

John Bel Edwards
GOVERNOR



Stephen R. Russo, JD
SECRETARY

State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health
Health Standards Section

August 28, 2023

Re: Louisiana Wildfires and 2023 Hurricane Season

Dear Administrator:

La. Administrative Code Title 48.I.9767 states each nursing home shall have an emergency plan designed to “manage the consequences of all hazards, declared disasters, or other emergencies that either have the potential to disrupt and/or actually disrupt the nursing home’s ability to provide care and treatment, or threatens the health, safety, and welfare of the residents”. While Louisiana is preparing to enter the heart of hurricane season, several parishes are dealing with extreme drought conditions which have fueled wildfires. These wildfires have prompted mandatory evacuations of nursing facilities.

Considering these unusual circumstances, LDH is requesting that nursing homes review their emergency plans with a special focus on designated primary and secondary sheltering sites. If these sites are subject to evacuation orders due to wildfire or these sites are already housing other evacuees, LDH requests nursing homes address where hurricane evacuees will be sheltered.

If your primary or secondary sheltering site(s) is currently subject to evacuation due to wildfire or is housing other evacuees, LDH instructs that this supplemental information be submitted to LDH no later than August 30, 2023. If your primary or secondary sheltering site is subject to wildfire evacuation in the future or houses other evacuees in the future, submit supplemental information to LDH in writing regarding alternative sheltering site(s) no later than 24 hours after issuance of such evacuation order. This supplemental information should be sent to HSSEP@la.gov

As a reminder, all facilities should make sure their emergency plan is ready to activate in any emergency scenario. All facilities are encouraged to ensure all information in the Security Management section of ESF8 Portal is correct and MSTAT should be updated as required.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Steffan W. Rutledge, Esq.

Steffan W. Rutledge, Esq.
Emergency Preparedness Manager, Health Standards Section
Louisiana Department of Health