

TEXAS DISASTER RESPONSE:

"CHANCE FAVORS THE PREPARED MIND"

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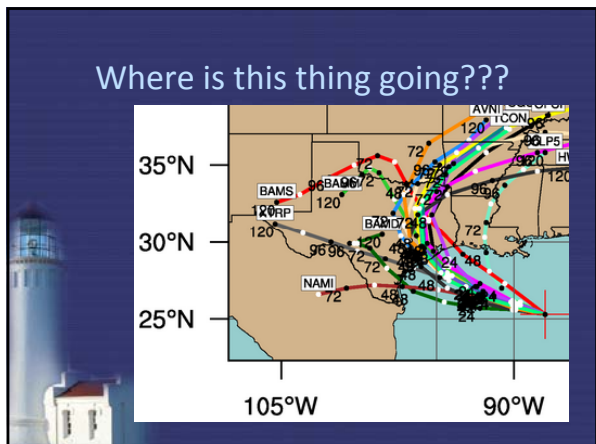













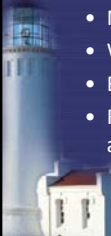
- ### The Challenge
- Uncertain Hurricane tracks and severity
 - Stay or move?
 - Move 3 million people? (Hurricane Rita)
 - How many pets?
 - Thousands of patient re-locations
 - Time
- A lighthouse is visible in the bottom left corner of the slide.

- ### Association Actions
- Local, State, Federal Officials
- Connect with Governor's State Emergency Management Division
 - Get a seat at the State Operations Center
 - Connect with utility companies
 - Help member connections with local emergency response structure
- A lighthouse is visible in the bottom left corner of the slide.




Association Actions Preparation

- Develop database of Gulf Coast facilities
- Contact – staff and owners by THCA staff and Board members
- Blast E-mails to providers
- Website updates
- Communications with State, Federal and others
 - Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services
 - Emergency Response
 - American Health Care Association
 - CMS
 - FEMA



Association Actions Lead up, During, and After

- Check in with providers in the target area
- Daily briefings with State Operations Center
- Membership briefings
- Website updates
- Blast e-mail updates
- Respond to requests – connect providers with appropriate emergency responders



Issues

- Transportation
 - Where are the buses and ambulances?
- Airlifts – Patient Identification
- Extraordinary Costs and the “Stafford Act”
- Staff, families, and pets
- Shelter in place
 - Water
 - Power
 - Supplies
- Repatriation

Lessons Learned and Improvements

- Focus on "surge zone" – minimize transport distance
- Early evacuation of special needs population
- For the major highways, a dedicated lane for health care transport vehicles (buses, ambulances, etc.)
- For other road and highways, a police escort process for health care transport vehicles
- DPS troopers and local law enforcement are alerted and available to assist health care transport vehicles
- A system to give health care transport vehicles priority for gasoline refueling if needed



Lessons Learned and Improvements (cont'd)

- Permit LTC providers to participate in the state contract with transportation providers
- THCA and other health care associations are on-site participants in the efforts at the State Operations and Emergency Management Center
- Ensure that patient identifying records are transported with the patients – and that the records stay with the residents
- "Lessons Learned" Committee and Education



What can you say . . .





Closing Comments

- “Chance favors the prepared mind”
- Ongoing Evaluation and Preparation
 - LTC 100
 - CAHF Conference
 - AHLA Conference
 - Gulf State Summits
 - Association Education Sessions

“Experience is what you have,
right after you need it”

Thank You and Good Luck

Founded in 1950, the Texas Health Care Association (THCA) is the largest long term care association in Texas. THCA represents a broad spectrum of long-term care providers and professionals offering long term rehabilitative and specialized health care services. Member facilities, owned by both for-profit and non-profit entities, include nursing facilities, specialized rehabilitation facilities, and assisted living facilities.