



KCER Watch

Safety and Health Topics: Emergency Preparedness Bulletin

August 2017

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Hot Topics

[emPOWER Tool](#) Helps Communities in Emergencies

Power outages can be scary and dangerous for the millions of Americans who rely on medical equipment, such as dialysis machines and oxygen tanks. To help communities respond to the needs of these individuals, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) developed emPOWER, a mapping tool that allows first responders, hospitals, the electric company, and other assistance teams, to locate, in real-time, Medicare patients who rely on life-saving electronic devices.

Read More: <https://empowermap.hhs.gov/>

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Get Ready for National Preparedness Month

In an emergency, every second counts. That's why it's crucial to have a game plan, and why this year's



National Preparedness Month theme is “Disasters Don’t Plan Ahead. You Can.” In addition to the overall theme for the month, each week has its own theme highlighting different preparedness activities. The goal of National Preparedness Month is to increase the number of individuals, families, and communities that engage in preparedness actions at home, work, business, school, and places of worship.

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

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Wildfires are a Health Risk

In the western part of the United States, the record hot temperatures are gone, but in their place are smoke and poor air quality due to wildfires. A danger to your health, as well as your property, wildfire smoke can sting your eyes, irritate your respiratory system, worsen chronic heart disease, and much more. Take a look at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) wildfire smoke fact sheet to learn how to protect your health in the wake of wildfires.



Read More: <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/wildfires/smoke.html>

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CMS Preparedness Rule: Resources at Your Finger Tips

In 2016, CMS issued the Emergency Preparedness Requirement for Medicare and Medicaid Participating Providers and Suppliers Final Rule, which increased requirements for patient safety during emergencies, and established a more coordinated response to natural and human-caused disasters. Check out the resources developed by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Technical Resources, Assistance Center, Information Exchange (TRACIE) to help providers and suppliers comply with the Final Rule.

Learn More: <https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/cmsrule>

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KCER Prep Rally Campaign Aims to Help Patients Prepare for Disasters

The National Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) Patient and Family Engagement Learning and Action Network (N-KPFE-LAN) has developed the KCER Prep Rally Campaign, aimed at getting individuals and families to make disaster preparedness plans *before* a storm hits. Patients and providers can go to kcercoalition.com to download a Game Plan worksheet, as well as additional tools that can help them prepare. These resources are available in English and Spanish.



Read more: <http://kcercoalition.com/Preprally>

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Help Sound the Alarm!

The American Red Cross is recruiting volunteers to help install 100,000 free smoke alarms in homes across the United States. It's part of a program called "Sound the Alarm," which aims to install smoke alarms and hosts fire safety events in more than 100 communities. According to the Red Cross, seven people die every day in home fires—most of the homes did not have a working smoke alarm. Get involved. Help Sound the Alarm!



Learn More: <https://www.redcross.org/sound-the-alarm>

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

www.kcercoalition.com/kcerwatch

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