TRAINING AND EMERGENCY PLANS:
Florida’s long term care centers conducted additional planning and training to prepare staff and residents for the potential dangers of hurricane season, including:

- **Emergency power plans** that include strengthened steps for both evacuation and shelter-in-place scenarios.
- **Disaster drills** and ongoing trainings to test power plans and ensure that all staff members are familiar with the steps to be taken during an emergency.
- **Communication** with local emergency and other officials to ensure that those authorities have a clear understanding of the centers’ residents and the complexities of their medical needs.
- **Hour-by-hour checklists** must be completed by each facility prior to an approaching storm to ensure center operations are in order and outside resources are in position.

GENERATOR SAFETY:
The majority of Florida nursing centers are currently in compliance with the new generator requirements. **Compliance means:**

- A generator has been fully installed, inspected, and approved; or
- A variance for generator installation has been requested and is accompanied by a specific plan for how the center will safeguard its residents in the event of a power failure.

The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) requires monthly reports on the generator installation status, and carefully reviews any requests for a variance.

Generators designed to keep a long term care center operating safely cannot be purchased easily or installed quickly. To have a generator properly installed at a long term care center takes **one to two years including regulatory approvals and building renovations**, and the average cost of installing a generator to cool a 120-bed nursing center is **$350,000**.

Delays in generator procurement and installation occur for a number of reasons:

- **High demand for generators of the size needed to power long term care centers** — **WHICH HAVE TO BE CUSTOM MADE** — following natural disasters in Puerto Rico, Texas, and elsewhere.
- **Limited supply of architects and engineers** who properly understand the unique requirements for long term care centers.
- **An overwhelming number of requests** to government offices, whose processes and resources are stretched thin by the demand.
- **Longer-than-expected approval and permitting processes** due to the complexities of fuel-and electric-related systems.

**Hurricane Season Preparedness at Florida’s Long Term Care Centers**

Know the Facts:
Counting Down to an Impending Storm

When a storm is projected to make landfall within five days, long term care centers in that area have a lot to do to get ready. The Florida Health Care Association has provided them with a list of 40 preparedness tasks covering four main categories: Disaster Plan & Emergency Supplies, Fuel Checks & Generator Preparation, Communication with Outside Contacts, and Facility Hardening & Maintenance.

120 Hours: 5 Days Out
22 Action Steps
- Disaster Plan & Emergency Supplies
- Fuel Checks & Generator Preparation
- Communication with Outside Contacts
- Facility Hardening & Maintenance

96 Hours: 4 Days Out
5 Action Steps
- Disaster Plan & Emergency Supplies
- Fuel Checks & Generator Preparation
- Communication with Outside Contacts
- Facility Hardening & Maintenance

72 Hours: 3 Days Out
3 Action Steps
- Fuel Checks & Generator Preparation
- Facility Hardening & Maintenance
- Communication with Outside Contacts

48 Hours: 2 Days Out
6 Action Steps
- Fuel Checks & Generator Preparation
- Facility Hardening & Maintenance
- Disaster Plan & Emergency Supplies
- Communication with Outside Contacts

24 Hours: 1 Day Out
4 Action Steps
- Fuel Checks & Generator Preparation
- Communication with Outside Contacts

During past storms, FHCA members and their staff continually went above and beyond to ensure the safety and well-being of our long term care residents. Their effort, commitment, and dedication will be no different in 2019.

For more information, please visit tinyurl.com/FHCALTCprepare.