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LESSON LEARNED

Long-Term Care Facility Preparedness: Alternate Resource Procurement

SUMMARY

Long-term care facilities should consider establishing alternate resources and procurement methods in the event that a major disaster disrupts primary methods. Facilities can develop a regional plan to help coordinate their respective alternate re-supply plans.

DESCRIPTION

On January 13, 2010, the Health Care Association of New Jersey conducted the Black Diamond tabletop exercise (TTX). The TTX tested the ability of long-term care facilities to shelter-in-place for an extended period of time. Players responded to an ice storm scenario that impacted the entire region. During the TTX, participants demonstrated their knowledge of the Incident Command System, reviewed the emergency management plans of their facilities, and evaluated internal and external redundant communications systems utilized within their facilities. Exercise participants included 31 players from 16 skilled nursing and assisted living facilities.

During the TTX, players discussed their facilities' resource management procedures for a major disaster. Some long-term care facilities have pre-established systems used by personnel to manage and distribute the resources required for effective incident management. In addition, the New Jersey Administrative Code requires long-term care facilities to maintain a 3-day supply of food and to identify an alternate supply of water in case of a major disaster. However, food and other critical resources could become quickly depleted after a 3-day period. Specifically, many TTX players stated that their facilities lacked a plan for restocking medical and pharmaceutical supplies. Players said that their facilities usually work with local pharmacies or retail stores in emergencies. However, during a regional event, these resources may also become heavily taxed. Pharmacies and local retail stores may not have sufficient quantities of supplies to sustain long-term care facility operations during a major disaster.

New Jersey Administrative Code 8:39-31.6 (n) states that "The facility shall maintain at least a three-day supply of food and have access to an alternative supply of water in case of an emergency."

The after action report (AAR) recommends that long-term care facilities identify alternate means of procuring critical resources to sustain their operations during a major disaster. These resources include non-medical and medical supplies, staffing, and transportation. The AAR suggests that facilities work with regional partners to develop a plan for fulfilling medical and pharmaceutical supply needs. In addition, the AAR recommends that long-term care facilities expand their on-hand supplies to sustain operations for the first 96 hours after an incident rather than the first 72 hours. These supplies should include maintenance and fuel supplies. Finally, the AAR recommends that facilities review medication supply prior

authorization request levels and resident medication administration records to identify critical medications that should be available during an incident. Facilities should then confirm that they have sufficient quantities of these medications and should decide if pre-event delivery is necessary.

Long-term care facilities should consider establishing alternate resources and procurement methods in the event that a major disaster disrupts primary methods. Facilities can develop a regional plan to help coordinate their respective alternate re-supply plans.

CITATION

Health Care Association of New Jersey. *Black Diamond Tabletop Exercise After Action Report/Improvement Plan*. 31 Jan 2011.

<https://www.llis.dhs.gov/docdetails/details.do?contentID=50563>

New Jersey Administrative Code. *Standards for Licensure of Long-Term Care Facilities*. 15 Feb 2007.

<https://www.llis.dhs.gov/docdetails/details.do?contentID=52410>

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