Healthcare Sheltering Considerations

When evacuating to a host facility, there are considerations that you should account for. These considerations should be a part of your Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan regardless of the type of host facility. Host facilities should be in a Non-Evacuation Zone and can be like facilities, churches, area businesses, residential homes, etc. Please use the following questions about your host facility to assist you in making sure you can provide the best client care possible during an evacuation.

- What year was the host facility built?
  - Construction after 2001 would have to meet building codes for up to CAT 3 rating.
  - Were steps taken to harden the host facility?
- What type of windows are installed at the host facility?
  - If not impact resistant are there shutters?
- Is there a generator at the host facility, or will you be taking a portable one with you?
  - If using a portable generator where will it be operated at the host facility?
  - Who will be supplying the fuel and how long will the fuel supply allow you to operate on generator?
  - If you are supplying the fuel where will additional fuel be kept?
- Identify where patients/residents will be housed. Provide a floor plan which identifies the space allocated for residents/patients, staff, family being sheltered, and supplies.
  - Identify provisions of food, water, and medical needs of all evacuees being housed at the host facility for a minimum of 7 days and where it will be stored.
- Will you be providing fans and/or any other type of equipment to help keep areas cool?
- Will you be bringing beds/cots, or will they be provided by the host facility?
- Does your plan address how many staff will accompany evacuating residents/patients on each leg of the evacuation? Specifically, how many staff will evacuate with each load of patients and stay with them at the host facility?
- Where in your plan do you account for the need to seek a waiver from the Agency for Health Care Administration to allow for sheltering that exceeds the operating capacity of the host facility. (if applicable)
- What procedures are in place to keep family members informed and respond to inquiries after residents have been evacuated?
- How will you track residents/patients within the host facility?
- How will you report your status to DOH and AHCA after you have evacuated?
  - Do you have a backup plan for communication (radio, satellite phone, etc.)?
- Do you have a plan for electrical failure at the host facility? Water/sewer failure?
- How will you take care of trash and medical waste during and after the event?
- Have you visited the location and performed a walk through with a member of your staff that is responsible for patient care (DON, Admin, nurse assistant)?