



Virtual Tabletop Exercise

Preparing for the 2022 Hurricane Season

April 6, 2022

Louisiana's Health Initiative

Speaker(s)

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 - Well-Ahead Louisiana





Agenda

- What to Expect
- Objectives
- Outcomes
- Definitions
- Exercise
- Hotwash
- Next Steps



What To Expect

- What is a Tabletop Exercise?
 - Discussion-based sessions where team members meet in an informal, classroom setting to discuss their roles during an emergency and their responses to a particular emergency situation and a facilitator guides participants through a discussion of one or more scenarios
- Our exercise is being conducted virtually. You will be provided a scenario and are expected to discuss your facilities activities during the allotted time.
- I will randomly call upon facilities to share what was discussed



What To Expect

- Your microphone will be muted by the facilitator until called upon
 - Use the “Chat” feature if you want to type a question or make any comments
- A scenario will be presented followed by related questions.
- Take notes on the handout provided. These notes can be used to develop your After Action Report/Improvement Plan documentation
- The more you are engaged during this exercise, the better your final product will be



Objectives

- **Core Capability: Prevention**

- Identify critical objectives during the planning process, provide a complete and integrated picture of the sequence and scope of the tasks to achieve the objectives, and ensure the objectives are implementable within the timeframe contemplated within the plan using available resources for prevention-related plans

- **Core Capability: Protection**

- Implement risk-informed guidelines, regulations, and standards to ensure the security, reliability, integrity, and availability of critical information, records, and communications systems and services through collaborative cybersecurity initiatives and efforts



Outcomes

- Reveal planning weaknesses in the Emergency Operations Plan and standard operating procedures or to test or validate recently changed procedures
- Identify current capabilities
- Improve the coordination between and among various response personnel
- Identify deficiencies and/or validate training on the critical elements of emergency response
- Increase the general awareness and understanding of the potential hazard



Definitions

- **Hurricane Watch:** hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are possible within the specified area
- **Hurricane Warning:** hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are expected somewhere within the specified area
- **Storm Surge:** a rise in sea level that occurs during tropical cyclones, intense storms also known as typhoons or hurricanes. The storms produce strong winds that push the water into shore, which can lead to flooding

START OF EXERCISE

Monday, 8:00 a.m.: The National Hurricane Center reported that after a week in warm open waters, Hurricane Freddie is approximately 200 miles off the coast of Louisiana. The local office of the National Hurricane Center issued a hurricane watch for large portions of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, including all of South LA. Currently a Category 1 hurricane, Freddie continues to gain strength and is projected to make landfall within 72 hours. Forecasters are already warning of the potential for this storm to become an extremely powerful Category 4 hurricane.





Discussion

- Who in the organization is responsible for monitoring or would likely hear or receive a bulletin or alert from the National Hurricane Center or other alerting authority? How would they receive this information?
- What information are you sharing with your employees and patients at this time?
- What are the current process and communications platform(s) used to notify staff of potential threats or hazards, including those who are out of the building?
- When you hear that a Hurricane or Tropical Storm Watch has been issued, what are your immediate concerns?
- What, if any, decisions should be made at this time? Who can make those decisions (name, position/role)?

Inject #1

Tuesday, 12:00 p.m.: The storm has strengthened and the National Hurricane Center issues a Hurricane Warning for most of coastal LA. Hurricane Freddie is a Category 3 storm, projected to make landfall in the area within the next 36 hours. A storm surge of 13 to 18 feet is forecast near and to the east of where the center will make landfall. The governor has declared a state of emergency and issues an evacuation order.



Coastal and South Louisiana

Many employees are asking to return home or are not coming to work at all. Many local schools and childcare facilities are closing early today.

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.

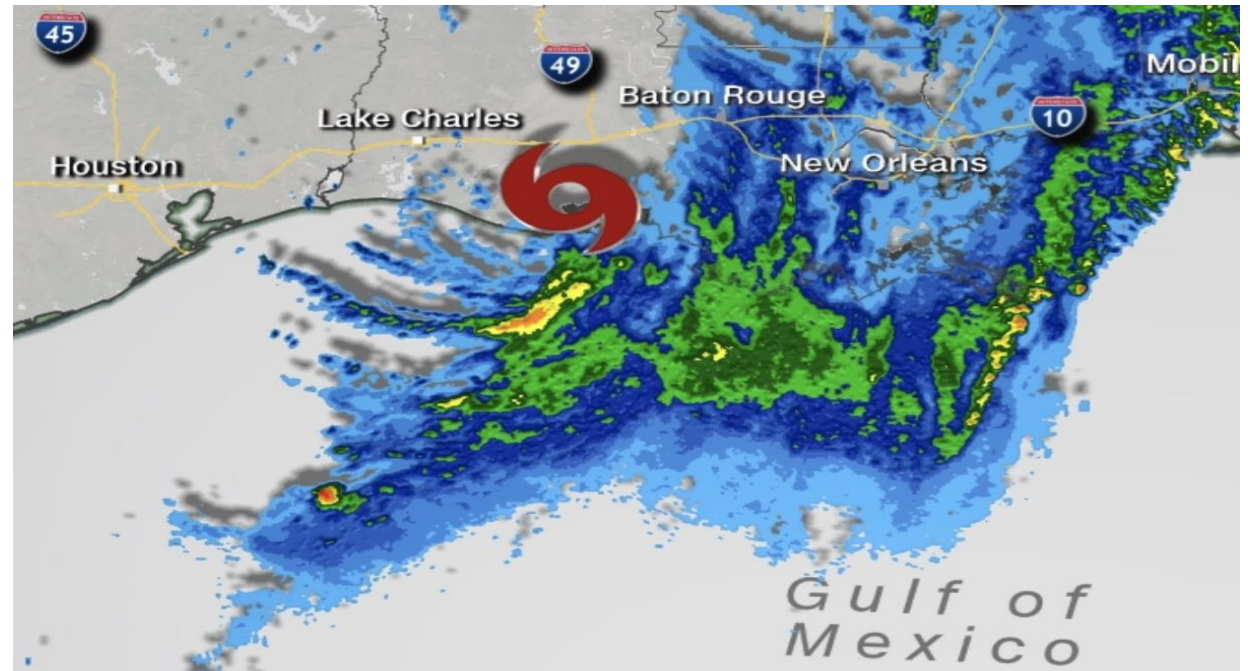


Discussion

- Based on this updated information, how have your concerns changed?
- How are you communicating with your Staff? Patients? Community partners?
- Would you plan to alter hours or close your facility?
- What is/are your back-up communications system(s) if your primary means of communication fail?
- If your facility experienced significant damage, what decisions need to be made at this time, and who needs to make them?

Inject #2

Thursday, 9:00 a.m.: Hurricane Freddie has made landfall as a Category 3 storm with sustained winds of 137 mph. The initial storm surge was recorded at 10 feet, with an additional 5–8 inches of rain falling in the past 24 hours. As a result, local waterways are now 8 feet above flood stage.



Coastal and 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

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.



Discussion

- What process do you have for accounting for staff and patients?
- What message would you communicate to your...
 - Staff? Patients? Community partners?
- With sporadic cell service, how will you communicate with your employees, patients and community partners?
- Central and North Louisiana: How would your facility handle an influx of non-local citizens needing care?
- What does the next 24 hours look like for your facility?

Inject #3

Saturday, 7 p.m.: As the winds decrease and the rain tapers off, your community is able to assess the damage from Freddie.

Water is slowly receding, allowing at least one lane of traffic on several major roads. Local law enforcement has restricted access to heavily damaged areas and has established a curfew in some portions of the community to prevent looting.

You are able to access your facility and inspect the damage. There is significant flood damage to the lowest levels and much of your IT infrastructure is not functioning. Several trees have fallen into the main entrance, tearing a large hole in the roof and shattering windows. Based on a preliminary damage assessment, it is expected that your facility will not be operational for at least 3 weeks.

Coastal and South Louisiana

Some residents have been permitted to return home, though thousands remain in temporary shelters. Several major schools remain closed, and large areas of the community still do not have power.

Central/North Louisiana

The storm is causing heavy rains and tornadoes in Central and North Louisiana.



Discussion

- Now that you know the extent of the damage, do you have options that allow you to continue operations?
- Can you access copies of your vital documents such as insurance papers, financial information, and key business documents?
- How would you handle your medical records, whether paper or electronic? What is your back-up plan?
- How are your patients able to reach you if refills or other services are needed?
- How are you communicating with employees regarding their work status? What are your expectations for employees who cannot work, either because your business is not operational or because they have suffered personal losses?
- What can you do to support the community as it recovers?

END OF EXERCISE



Hotwash

- What strengths in your workplace's emergency plans did this exercise identify?
- What weaknesses in your workplace's emergency plans did this exercise expose?
- What unanticipated issues arose during the exercise?
- What gaps were identified?
- What are some high-priority issues that should be addressed?
- What are some new ideas and recommendations for improvement?



Next Steps

- Collect all of your notes
- Meet with key people at the facility to discuss
- Develop an After Action Report/Improvement Plan
- Update Standard Operating Procedures/Policies
- Train team members

QUESTIONS?

Stay Connected With Us!

- Well-Ahead Louisiana Provider Education Network
 - <https://wellaheadla.com/>
 - Provider Education Network: <https://wellaheadla.com/provider-education-network/>
 - Emergency Preparedness: <https://wellaheadla.com/emergency-preparedness/>
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Thank You for Joining Us!

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