

# Emergency Preparedness

## For ESRD

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### Disaster Preparedness Facts for ESRD

There are almost 36,000 dialysis patients in Texas of which over 15,000 reside in the Tier 1 Coastal areas. Individual's with kidney failure require either medications to prevent rejection of a transplanted kidney, or regular, repeated dialysis treatments to clean the blood supply, as frequent as three to four times a week, if they have not had a transplant. Missing even a few treatments can result in severe illness or even death for an individual in need of dialysis for kidney failure.



**Encourage early evacuation** of individuals with kidney failure if they are on dialysis, with appropriate family members (where possible). Since services are needed on a frequent basis, the individual should be triaged, provided urgent care, and evacuated to a location where services can be provided frequently in a safe environment.





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.



## Is My Facility Disaster Ready?

If these things are in place, you are more likely to be prepared:

- ⇒ Drills are practiced at a minimum annually, preferably quarterly
- ⇒ Your facility disaster plan is current and up to date
- ⇒ All patients have recently been educated on disaster preparedness
- ⇒ Your facility has made contact with its utility providers, local EOC and has a back up plan & facility
- ⇒ Facility has a emergency supply kit
- ⇒ Facility has all patient IDNums in place and lilac bands for all patients on hand with labels
- ⇒ Facility staff have an emergency plan at home



## EMSystems

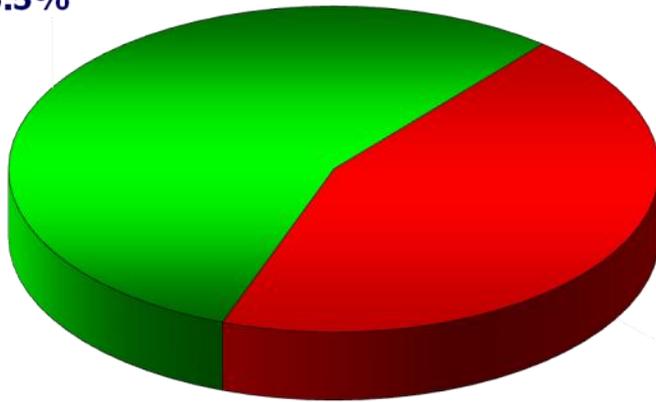
Is your facility updating EMSystems between the 1st and 8th of each month? This is a requirement for all dialysis facilities, and is imperative to disaster preparedness and evacuation planning. EMSystems provides resource data for the entire state of Texas. Providing facility location, patient capacity and modality, generator availability and existing shifts. Whether categories have changed or not, it is imperative you update all areas. The Network reports non-compliance to the state each month. The State, in return, sends out letters to facilities noting non-compliance. If you have any questions about the updating process, login information, etc, please contact Andrea Fichtner at [afichtner@nw14.esrd.net](mailto:afichtner@nw14.esrd.net) or 469-916-3800.

Do you know that the ESRD Network of Texas and TEEC staff a command center in Dallas if a hurricane impacts dialysis in the state? Patients and staff can call the Network or TEEC phone numbers and gain information about evacuation routes and treatment facilities for displaced patients. Please be sure that all of your patients have the Networks patient toll free number along with the TEEC toll free number. The Network's number is 1-877-886-4435 / TEEC hotline

1-866-407-3773

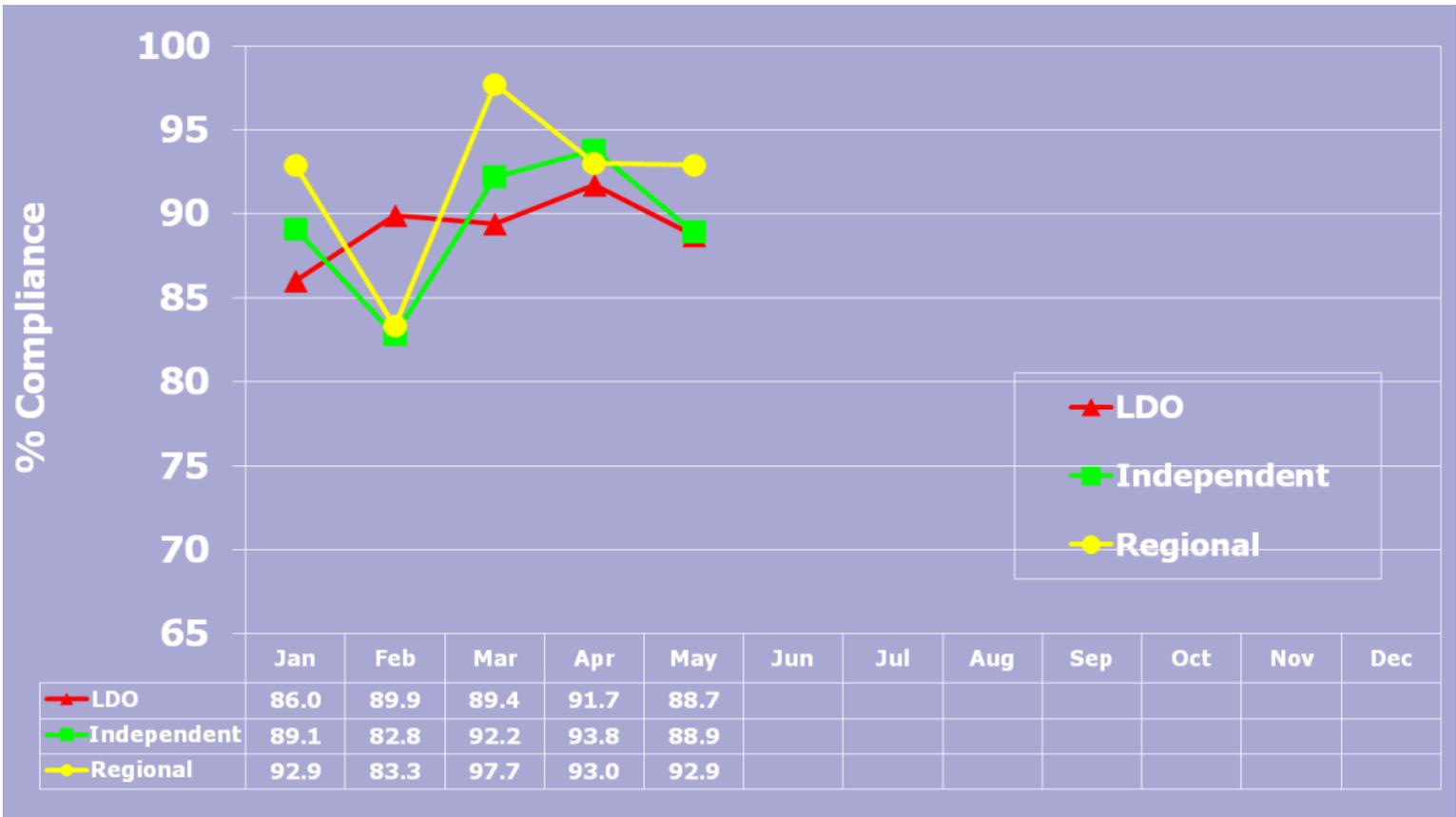
# EMSystems Compliance: How Are We Doing?

**Compliant,  
266, 55.5%**



**Non-compliant,  
213, 44.5%**

Emergency drills are run quarterly on EMSystems that all facilities are required to participate in. The most recent drill ran in May and only had a 55.5% compliance rate. These drills prepare 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%!



Percent of facilities EMSystems monthly compliance so far this year, grouped by ownership. How does your organization rank on this scale? Are you tracking your facility's own compliance?



# Texas ESRD Emergency Coalition

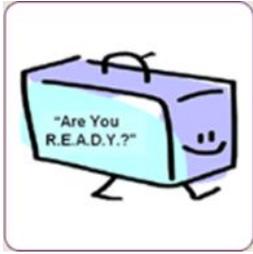
TEEC is a volunteer coalition comprised of renal professionals from all over Texas. TEEC holds meetings all over the state to work on disaster preparedness. All meetings are from 1-3pm and are open to the public, all area facilities and even patients are urged to attend. They often have local disaster preparedness speakers present to go over disaster issues pertaining to that area. TEEC doesn't only prepare you for hurricanes, they prepare you for any kind of disaster from: flooding, ice, power outages to fires.

The TEEC website is full of a wide variety of resources to prepare your facility and patients for any disaster situation. Some of the resources on the site include a facility disaster plan checklist, the Are You READY patient packet, a disaster ready patient flyer, instructions for ordering the patient ID bands and instructions on how to prepare the labels, and many, many more resources.

## Did You Know

-  Hurricane season runs June 1st through November 30th
-  Texas is prone to almost all natural disasters: fires, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and tornadoes
-  The last major hurricane to effect dialysis in Texas was in **2007**
-  Along with hurricanes, lightening is also a severe weather threat that peaks this time of year





## Patients and Education, What they should Know

Educational materials for patients should inform of steps to consider for disaster planning and include at a minimum:

- ⇒ What to do
- ⇒ Be prepared year-round
- ⇒ Know dialysis unit emergency policies and procedures
- ⇒ Keep patient emergency contact information up-to-date
- ⇒ Provide the unit with out-of-state contact numbers
- ⇒ Know disaster diet and review it annually
- ⇒ Vascular access is to be used only for dialysis
- ⇒ Current list of medicines and allergies
- ⇒ Know what emergency supplies are needed
- ⇒ Keep important personal papers with you
- ⇒ Refer to guidelines from the Emergency Management Department
- ⇒ Have back-up transportation
- ⇒ Where to go
- ⇒ Have lilac arm band with label on it, on your arm before evacuating

- ⇒ Be aware dialysis unit could be damaged or destroyed
- ⇒ Keep list of dialysis facilities in area or state
- ⇒ Know your evacuation plan, including route and alternate route (in case primary route is inaccessible)
- ⇒ Know location of emergency shelters
- ⇒ Who to contact
- ⇒ Know facility's communication plan
- ⇒ Know the back-up plan if phones are down
- ⇒ Resources (national, state, local)
- ⇒ Advise of Networks ability to provide assistance, including help with identifying dialysis centers
- ⇒ Maintain emergency information for patients on website
- ⇒ Inform of importance to understand and participate in the facility's disaster plan

Please refer to the Network's or TEEC's websites for more information on disaster preparedness.

[www.esrdnetwork.org](http://www.esrdnetwork.org) and [www.texasemergenciesrd.org](http://www.texasemergenciesrd.org)