



KCER Watch

Safety and Health Topics: Emergency Preparedness Bulletin **September 2017**

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Hot Topics

Stay Vigilant and Prepared for New Storms

The United States and its island territories have been battered by several major storms in recent weeks, and there may be more storms to come. The Atlantic hurricane season lasts until November 30. Now is *not* the time to let your guard down. Make sure your emergency kit is stocked; test your family communication plan; and know your evacuation routes. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides information on impending storms, how to prepare for them, how to recover or seek aid after a storm hits, and how to assist in storm recovery efforts.



Read More: <https://www.fema.gov/>

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Have You Been Affected by a Storm? Apply Today for Disaster Assistance



The quickest way to apply for federal assistance after hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria is online at DisasterAssistance.gov. Survivors may also apply by phone at 1 (800) 621-3362 or 1 (800) 462-7585 (TTY). These lines may be busy due to high demand. Please be patient, and try calling in the morning or evening, when call volume may be lower. To get help in person, find a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) near you using [the DRC locator](#).

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Coping With the Emotional Effects of Disaster: Help is Available

A disaster of any size can cause stress for people directly impacted by the event and even those who may not have had a direct impact. People can experience a range of emotions including anger, frustration, and sadness. Understanding those feelings and taking positive steps can help you cope with the disaster. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides links to disaster stress hotlines and other resources to help with emotional recovery after a disaster.



Read More: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/coping/index.asp>

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Education/Communication

It's National Preparedness Month—Take Action!



September is National Preparedness Month. This marks the 13th annual National Preparedness Month, and this year's theme is **“Disasters Don't Plan Ahead. YOU CAN.”** FEMA urges everyone to prepare for threats such as floods, wildfires, hurricanes, and power outages. Find educational tools to help communities and families prepare for disasters on FEMA's website.

Don't Wait. Communicate.

Make a family emergency communication plan today.



Read More: <https://www.ready.gov/september>

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Tips to Help You Before, During, and After the Next Power Outage

Utility workers from around the country converged on Texas and Florida after Hurricanes Harvey and Irma to help get the lights back on. The storms knocked out electrical power to millions of people. Triggering one of the nation's largest natural disaster-related power outages ever measured, Hurricane Irma plunged as many as 13 million people in the United States alone into the dark as it dragged down power lines and blew out transformers.



We don't always know when or where the next major disaster will hit, but [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) provides suggestions on what we can do to prepare for, cope with, and recover from the next power outage.

Learn More: <https://www.ready.gov/power-outages>

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KCER WHAT IF Tools Available to Help Prepare Patients and Providers for Emergencies

Most people are not properly prepared for emergencies. However, having a plan in the event of emergency can be life-saving, especially for people who suffer from kidney failure. End stage renal disease (ESRD) patients are at an increased risk in emergency situations because of their dependence on dialysis. The KCER WHAT IF campaign materials are designed to make you think about the eventualities of a disaster and can help patients and their care providers plan appropriately.

Read more: <http://kcercoalition.com/en/patients/what-if...campaign/>



WHAT IF... KCER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

NO TRANSPORT

Most patients think they are prepared for an emergency, but few actually are.

Emergency Checklist

- Plan for backup transportation. In severe weather, public and street transportation services may be unavailable. Ask family, friends, neighbors, and church members.
- Contact your family to find out the plan for dialysis treatment if the usual dialysis center is closed for a disaster, outage or bad weather-related issue.
- Disaster, try to have back-up dialysis center.
- Do not call 911 unless it is an emergency.
- Make sure your dialysis clinic has your current address and contact information.
- If a disaster is expected and you are dialysis treatment is within 24 hrs.
- Keep your 7-day meal plans and food supplies ready in case transportation is not for a while.

THE FACTS

Emergency responders will not transport patients for regular dialysis following a disaster.

During a disaster, safety first. If you are a patient, follow the instructions of the staff. Most of the time, the risk of death is higher than expected.

Kidney Community Emergency Response
2016-2017 | 1-800-368-5878 | www.kcer.org
KCER Hotline: 866.901.8775 • Fax: 866.252.5250
#KCERevents #KCERevents #KCERevents

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www.kcercoalition.com/kcerwatch

What do you think about KCER Watch?

We want your feedback! Please click here to complete a short survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Sept2017KCER>



www.kcercoalition.com



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