



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH FACILITIES / 916.441.6400 / 916. 441-6441 (FAX)

MemberAlert



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRE ALERT IV

Tuesday, October 26, 2007, 3:00 PM PST

As the wildland fires in Southern California continue to impact the state, several healthcare facilities of all types continue to be on alert, with some hospitals and long term care facilities still evacuated. However, many evacuated residents are now returning to their homes. Providers are working to clean and make their facilities safe before re-patriation.

CAHF staff continue to participate in daily briefings with the California Department of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Office and will continue to share recommendations with you as we get them.

Please notify Jocelyn Montgomery at jmontgomery@cahf.org with any questions you may have, or if your facility has been impacted by the fires. We will be sharing your reports and questions with the state emergency authorities.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN EVACUATED

Before re-populating your evacuated facility, please follow guidance from local safety officials and work with your local district L&C office. L&C surveyors are working to promptly inspect facilities for fire-related issues.

SURVEYORS TO CONDUCT NEIGHBORHOOD VISITS NEXT WEEK

In our morning briefing with the Department of Healthcare Services, we learned from Kathleen Billingsley that starting next week, L&C surveyors will be conducting "neighborhood" visits to all facilities that were impacted by the southern California fires. This includes facilities who accepted evacuated residents, as well as those which evacuated, or were threatened with evacuation. These visits are described as "fact finding" and not enforcement, according to Ms. Billingsley. The goal is to get information about how the response efforts went, and to identify any unmet needs that providers may have identified.

IMPORTANT FIRE-RELATED EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT SURVEY TO GO OUT TODAY

Please look for information we will send later today regarding an online survey. ***If your facility was evacuated, or if your facility admitted evacuated residents, please participate in the survey.*** CAHF has been asked by CMS and the State Medi-Cal Office to collect information on your fire-related reimbursement needs. Participating in this survey will ensure that we are able to offer more complete information to these payers, and facilitate reimbursement.

We have asked CMS to make it possible to provide flexibility and/or waivers so that both sending and receiving facilities with residents affected by the fires can be properly reimbursed for the costs they incurred during this emergency. *We need the supporting information from you to make this possible.*

RESOURCES, SUPPLIES AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE

If you are an impacted facility that needs disaster-related resources, supplies or information, call your local Emergency Operations Center for advice and/or referral to the proper agency. Numbers are listed below. Also, please visit our website at www.cahf.org/public/dpp for information related to this and other disasters.

Los Angeles County EOC: (323) 980-2102

Riverside County EOC: (951) 955-4700

San Diego County EOC: (858) 565-3490

At this time, Santa Barbara County has stood down their Emergency Operations Center

Orange County EOC: (714) 628-7060

San Bernardino County EOC: (909) 356-3998

Ventura County EOC: (805) 223-6873