

Tips for Protecting a Pharmacy Before, During and After a Hurricane

Planning Ahead - Before the storm:

Enclose the following lists in waterproof material:

- Names of pharmacy employees with contact information
- Names of local physician offices and hospitals.
- Contact information for wholesalers and delivery services (UPS, FedEx).

Obtain the following:

- Be informed, make-a-plan, build-a-kit at <https://www.ready.gov>
- Always contact your local public safety/dispatch to coordinate and work with your local Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) first.
<https://lemd.vdem.virginia.gov/Public/Default.aspx>
- Waterproof covering material.
- List of area shelters.

Anticipate power outages.

- A portable generator may be advisable.
- Ice and coolers should be available to store refrigerated products (i.e. insulin).
- Store flammable materials appropriately.

Closing a Pharmacy

If the pharmacy is to be closed and/or evacuated, notify the following prior to closing/evacuation and when the pharmacy reopens:

- Store personnel
- Physicians and/or hospitals, as appropriate
- Board of Pharmacy at pharmbd@dhp.virginia.gov or (804) 367-4456 and local DEA field office. Alternate emergency contact information for Caroline Juran, Executive Director – (804) 314-0257 or caroline.juran@dhp.virginia.gov Alternate emergency contact information for Ruth Carter, Diversion Program Manager, DEA - (206) 919-1288 or ruth.a.carter@usdoj.gov

If the store is to be closed and evacuation is warranted, it is recommended the pharmacist-in-charge produce two sets of backup tapes/disks of drug inventory and prescription information. One set of

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information should be kept in a safe place and another kept off-site in the possession of the pharmacist-in-charge.

Prior to evacuation, computers should be shut down and covered with waterproof material. If flooding is expected, computers should be disconnected from the terminals and moved to a safe area.

Schedule II drugs should be moved to a locked, secure place within the pharmacy. A safe may be used, but is not required. Other products such as prescription drugs should be moved, if possible, above the floor level and covered with waterproof materials.

After the Storm

If controlled substances are lost in a disaster, the pharmacist-in-charge must immediately contact the:

- Board of Pharmacy at pharmbd@dhp.virginia.gov or (804) 367-4456 and local DEA field office. Alternate emergency contact information for Caroline Juran, Executive Director – (804) 314-0257 or caroline.juran@dhp.virginia.gov Alternate emergency contact information for Ruth Carter, Diversion Program Manager, DEA - (206) 919-1288 or ruth.a.carter@usdoj.gov
- All permit holders should notify the Board of Pharmacy, as soon as reasonable able, of any discovery of the occurrence of disasters, accidents, destruction or loss of records required to be maintained by state or federal law.

When the situation has stabilized, pharmacy personnel should be notified on what steps to take to restore the integrity of the pharmacy setting.

Getting Back to Business

If the pharmacy computer is not working, prescriptions may be dispensed manually. Labels can be typed or handwritten using a pen. Since printed drug information may not be available, patient counseling should clarify any questions the patient may have.

To get started to become a Medical Reserve Corps volunteer go to www.vamrc.org or visit Virginia Medical Reserve Corps on Facebook.

For pharmacies who are willing to help coordinate services for displaced/sheltered individuals please contact christine.fletcher@vdh.virginia.gov for pharmacy opportunities.