



KCER Watch

Safety and Health Topics: Emergency Preparedness Bulletin

December 2017

In this Issue

Hot Topics

- [Disaster Preparedness Topic Collection](#)
- [Medical Supply Shortage Due to Hurricane Maria](#)
- [Opioid Use – One of the Biggest Health Threats](#)

Education/Communication

- [Tips to Help You Prepare for Winter Storm Season](#)
- [Keeping You and Your Family Safe from Fire this Holiday Season](#)
- [The Historic 2017 Hurricane Season Comes to an End](#)

Hot Topics

Disaster Preparedness Topic Collection



TRACIE
HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
INFORMATION GATEWAY

Wildfires in California have once again destroyed communities and forced thousands of people to evacuate their homes and businesses. Emergency planners and administrators at many healthcare facilities are wondering what they can do to protect the health of patients and staff. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has a collection of lessons learned from recent events. It also offers

communication tools, information, checklists, plans and templates that can be modified to suit specific threats and needs.

Read More: <https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/technical-resources/36/natural-disasters/27>

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Medical Supply Shortage Due to Hurricane Maria

Puerto Rico is a major production hub for drug manufacturers, including companies that make saline solution for dialysis treatment. In September, Hurricane Maria left a path of destruction in Puerto Rico and cut power to most of the Island, causing a shortage of medical supplies to hospitals and outpatient healthcare facilities across the country. The Food and Drug Administration is working hard with manufacturers to help them to return to production levels that adequately meet the needs of patients.

Read More: <https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm587290.htm>

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Opioid Use – One of the Biggest Health Threats

A recent study shows that the dialysis population is subject to the risk of long-term opioid use. The use of opioids was associated with increased risk of early death, decision to stop dialysis treatment, and hospitalization. In addition to the serious risks of addiction, abuse, and overdose, the use of prescription opioids can have many side effects, even when taken as directed.

Read More: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/index.html>



[BACK TO TOP](#)

Education/Communication

Tips to Help You Prepare for Winter Storm Season



It is never too early to have you and your family prepared for the winter season. Winter storms can range in severity from a brief period of extreme cold temperatures, to days of snow, blowing wind and white-out conditions. These extreme conditions kill hundreds of people due to exposure to cold, car accidents, and fires caused by improper use of heaters. Act now to protect your loved ones during harsh winter storms.

Read More: <https://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Keeping You and Your Family Safe from Fire this Holiday Season

Holiday decorations like Christmas trees and candles are a traditional and essential part of the season. However, we must always look for and eliminate potential dangers from holiday lights and decorations that could lead to fires or injuries. The U.S. Fire Administration has outlined steps you can take to keep your home safe and protected from fires this holiday season.

Read More:

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/holiday.html>



[BACK TO TOP](#)

The Historic 2017 Hurricane Seasons Comes to an End



The 2017 Hurricane season ended November 30th. Four storms made landfall, and affected more than 25 million people. Hurricane Harvey caused catastrophic flooding in Texas and Louisiana. Hurricane Irma was the strongest Atlantic Ocean storm on record, and caused the largest sheltering mission in U.S. history. Finally, Hurricane Maria was the first category 4 hurricane to make landfall on the mainland of Puerto Rico in 85 years. The Federal Emergency Management Agency says that although the hurricane season has ended, the agency will continue to support communities and survivors.

Read More: <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2017/11/30/historic-2017-hurricane-season-comes-end-federal-support-recovery-continues>

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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

www.kcercoalition.com/kcerwatch

What do you think about KCER Watch?

We want your feedback! Please click here to complete a short survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Dec2017Watch>



www.kcercoalition.com



www.facebook.com/KCERCoalition



[@KCERProgram](https://twitter.com/KCERProgram)

This material was prepared by the Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) contractor, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy nor imply endorsement by the U.S. Government. CMS Contract #: HHSM-500-2006-00007C Pub. No.: FL-KCER-7K2T3A-12132017-01