



KCER Watch

Safety and Health Topics: Emergency Preparedness Bulletin

October 2016

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Hot Topics

How to Get Help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) After Hurricane Matthew and Avoid Scams

Hurricane Matthew may be gone, but its effects are not. People in the southeast are still dealing with its lingering effects. More than 30 people were killed. Homes and businesses were destroyed. Flood waters are still wreaking havoc and the scammers are on the prowl.

Read this article from ABC News that gives you the full story. It tells you how to avoid the scammers and how to seek assistance from FEMA. Be wary of people that ask for money up front. Use the FEMA website, www.disasterassistance.gov, to pre-apply for assistance.



Learn more: <https://goo.gl/WhE7Oa>

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October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month

Cyber threats are real. Learn how to stay safe in the virtual world. Read this article about Homeland Security's campaign to educate the public about cyber dangers. Find tools and resources that can help you and your family stay safe online every day *and* in the event of a cyber-attack.

Read More: <https://goo.gl/4XKUN2>

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WHAT IF... The New KCER Emergency Planning Campaign

It's here! KCER's new national emergency preparedness campaign! Originally developed by the Mid-Atlantic Renal Coalition, it's a fun way to engage patients and staff in emergency planning. Tools and resources will be provided over a four-week period. They relate to four common emergency scenarios:



1. No Facility
2. No Phones
3. No Transportation
4. No Power

Flyers, posters, brochures, and more can be found on the [KCER website](http://www.kcercoalition.com/whatif).

KCER Learning and Action Network (LAN) members are helping, too. Their goal? Get patients to commit to doing at least one activity to improve their safety during an emergency.

Learn More: www.kcercoalition.com/whatif

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The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Finalizes Emergency Preparedness Requirements

Patient safety comes first. That is the message from CMS. Providers must be ready to ensure that patients' care is not disrupted. All healthcare providers must follow four best practice standards for emergency preparedness by developing:

1. An all-hazards emergency plan.
2. A coordinated communications plan.
3. A training program.
4. Policies and procedures based on the emergency plan.



All plans must be tested, at least annually. While natural and man-made disasters will always pose a threat to patients, the providers will now be ready.

Learn More: <https://goo.gl/3UR2sb>

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Education/Communication

The First Responder in a Natural Disaster is You!

When a disaster strikes in your area, who is the first person on the scene? You are! There are not enough emergency first responders to help everyone right away in a crisis situation. Plan now and you'll know what to do later. You won't need to wait for firefighters or police to tell you what to do.

Learn More: <https://goo.gl/s0yNIW>

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Preparing for Disaster on a Tight Budget

Natural disasters can take a toll on families. Pre-planning is the key to reducing that toll. Having a plan is step one. Being prepared with what you need to implement the plan is step two. By preparing in advance, you can really keep costs down when disaster strikes without warning. Here are some tips to help you survive should a major disaster hit you.

Read More: <https://goo.gl/NGhLW4>



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Patient Story: Why Preparing NOW is Important

Read about how one disabled woman survived eight days alone—because she was prepared. Nickole Cheron, born with spinal muscular atrophy, depends on full-time caregivers. When her city was gridlocked by more than a foot of snow, she needed to implement her emergency plan. She was ready. And she did. Being prepared saved her life. Being prepared could save your life, too.

Read More: <https://goo.gl/Epvx5>

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You can find this month's KCER Watch and past editions on our website:

www.kcercoalition.com/resources/kcer-watch

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We want your feedback! Please click here to complete a short survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/KCERWatchOct16



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This material was prepared by the Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) contractor, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy nor imply endorsement by the U.S. Government. CMS Contract #: HHSM-500-2006-00007C Publication No.: FL-KCER-7K1T3A-10182016-01