

13 nursing homes located in the Gulf States that evacuated residents during four hurricanes experienced these serious problems:

- unavailability of buses contracted to evacuate residents;
- unreliability or lack of air conditioning in alternative transportation;
- inadequate staff;
- longer-than-expected travel times, which required staff to ration food and water;
- failure to transport some medications, oxygen canisters and incontinence supplies; and
- dehydration, pressure sores and travel related illnesses, such as urinary tract infections, experienced by residents.

In addition, the report finds that some of the evacuation plans of the 20 nursing homes lacked:

- Guidelines on whether to evacuate residents;
- Adequate estimates of the amount of food and water required for evacuations;
- Recommendations on alternative evacuation routes in the event of traffic congestion;
- Official arrangements with host facilities;
- Guidelines on how and when to return; and
- Formal partnerships with local officials.

Provisions for Evacuation

Transportation Contract - Includes current contract(s) with vendors for transportation.

Evacuation Procedures - Details contingency plans, policies, roles, responsibilities, and procedures.

Host Facility Agreement - Includes current contract(s) to facilities, relocation to “like” facilities.

Food Supply - Describes adequate supply and logistical support for transporting food.

Medications - Describes logistics for moving medications—including specification for moving them under the control of a registered nurse.

Transfer of Medical Records - Details having the resident’s medical records available; describes logistics for moving medical records.

Staffing - Specifies procedures to ensure staff accompany evacuating residents.

Resident Personal Belongings - Includes list of items to accompany residents.

Reentry - Identifies who authorizes reentry, procedures for inspecting facility, and details transportation from the host facility.

Water Supply - Specifies amount of water taken and logistical support.

Evacuation Route - Identifies evacuation routes and secondary routes, includes maps and

specifies expected travel time.

Evacuation Requirements:

Community coordination

Hazard Analysis

Communication

Direction and Control

Specific resident needs

Staffing

Emergency food, water, supplies

Medications

Evacuation procedures

Evacuation route

Transportation

Host facility agreement

Transfer of medical records

Reentry

Document training and drills

Reviewed annually

Staff telephone lists

Responding to family inquiries

Individual identification of residents

Designated area for supply storage