



County of San Diego

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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May 20, 2008

TO: SKILLED NURSING FACILITY ADMINISTRATOR
«AddressBlock»

RE: SKILLED NURSING FACILITY TASK FORCE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Dear Administrator:

As a result of the October 2007 fires, a working group of individuals, comprised of representatives from San Diego County Emergency Medical Services, California Association of Health Facilities, San Diego Health Care Association and Administrators and Associates from various skilled nursing facilities in San Diego County, have met and developed a 'Skilled Nursing Facility Disaster Preparedness Task Force'.

Many of the members of this group came forward at the Community 'SNF RAP Session' held on April 24, 2008 and submitted their names as volunteers to play an active role in the task force. This group will help to develop a county-wide, uniform plan to facilitate a timely and effective evacuation of skilled nursing facilities in the event of a disaster.

The large number of facilities within San Diego County has been distributed into smaller, more manageable groups, each with one 'core contact' person, who will be identified as a "Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) AREA DISASTER COORDINATOR".

This individual's position will serve as the eyes and ears for their assigned group of facilities within their designated 'area'. This means that the Area Coordinator will be responsible for collecting bed counts and other necessary information and relaying the area information to the County EMS DOC (MOC) during a disaster.

Additionally the Area Coordinator will represent those facilities that they are responsible to oversee, by bringing up any ideas or concerns to the monthly task force meetings with the County, State and other Area Coordinator representatives. Open communication will be necessary for making individual facilities needs known so they can be addressed, as well as being able to receive information from the Task Force meetings.

The main purpose of this letter is to inform you of the existence of this Skilled Nursing Facility Disaster Preparedness Task Force, and to notify you that an Area Coordinator will be contacting you within the next week after receiving this letter.

We look forward to working with and for you.

Sincerely:

Pauline Thomas, RN, CEN,
Quality Assurance Specialist
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