

Emergency Preparedness

For ESRD

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

SUMMER 2012

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Extreme Heat and Power Outages: Double Trouble for Dialysis Facilities and their Patients.

Power outages are more than an inconvenience; the loss of electricity, air conditioning and running water can become a life threatening situation.

For many electric utilities, the hot summer days create more demand and “ peak loads “ than at any other time of the year.

It is this extreme heat and record high temperatures that can cause rolling or summer blackouts. Power companies try to warn affected areas of planned events, but that is not always the case. Typically, the power will be out for one to two hours and are specifically designed to prevent a larger system-wide failure. Summer blackouts are particularly dangerous because they eliminate the most effective ways to beat the heat: fans and air conditioning.

The largest power blackout in North American History occurred on August 14, 2003 when residents in 8 states lost power for up to four days during the summer heat.

They can happen anywhere, and to anyone so being prepared is very important.

Items to remember

- ⇒ Each facility should have policies & procedures pertaining to disaster preparedness. Drills with the patients & staff should be performed periodically for handling power outages. EMSystems will need to be updated as these events occur.



The End Stage
Renal Disease
Network Of Texas


TEEC

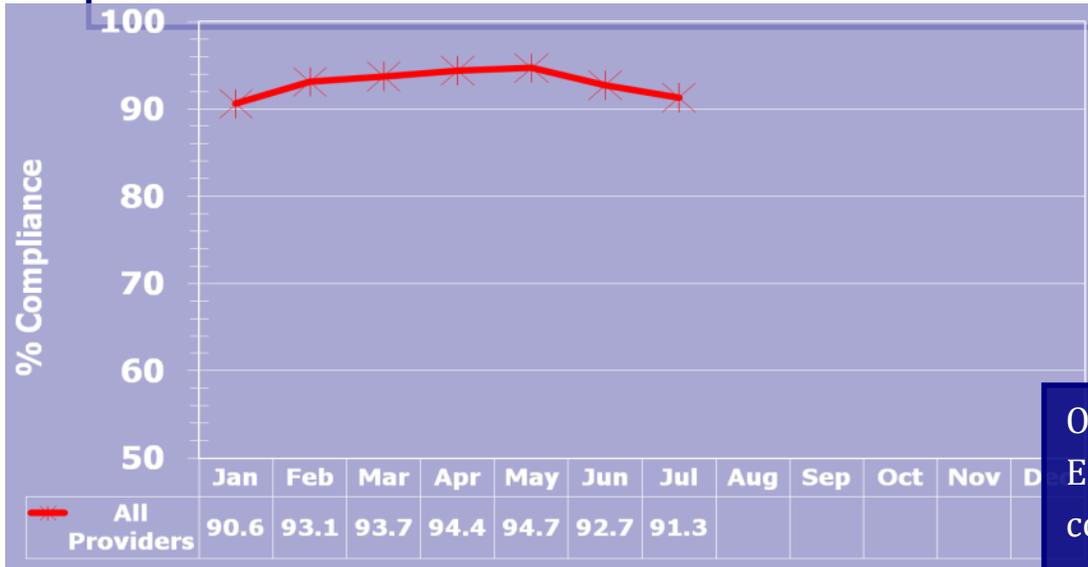
Did you know TEEC has meetings all over the state every other month? This is a good opportunity to have disaster questions answered and be better prepared for all disaster situations. Look for a fax at your facility, or on TEEC's website for meeting dates and locations.

- ⇒ Stay in close contact with your public utility provider & local Emergency Operations Center and let them know of your special needs. Many utility companies keep a list and a map of locations of power-dependent customers in case of an emergency.
- ⇒ Listen to local television, radio, newspapers and various web sites for important information.
- ⇒ Make sure that your dialysis facility is on a priority listing for HVAC and an Electrician.
- ⇒ Make arrangements for your AC Contractor to inspect your systems before the summer season begins. They can provide portable coolers if necessary.
- ⇒ Patients should plan a destination for seeking heat relief if problems arise at home. Cooling centers are sometimes opened by local governments along with family and friends houses, libraries and recreation centers.
- ⇒ If you are considering obtaining a generator, get advice from a licensed professional such as an electrician.
- ⇒ Never use candles during a blackout or power outage due to the extreme risk of fire. Always use flashlights with extra batteries on hand.
- ⇒ Drive carefully. Remember that traffic signals may be out.

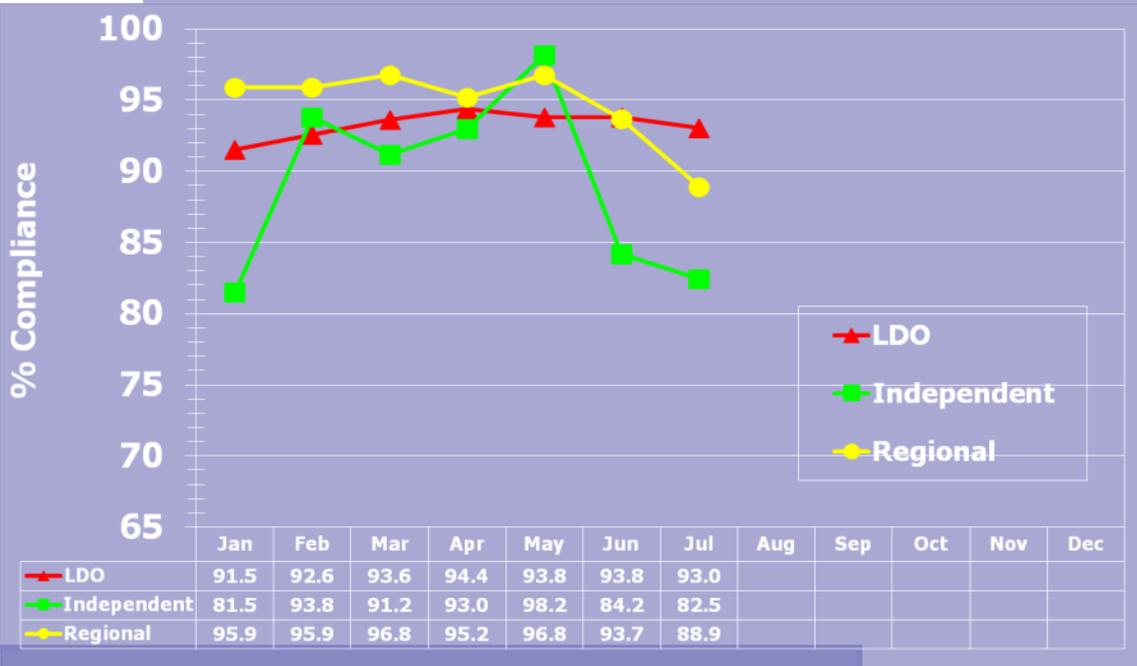
Additional information can be found at www.esrdnetwork.org, www.bt.cdc.gov, www.redcross.org and www.ready.gov

PLANNING AHEAD IS YOUR BEST DEFENSE IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.

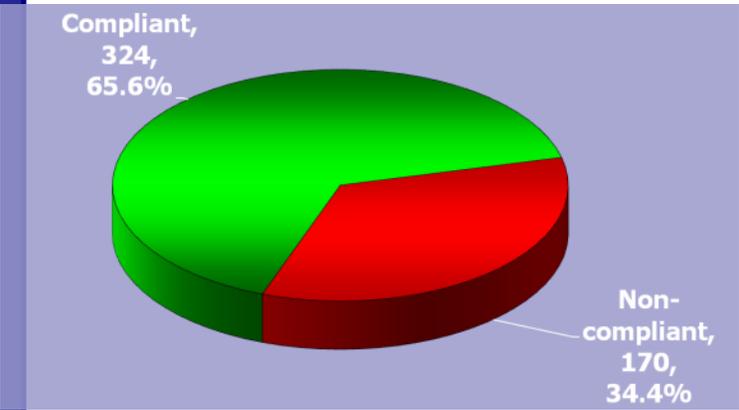
EMSystems Compliance: How Are We Doing?



Overall percent of EMSystems compliance for 2012 and EMSystems monthly compliance grouped by ownership. How does your organization rank on this scale? Are you tracking your facility's own compliance?



Emergency drills are run quarterly on EMSystems that all facilities are required to participate in. The most recent drill ran in May and had a 65.6% compliance rate. These drills prep you for a real emergency and tell us at the Network, how well facilities monitor their reporting systems. Be sure to participate in the next drill so we can make that number 100%!





Texas ESRD Emergency Coalition

New Resources for disaster preparedness

⇒ **Disaster Preparedness DVD** for dialysis & transplant Patients

⇒ Produced in May 2012 with TEEC Steering Committee members and ESRD patients

⇒ Will be sent to all facilities in the state of Texas

⇒ Currently being translated to Spanish

⇒ Download the DVD from the TEEC website at

www.texasteec.org

⇒ DVD should be incorporated into Annual disaster preparedness education for patients

⇒ **Clear Disaster Bags** for patients to use during evacuations

⇒ Hold vital patient information, medications, treatment flow sheets and contact information

⇒ Being sent to all Tier 1 facilities

⇒ Other dialysis & transplant facilities can order from

TEEC website: http://www.texasteec.org/tools/disaster_bag.asp

⇒ **READY T-Shirts**

⇒ TEEC t-shirts with the READY packet logo

⇒ Great to use during disaster drills & in-services at your facility

⇒ To order contact: Anna Ramirez at

aramirez@nw14.esrd.net





Thank you to everyone who took part in the Disaster Preparedness DVD!



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**READY
OR NOT?**

HAVE A PLAN



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