



Health & Human Services

2023 Long Term Care Association  
Spring Tabletop Exercise

Provided by the North Dakota  
Health and Human Services EPR  
Unit

# Who we are and What we do

Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit, of the Health Response and Licensure Section, in the Public Health Division, of the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services

We prepare for, coordinate and support health and medical emergency preparedness and response with federal funding through the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP), the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Program (PHEP).

# Rules and Expectations

No-fault Learning Environment (no stress environment).  
Leadership and staff to test your disaster plan and identify strengths and opportunities for improvement.  
Update your facility's plans and be more prepared for a real-world response.

Discussion-based exercise

Participants will become familiar with their disaster plan, identify and discuss their roles and responsibilities and talk through actions that are critical.

Protect and support your facility's residents, staff and community.

# Objectives

1

Identify when to implement the Incident Command System (ICS) and emergency plans

2

Determine and recognize when to shelter-in-place or evacuate

3

Recognize the need for a communication plan

# Background Information

Your facility is a 60-bed facility, 25 are SNF, 15 are BC, and 20 are AL apartments. The building is a two-story facility with the AL apartments on the second floor. There is a basement, but it is only mechanical rooms and staff offices. 07:00 is shift change. Your SNF beds are full. You have five open AL apartments and 12 basic care residents. It is July 23, and this year has been an unusually warm and humid summer causing thunderstorms to pop up at all times of the day.

## Scenario 1

A thunderstorm warning and tornado watch has been issued at 06:00 for your county and town.

At 05:45 a large storm moving east at 45 mph was detected 75 miles from your county.

Heavy rain. High winds (75mph +). Large golf ball to baseball-sized hail was reported in areas.

The storm is moving East and intensifying. It is expected to be in your area in the next hour.

# Questions

1. When would you implement ICS?
2. Will you shelter in place or evacuate?
  - a. What are the considerations for both?
3. What is your communications plan?

## Scenario 2


The storm hits at 06:50 with heavy rain and high winds.

At 7:10 you hear banging and are able to see softball-sized hail hitting the ground. Maintenance notifies you there is water leaking on the second floor and believes they heard breaking glass in one of the AL apartments but seems to be minor at this time.

At 07:18 the tornado siren is heard, and the power goes out. Your backup generator kicks in. You notice your cell phone has no signal and your internet seems to be out throughout the building.



# Questions

1. What is the best course of action for the patients at this time, shelter-in-place or evacuate?
    - a. Considerations, concerns, and plans for each?
  2. Do you need assistance at this time?
    - a. Who?
    - b. What?
    - c. When?
  3. What is your communication backup plan?
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## Scenario 3

At 07:50 local Emergency Management representatives arrive at your facility to inform you the tornado has taken out the town's power substation and it will be 7-10 days before power is fully restored.

The communications tower in town was also taken out and will take 2-4 weeks to repair.

The city's sewer and water pumps are on backup power, but the generator is not going to be able to handle the full load for more than 48 hours and may cause intermittent outages of the utilities.

Maintenance staff has found moderate roof damage to the west side of your building and 4 broken windows on the 2nd floor. Maintenance is boarding up the windows and tarping the roof.

# Questions

1. What assistance do you need at this time?
2. Shelter-in-place or evacuate?
  - a. Considerations?
3. Who are you contacting and what information are you relaying?





Questions?



Thank you

24/7/365

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