

STATE OF COLORADO

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Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department
of Public Health
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August 22, 2008

Today the Health Facilities and Emergency Medical Services Division announced the first of a series of tools aimed at assisting Long Term Care facilities with their development of emergency preparedness and recovery plans. The *Hazard Analysis Toolkit*, available for download from www.healthfacilities.info, will help facilities prioritize and be better prepared for emergencies and disasters. Other planning and preparedness tools will follow in the coming months and be available at the web site.

Preparing and maintaining emergency operations plans can be a formidable task for healthcare providers. Part of the division's regulatory responsibility is to review these plans for completeness and readiness testing. These tools will help facilities protect and better serve their residents, while at the same time bringing the facilities up to federal and state standards for emergency preparedness.

The complete emergency preparedness toolbox will consist of toolkits with working spreadsheets and documents that will help guide facilities through the process of creating or updating their own comprehensive emergency operations plans. The state recognizes that facilities should have emergency operation plans for eight different situations, and federal CMS regulations specify facilities must have plans for an additional four. All twelve situations are addressed in the *Hazard Analysis Toolkit*. Future emergency preparedness toolkits and materials will key off these situations and include a model operations plan, standard operations procedures, emergency resources, best practices, and checklists of things that must be accounted for and considered for each situation.

Emergency planning and preparedness is a collaborative and community based effort. The department and division recognizes this and will work with and encourage facilities to share their plans and needs in advance of and during emergencies with local, county and state emergency managers.

John Schlue

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