

Russell Phillips & Associates, LLC

Fire and Emergency Management for Healthcare Facilities

Hospital Mutual Aid Plan (HMAP) for Evacuation and Resources/Assets

The Hospital Mutual Aid Plan (HMAP) is a state-wide or region-wide agreement among participating hospitals to provide pre-planned assistance to each other at the time of a disaster. This assistance may come in the form of:

- Providing evacuation capacity (receiving sites) for patients evacuated from hospital
 - Preplanned number and type of patients that will be accepted into staffed beds/surge areas
- Providing supplies, equipment, staff or pharmaceuticals to a facility when a disaster overwhelms their own community and isolates the facility or multiple-facilities.

Benefits to facilities who are members of the HMAP (this includes Fire, EMS, etc.):

- Preplanned Evacuation Strategy - fast (i.e. fire) / extended (i.e. Hurricane/Tornado)
- Preplanned Supply, Equipment, Staff and Pharmaceutical Support when Isolated
- Provides local public safety Incident Commanders with easy on-site access to user friendly plans including contact information for evacuation resources and key personnel
- Provides local EMS commander with resources needed to efficiently identify, transfer and track patients to **pre-designated** receiving sites (Alternate Care Facilities) and other care facilities
- Meeting Department of Health and Joint Commission exercise requirements and community coordinating

Below are several examples of national events where regional facilities were overwhelmed and Mutual Aid Plans would have added value to the efforts to assist those in need during a disaster:

- *California Wildfires 2007* – Healthcare facilities in the region were planning evacuation locations during the disaster. The formal preplanned methodology of a mutual Aid Plan expedites this process and relieves pressures on the hospitals and EMS.
- *Ice Storms: New England/New York* – The regional healthcare facilities were paralyzed by the storm and the local vendors were also impacted leaving the facilities isolated without supplies, equipment and pharmaceuticals.
- *Hurricane Katrina/Rita* – The supply plan for isolated hospitals and evacuation plan for other institutions was being designed during the incident causing considerable challenges for tracking patients and managing patient care during evacuation.

Since all disasters start locally, the state-wide HMAP is broken down into Regional MAPs that operate independently from each other, yet, in a disaster that overwhelms an entire region, would activate to support one another. **The HMAP will be customized for each region with a focus on the unique resources and response capabilities.** Plan members will include:

- Acute Care Hospitals
- Behavioral Health Hospital
- Special Care Hospitals (i.e. Rehab/Vent)

Once the Regional HMAP is completed and operational, the Regional Task Force will evolve into a Steering Committee to maintain plan data, support exercises and communicate to plan members.

An important note: Even if a facility is a member of a city-wide Mutual Aid Plan or a corporation that has evacuation plans in place with other corporate facilities, this plan will supplement those existing resources when the local plan or corporate plan is overwhelmed by a regional disaster.

For more information, please contact us at 585-223-1130, via e-mail at info@phillipsllc.com or visit us on the web at www.phillipsllc.com.

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