Fostering Continuing Care Relationships

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What is Continuing Care?

- Known by many different names
  - Long Term Care
  - Assisted Living
  - Continuing Care Retirement Community
    - Independent Living
    - Assisted Living
    - Skilled Nursing Facilities
      - Nursing Home
      - Memory Care
      - Home Care
      - Hospice and Palliative Care
Cleveland Pines

- Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility
- Located in Shelby, NC
- 120 Beds
  - Medicare/Medicaid
- Single Story
  - 68,666 square feet
- Nonprofit
Emergency Planning

“Assigns responsibility to organizations or individuals for carrying out specific actions at projected times and places in an emergency that exceeds the capability or routine responsibility of any one agency.”

(FEMA)
Importance of Emergency Planning

- Exposes hazards to which the community/facility is exposed
- Encourages facilities to learn more and know about available resources
- Allows facilities to see their strengths and weaknesses in emergency planning
- Time to provide training at all levels
- Builds staff and family/care giver understanding and confidence
- Become a better community partner
- Practice makes better
Drills & Exercises at Cleveland Pines

- 2014 Mad Twister Exercise
  - Tornado touchdown at local shopping center
  - Fire reported at Cleveland Pines
  - Total evacuation of facility to alternate site

- 2015 Mad Twister Exercise Continued
  - 24 Hours into total evacuation from 2014
  - Facility total loss

- Partners involved:
  - Fire
  - EMS
  - Emergency Management
  - Local Healthcare Coalition
2014 Exercise
Lessons Learned

• Resources from local healthcare coalitions and first responders
• Facilities are not alone in emergency planning or response
• Concerns for Alzheimer/Dementia patients
• Concerns for isolation patients, separate or place in general population
• Special food considerations
• Division of groups in logical manner
• Inability to divide groups up
• Standard triage does NOT work
Best Practices

• Make connections and build relationships early on
  – Local healthcare coalition
  – EMS
  – Emergency Management
• Connections help when resources are needed
• Know your neighboring facilities
  – Help with evacuation
  – Sheltering patients
• Review facility Emergency Operations Plans
Coalition Engagement

- Community Hazard Vulnerability Assessment
- Long Term Care Workshops and Education
  - Intro to Emergency Management
  - Hazard Vulnerability Assessment/Emergency Operations Planning
- Regional Partnerships
- Continuing Care Community Networking
Community Engagement

• Fostering relationships with
  – Local EMS Agencies
  – Local Emergency Management Groups
  – Local Hospitals
  – NC Department of Public Health and local jurisdictions
Community Engagement

- Relationships with other Continuing Care Facilities
- Ongoing educational opportunities, drills, and exercises within region
- Resources throughout the emergency management planning cycle
- Interactions between emergency management players
References

Questions?
Thank you for your time!

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