



Emergency Preparedness For ESRD

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tornado capital!
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ⇒ Tornadoes
- ⇒ Patient Education
- ⇒ TEEC News
- ⇒ EMSystems
- ⇒ NOAA Forecast
- ⇒ STEAR
- ⇒ Black Outs



Dialysis Clinics vs. Tornadoes

In Texas we tend to be number one in everything and with that being said Texas is the Tornado Capital of the United States. As Dialysis providers we have a responsibility to be prepared in order to keep our dialysis patients and staff safe. Tornadoes are violent rotating columns of air that can reach up to 110 mph. Unlike Hurricanes that gives us ample time to prepare. Tornadoes can happen in a moments notice and can have devastating consequences. Tornadoes can happen at any time but the most activity happens between the spring and summer months. Dialysis Facilities can prepare for tornadoes by:

- ◆ Ensuring that there is an emergency plan designated for tornadoes.
- ◆ Provide tornado emergency training to all staff and patients.
- ◆ Designate shelters within the building.
- ◆ Practice tornado drills and patient emergency disconnect.

What is the difference between a Tornado Watch and a Tornado Warning?

A **Tornado Watch** means that conditions are favorable for a tornado to develop. It is intended to alert the public in a particular area to pay attention to the weather.

A **Tornado Warning** means that spotters have seen a tornado or that Doppler Radar has reported some circular rotation indicating that the storm may spawn a tornado. You should take safety precautions when a warning is given on the radio, TV or you hear warning sirens.

Tornado policies should be developed by your dialysis clinic and be approved by your governing body.

What to do in Tornado Watch?

In a tornado watch be aware of your local weather and the possibility of a tornado touching down. Advise your staff and patients of the situation.

What do in a Tornado Warning?

In a tornado warning stay calm and implement your dialysis clinic's tornado policies. This could include taking all patients off and moving them to a pre designated tornado safe area within the building.

View the recent article in *Nephrology News & Issues*: [Dialysis clinics weather the devastation from Oklahoma tornado.](#)



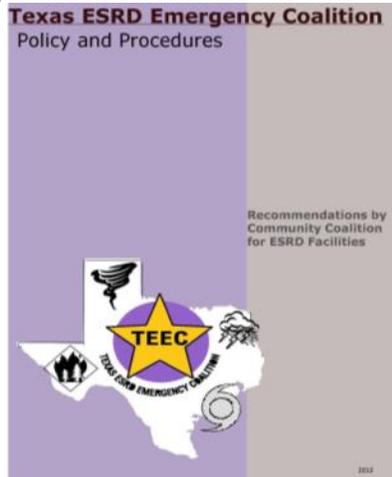
The End Stage
Renal Disease
Network Of Texas



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.

Now is the Time to Educate Your Patients!

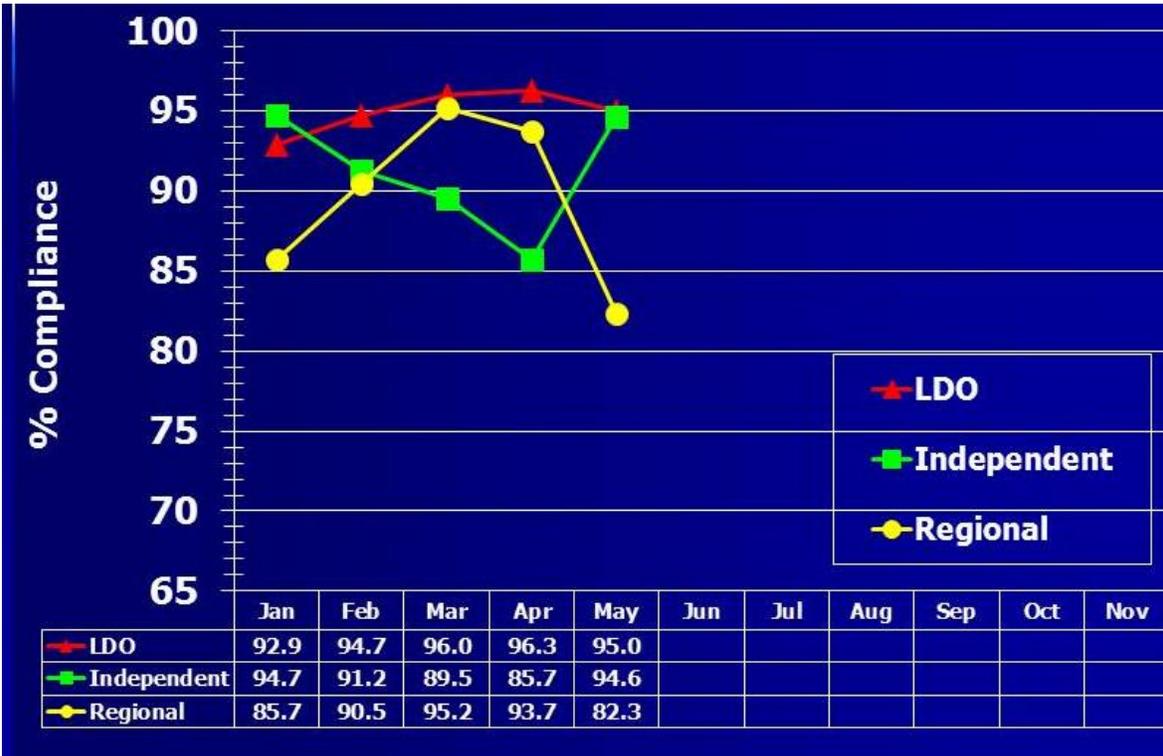
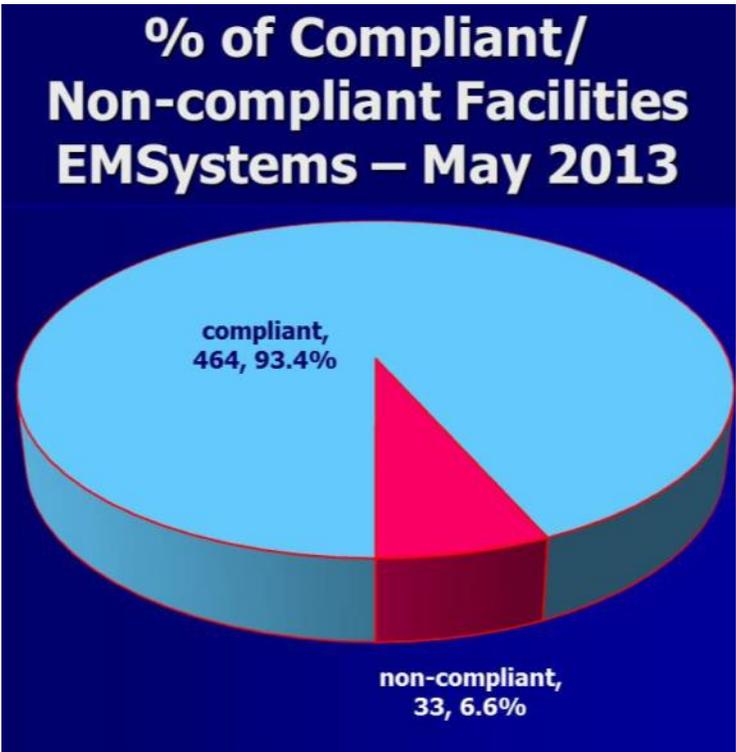
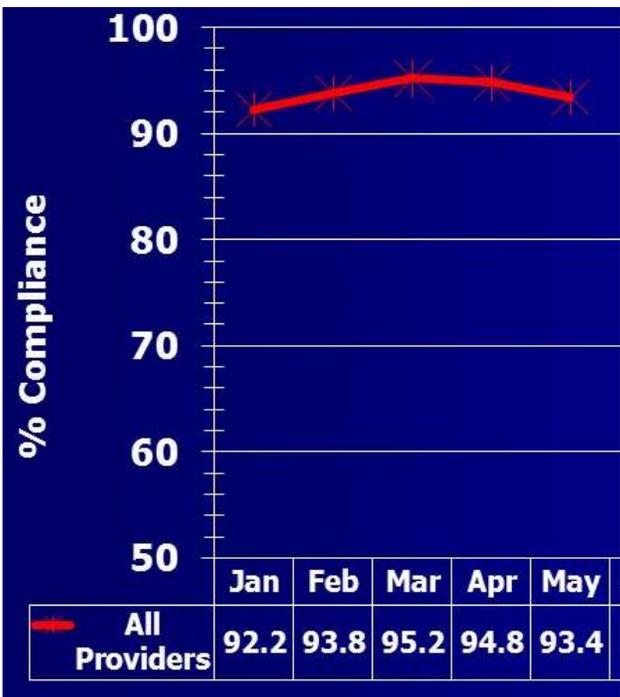
Facilities must provide disaster education for their patients. TEEC has a number of resources to prepare your patients. Show patients the TEEC **disaster preparedness DVD**, **pass out the READY packet**, and **obtain the clear disaster bags**. Have drills at your facility! The disaster preparedness DVD was mailed to all facilities in August 2012. If you are unable to locate the DVD please email Anna Ramriez, Network Outreach Coordinator at aramirez@nw14.esrd.net. The **clear disaster bags** can be ordered from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Information on how to order the bags is available on the TEEC website at http://www.texasteec.org/tools/disaster_bag.asp. Don't forget to distribute the patient flyer with the disaster bags. Wrist bands should be distributed to patients during evacuations. For information on the lavender wristbands visit the TEEC website at <http://www.texasteec.org/tools/wristband.asp>.



The **TEEC Policy & Procedures Manual** has been updated and is now available on the TEEC website at: <http://www.texasteec.org/tools/index.asp>. The Policy & Procedures manual can be used as a template for dialysis facilities. Facilities can make the information facility specific. A page has been added providing generator tips, fuel considerations, tips on securing your building, and backup water supply considerations. The Policy & Procedures Manual was developed and is updated by dialysis providers to ensure facilities are prepared for emergencies. The facility disaster plan checklist is included in the Policy & Procedures manual. The manual provides guidance to facilities to meet both the federal and state requirements for disaster preparedness.



EMSystems Compliance: How Are We Doing?



Overall percent of EMSystems compliance for 2013 and EMSystems monthly compliance grouped by ownership. How does your organization rank on this scale? Are you tracking your facility's own compliance?



**2013 Houston
Healthcare
Hurricane &
Emergency
Preparedness
Summit.**

**June 26, 2013 at
the George R.
Brown
Convention
Center.**

Free!

**For more
information visit
the Houston
OEM website at
www.houstonoem.net**

The "TEEC" Texas ESRD Emergency Coalition, 2013



NOAA predicts active 2013 Atlantic hurricane season: Texans can Prepare

In its 2013 Atlantic hurricane season outlook issued May 23, 2013, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is forecasting an active or extremely active season this year. For the six-month hurricane season, which begins June 1, NOAA's Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook says there is a 70 percent likelihood of 13 to 20 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 7 to 11 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 3 to 6 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher). These ranges are well above the seasonal average of 12 named storms, 6 hurricanes and 3 major hurricanes. Link to full article: http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2013/20130523_hurricaneoutlook_atlantic.html

TEEC Disaster Webinar

TEEC hosted a disaster webinar on May 21, 2013 for dialysis facility providers. If you were unable to attend the live webinar the webinar slides and recording (coming soon) are available on the TEEC website at <http://www.texasteec.org/who-we-are/index.asp>.

TAR to STEAR

The Transportation Assistance Registry (TAR) has now changed to the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry or STEAR. The STEAR will collect more comprehensive information about those who register for assistance during emergencies. Individuals can still register for the STEAR by calling 2-1-1 from any landline or the toll free number: 1-877-541-7905. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is still working on creating a new registration form. Online registration should also be available in August. Individuals that have already registered with the TAR do not need to re-register with STEAR. However, individuals must register annually with STEAR. TEEC and the ESRD Network of Texas will provide more information to facilities once it is available. Visit the TEEC website at: <http://www.texasteec.org/tools/index.asp> for information.

Get Involved!

The next TEEC meeting will be in Houston, TX on June 25, 2013. Dialysis facility representatives in the area and patients are encouraged to attend the community meeting from 1 - 3 pm at DaVita Med Center: 5610 Almeda Rd Houston, TX 77004

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. EMS systems will need to be updated as these events occur.
- 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, friends, 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.

