BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

Office of Louisiana State Fire Marshal

Code Enforcement and Building Safety

Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Public Safety Services

H. BUTCH BROWNING
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

To: **Louisiana Nursing Home Association**
Department of Health and Hospitals

From: **Butch Browning**
Louisiana State Fire Marshal

RE: **HEALTH CARE FACILITIES EVACUATED DURING A HURRICANE/ALL HAZARD**

DATE: **August 13, 2014**

An assessment of field conditions shall be performed by this office prior to occupying any portion of a health care facility that was evacuated during a hurricane. A request for assessment may be made by calling the Health Care Division of the Office of State Fire Marshal at the Fire Marshal Command Center at 225-925-4391 or 225-925-3904. Each assessment will be performed by inspection to verify and document that a reasonable level of life safety is provided. Major building and operational features of concern to be assessed will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Emergency power systems (generators, fuel, etc.)
- Fire protection systems (fire alarm, sprinkler, cooking suppression, etc.)
- Mechanical and Electrical items (HVAC, boilers, door operators, lighting, etc.)
- Egress systems (room arrangement, doors, corridors, exits, ramps, stairs, etc.)
- Medical Gas storage and systems (oxygen, vacuum, compressed air, nitrous oxide, etc.)
- Fire Safety Plan (revised/modified evacuation and relocation plan, staffs responsibilities, etc.)

Evacuated facilities which are placed into operation without the aforementioned assessment by this office shall be considered a **hazard to public safety**. Please note that this office will make every effort to perform the required assessments as quickly as possible.

REPAIR REQUESTS

Due to unusual conditions presented during this time of crisis, minor repairs and superficial alterations may be completed at the Owner's risk, provided a written request is granted by this office. The request shall be signed by the Administrator of the facility and shall include the name and address of the facility, a description of field conditions and the proposed scope of work to be performed. Requests may be submitted by facsimile to Traci Roberts or Becky Roberts of this office at 225-925-3699.

NOTE: The "scope of work" shall NOT include the installation of new walls, the relocation of existing walls, the reconfiguration of interior spaces, or any other construction, such as repairs to fire barriers, smoke barriers, fire protection systems/devices, fire rated assemblies, etc., that could adversely affect life safety, unless minimum code compliance is adequately explained and determined to be acceptable by this office.

"OPERATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION"

Changes in floor plan arrangements are required to be reviewed and inspected for conformance with minimum standards. In order to expedite the review process, an "Operational Plan of Action" describing the subject field conditions and the proposed scope of work shall be submitted to this office for expedited cursory review and subsequent inspection. Full compliance with the provisions of the Life Safety Code shall be required and will be expected by this office. The "Operational Plan of Action" shall include a request for "FACILITY ASSESSMENT" as described above and shall also include a complete history of all previous special requests and/or assessments associated with the damage done by the hurricane/storm. A full formal review will be required at a later date as determined by inspection.

CAUTION:

This document shall in now way relieve the facility from compliance with minimum standards, and is not intended to circumvent state law or any regulations enforced by other authorities having jurisdiction.

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OFFICE OF THE LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL
8181 INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD, BATON ROUGE, LA 70806
(225) 925-4911 1-800-256-5452