**Did you know?**
Medical directors are required to engage in emergency response and preparedness planning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Emergency Response and Preparedness Planning must include active participation from a facility’s Medical Director.</strong></th>
<th><strong>The Medical Director has an important role in resident safety.</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Medical Director’s general responsibilities extends to the following emergency planning requirements:</td>
<td>According to federal and state rule the Medical Director is responsible for:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Providing continuity of care in an emergency, including providing care when contracted services, supplies, etc., cannot be fulfilled during the event.</td>
<td>• Implementation of resident care policies.</td>
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<td>• Assessing impact on residents when power is lost to the facility for patient care equipment and heating and cooling the facility for the safety of residents.</td>
<td>• The coordination of medical care in the facility.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Engaging and coordinating with community to meet public health emergencies.</td>
<td>(26 TAC §554.1907 &amp; 42 CFR §483.70)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Reviewing the feasibility of the facility’s plan as part of cooperation and collaboration w/ Emergency Preparedness officials, including types and duration of energy sources available in an emergency.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ensuring any environment where residents are provided care is a safe setting.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(See more on next page)
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN NURSING FACILITIES
The Medical Director’s Role

Additional emergency planning requirements include:

- **Safely evacuating residents, considering their care and treatment needs**, including the need for facility staff to accompany a resident being evacuated because trained medical professionals are not provided by the transportation service.
- **Ensuring patient records are secure and readily available to support continuity of care** during an emergency.
- **Ensuring residents are safely transferred and tracked**, accounting for residents’ specific needs and the ability of receiving facilities to continue care.
- **Adopting policies and procedures for ensuring continuity of care in an Alternate Care Site** under an 1135 waiver.
- **Collaborating with their local emergency officials** in such proactive planning to allow an organized and systematic response to assure continuity of care even when services at their facilities have been severely disrupted.
- **Sharing information and medical documentation for residents** with other HC providers to maintain continuity of care.
- **Reporting the ability of the facility to provide assistance** to other facilities and the community.
- **Training facility staff**, including how the facility manages the continuity of care to residents during an emergency.

Emergency Planning Resources

- State Rules: 26 TAC §554.1914
- Federal Rules: 42 CFR §483.73
- **Appendix Z** of the State Operations Manual (SOM) for guidance on requirements in 42 CFR §483.73
- Check the HHSC website for emergency planning trainings: https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/training/

For more information email LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov or call 512-438-3161.