If the patient has a caregiver, the caregiver must accompany the patient and remain with the patient at the special needs shelter to care for them. A special needs shelter can accommodate one caregiver at a time, and other family members, friends, etc. should go to a regular shelter.

- The shelteree's caregiver will have floor space provided; the caregiver must provide his or her own bedding, food, water and supplies.

(2) The following is a list of what special needs patients need to bring:

- Bed sheets, blankets, pillows, folding lawn chair, air mattress.
- The patient's medications, supplies, and equipment list supplied by the home health agency, including the phone number, beeper and emergency numbers for the patient's physician, pharmacy and if applicable, oxygen supplier, supplies and medical equipment for the patient's care. If the patient has a Do not Resuscitate (DNRO) form, they need to bring it with them.
- Name and phone number of the patient's home health agency.
- Prescription and non-prescription medications for at least 72 hours.
- A copy of the patient's Plan of Care.
- Identification and current address.
- Special diet items, non-perishable food for 72 hours and 1 gallon of water per person per day.
- Glasses, hearing aides and batteries, prosthetics and any other assistive devices.
- Personal hygiene items and clothing for 72 hours.
- Flashlight and batteries.
- Self-entertainment and recreational items, like books, magazines, quiet games.

(3) Shelterees need to know the following:

- If the patient has a caregiver they must accompany them.
- Service dogs are allowed in the shelter. However, check with your local Emergency Management office to see if other pets are permitted.
- The shelter should be used as a place of last refuge. The evacuee will not receive "hospital" type services or the same type of skilled care he or she receives from staff in the home. Usually there is not a physician on the premises.
- Caregivers who regularly assist the patient in the home are expected to continue to do the same care in the shelter.

AFTER

Return home only when officials advise that it is safe. Be alert, when going outside. You have no idea about the dangers you may face. Don't go near downed power lines. Continue to listen to local stations for news and instructions. Don't go sightseeing, as it will put you at risk.

Enter or leave your home with extreme caution. Open your windows to ventilate and dry your home. Don't attempt to reconnect, and use, appliances. Electricity may not be restored for days. Drink bottled water until officials give the all clear sign. Be alert for unwelcome pests, such as snakes, palmetto bugs, and other animals such as rodents as they are looking for shelter too.

Start an inventory of the damages to your home. Contact your insurance company as soon as possible. Use your supplies wisely, and keep in mind that you may have to rely on them for several days or weeks. Use perishable food first (the foods from your freezer) before using the non-perishable foods and staples. Water sources in your home include your water tanks, ice cube trays, fresh trapped rain water. **DO NOT USE FLOOD WATER OR STANDING WATER OUTSIDE FOR DRINKING OR COOKING.**

Important Numbers:

Emergency Management

Indian River County	(772) 567-2154
Martin County	(772) 287-1652
Palm Beach County	(561) 712-6400
St. Lucie County	(772) 461-5201
Okeechobee County	(863) 763-3212

Red Cross Local Chapters

(772) 562-2549
(772) 287-2002
(561) 833-7711
(772) 461-3950
(863) 763-2488