



Virtual Tabletop Exercise: Hurricane Scenario Worksheet

Hurricane Scenario

You've arrived at work. You have been monitoring the weather reports due to a large hurricane that is heading towards Louisiana. The National Weather Service has issued a hurricane watch for all of coastal Louisiana and Mississippi. Forecasters are warning that the storm has the potential to become a powerful hurricane.

1. What triggers you to activate your Emergency Operations Plan in regards to a Hurricane or storms related to a hurricane?
2. How far in advance of landfall would you activate your Emergency Operations Plan?
3. What part of your facilities Emergency Operations Plan would you activate at this point?



Hurricane Scenario Inject #1

The storm is now approximately 150 miles off the coast of Louisiana. The storm has been upgraded to a Category 1 Hurricane (Wendy). The local office of the National Hurricane Center issued a hurricane watch for large portions of the coast.

South Louisiana: Heavy rainfall is expected. Flooding of low-lying areas is expected. The Governor has issued a mandatory evacuation order for Grande Isle and other low-lying coastal areas.

Central/North Louisiana: Residents of south Louisiana are evacuating to central and north Louisiana. Central and north Louisiana can expect heavy rains and flooding post-landfall.

1. What state and local partners would you be communicating with? What type of information are you communicating?
2. Would you plan to alter hours or close your facility? What does your EOP direct you to do to alter hours or close facility?
3. How are you communicating with your staff? Patients? Community partners? Select one of these groups and develop a statement of your current actions. Be specific.
4. What is/are your back-up communications system(s) if your primary means of communication fail?



Hurricane Scenario Inject #2

Hurricane Wendy has strengthened to a Category 2 storm. A storm surge of 8 to 10 feet is expected east of where the center will make landfall. Several major roadways are impassable due to traffic from the evacuation. Cell phone service is sporadic due to the amount of phone traffic.

South Louisiana: Citizens continue to evacuate from South Louisiana and move to central and north Louisiana. Facilities in South Louisiana are bracing for hurricane impact within 48 hours.

Central/North Louisiana: Central and North Louisiana are bracing for severe weather as a result of the hurricane. Facilities in central and north Louisiana are receiving calls from evacuees.

1. What process do you have for accounting for staff and patients?
2. What message would you communicate to your staff? Patients? Community partners? Select one of these groups and develop a statement of your current actions. Be Specific.
3. With sporadic cell service, how will you communicate with your employees? Patients? Community partners?
4. Central and North Louisiana: How would your facility handle an influx of non-local citizens needing care?
5. What does the next 24 hours look like for your facility?



Hurricane Scenario Inject #3

Hurricane Wendy has made landfall as a Category 2 storm. The initial storm surge was recorded at 10 feet, with an additional 5 to 8 inches of rain falling in the past 24 hours. As a result, local waterways in south Louisiana are now 5 feet above flood stage.

South Louisiana: Damage reported by the media includes flooded homes and businesses across a widespread area, flooded and debris-clogged roadways, and large areas without power.

Central/North Louisiana: The storm is causing heavy rains and tornadoes in central and north Louisiana.

1. What are your immediate actions and priorities?
2. What message would you communicate to your staff? Patients? Community partners? Select one of these groups and develop a statement of your current actions. Be specific.
3. How would you handle your medical records? (whether paper or electronic) What is your backup plan?
4. How are your patients able to reach you if refills or other services are needed?
5. Specifically, what is your plan to secure any medications you keep on site?



Hurricane Scenario Inject #4

Water is slowly receding. Residents have been permitted to return home, though thousands remain in temporary shelters. As the winds decrease and the rain tapers off, you are able to assess the damage from Hurricane Wendy. Your facility has experienced minor storm damage but a contractor is needed for roof repair before you can re-open. Your facility did lose power for 24 hours. There is a boil water advisory for your city.

1. How would you manage the damages to your facility? What critical services would you attempt to restore immediately?
2. How would you support your community? What services could you provide? How?
3. What is your procedure when there is a boil water advisory?
4. Are your vaccines protected during the power outage? Discuss what your actions are related to vaccines.
5. What message would you communicate to your staff? Patients? Community partners? Select one of these groups and develop a statement of your current actions.