



CALIFORNIA SEVERE WEATHER ALERT I

Wednesday, January 3, 2008, 3:00 PM PST

A series of three storms currently moving into California is predicted to impact the state through the weekend. Friday, Jan. 4, 2008 may bring particularly severe weather. In areas of Southern/Coastal CA, hurricane-force winds and heavy rainfall, resulting in possible flooding and potential landslides, have been predicted. In areas of Northern/Inland/Mountain regions, blizzard conditions, heavy snowfall, and strong winds are expected. White-out conditions are likely. Power outages in all areas of California may also result from this weather. For specific information on the severe weather predicted for your area of California, visit www.weather.gov/alerts/ca.html. **For information on long term care facility preparedness and response, including important local news and contact information, visit www.cahf.org/public/dpp.**

CAHF staff will continue to work with emergency response partners in the affected areas to bring you up-to-date information. *Please notify Ellie Anderson at eanderson@cahf.org (24/7) with any issues you may have, or if your facility has been impacted by the severe weather. We will be sharing your reports and questions with emergency authorities.*

EVACUATION CONSIDERATIONS:

Your local first responders do have the authority to force a mandatory evacuation. Whether you evacuate voluntarily or because of a mandatory order, read the considerations below and work *with* your first responders. If there is more than one first responder at your site, your staff person in charge needs to ask to speak with the Incident Commander.

- 1.) **Designate one person from your staff/administration to be in charge (your Incident Commander).** This person should have the authority to order a voluntary evacuation (it could be your administrator, DON, etc.).
- 2.) Pull out any MOUs (Memoranda of Understanding) that you might have with other like facilities. **If possible, it is best to evacuate your residents to a like (similar) facility outside the disaster zone.** Make sure that you call ahead so that they can prepare to receive your residents.
- 3.) **Call your local licensing office**—they need to know of any changes in your status, such as evacuating, or admitting residents. If you cannot get through to your district office, call the OES Warning Center at 916-845-8911.
- 4.) **Call any transport companies you may have contracts with;** the contractor may be over-extended, but contact them anyway, they might be able to help. Your L & C district office may also be able to help, as may first responders that are on-scene with you.
- 5.) **Call your county Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** if you are evacuating. They need to know this information, and they can also help you with resource requests. They may be able to help you find bed space for your residents, or refer you to someone who can.
- 6.) **Start tracking your actions and any expenses** that you incur because of the disaster.
- 7.) **Work with first responders and use common sense** to make this process as smooth as possible.

PREPARING FOR AN EVACUATION

- 8.) **What needs to go with the resident?** (consider: paperwork such as face sheet, code status, meds sheet, any tracking form and/or other critical medical info form or ID bracelet that you have in your disaster plan; medications, food, water, change of clothing, incontinence supplies, etc.)—remember, amounts of supplies, and where you pack them might be different depending on your expected travel time. Expect delays.
- 9.) **Pull out local maps**—choose alternate ways to evacuate, and alternate routes to your destination. If you have internet access, check for road closures.
- 10.) **Print out resident census document.** If possible, list lowest level of transport needs next to each person (i.e. can some of your residents go by bus or in staff/family cars? Could some go in wheelchair vans? How many must go by ambulance?)
- 11.) **Track your residents,** particularly if they go to multiple facilities. Notify families as soon as possible.
- 12.) **Mitigate transfer trauma.** Have each resident medically evaluated by an appropriately licensed clinician as soon as possible during and after an evacuation.

For more information on evacuation preparation for long term care, please visit www.cahf.org/public/dpp and click on the storms link under "Current Disasters."