



KCER Watch

Safety and Health Topics: Emergency Preparedness Bulletin

November 2017

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Hot Topics

Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Exercises Available

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Emergency Preparedness Final Rule requires dialysis facilities to participate in two preparedness exercises each year. The first must be a full-scale exercise, while the second can be a tabletop exercise. A tabletop exercise is a group discussion led by a facilitator using a narrated, clinically-relevant emergency scenario to challenge an emergency plan.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has tabletop exercise documents to assist dialysis facilities with completing a facility-based tabletop exercise to satisfy the exercise requirement that is part of the CMS Emergency Preparedness Final Rule.

Read More: <https://goo.gl/w22ctT>

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Tech Experts Team Up to Connect St. John

After Hurricane Irma hit on September 6, 2017, regular communications came to a complete stop on the island of St. John, in the U.S. Virgin Islands. A group of technology heroes banded together to reconnect the island to the rest of the world. Today the free (and sometimes very slow) Wi-Fi system is the lifeline for many families and businesses on the island.

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

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Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month



November is Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month. Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month builds awareness and supports the nationwide commitment to keep critical infrastructure and communities safe and secure. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is urging all Americans to do their part in ensuring critical infrastructure security and resilience by learning what steps you can take to enhance security and resilience in your community and make a plan with your family to keep loved ones safe.

Read More: <https://www.dhs.gov/cisr-month>

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Education/Communication

It's Time for Your Flu Shot

People living with kidney failure have a weakened immune system – that means the flu is three to four times more likely to cause pneumonia, and make other health problems worse than in healthy people. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a yearly flu shot. The flu shot **cannot** give you the flu. However, some people may experience mild flu-like symptoms after getting the shot.

Read More: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/keyfacts.htm>



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Safety Tips for the Winter Storm Season

Temperatures are starting to drop in many parts of the country. Winter storms and cold temperatures can be dangerous. Many people prefer to stay indoors in the winter, but staying inside is no guarantee of safety. The American Red Cross has steps that you can take to keep your home safe and warm during the winter months.

Read More: <https://goo.gl/FQHnK7>



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Federal aid claims jump tenfold in 2017

2017 has been a record breaking year for natural disasters. Three major hurricanes, wildfires, and other storms and floods have required the federal government to provide billions of dollars in emergency funding. This year, more than 4.7 million Americans have registered for disaster aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). As a result, FEMA is asking all Americans to improve their disaster preparedness efforts.



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

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