Connecticut Hospital and Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan Information

The Connecticut Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan (LTC-MAP) for Evacuation & Resources / Assets establishes a course of action and an agreed commitment among long term care facilities to assist each other as needed in the time of a disaster. Assistance may come in the form of:

- Providing pre-designated evacuation locations for patients during a disaster; and/or
- Providing or sharing supplies, equipment, transportation, staff or pharmaceuticals to a facility when a disaster overwhelms their own community or exceeds the capability of internal emergency operations plans.

This plan is supported by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) Facility License & Investigation Section (FLIS), LeadingAge Connecticut and the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities. Russell Phillips & Associates (www.phillipsllc.com), a national healthcare fire and emergency management consulting firm, has been contracted to customize this plan, train to the plan and exercise the plan in 2012 & 2013. Their firm has completed the healthcare Mutual Aid Plans for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Washington State and for more than 200 nursing homes in the State of New York. The LTC-MAP is currently in place with the 78 nursing homes in Connecticut Region 3 (Greater Hartford / Middletown area), and is being customized for Region 1 (Fairfield County), Region 4 (Eastern CT) and Region 5 (North Western CT).

What is the value of being involved in this initiative?

In three separate disasters in New England last year (June 1 Tornado in MA, Tropical Storm Irene and Storm Alfred), this plan coordinated and managed 520 healthcare facilities in Massachusetts and Connecticut. In CT, this was an integrated effort between the associations, DPH, Capitol Region Council Governments (CRCOG), the Region 3 LTC-MAP and Russell Phillips & Associates.

While your local municipality may already have a strong relationship between the healthcare facilities and emergency partners in a community-based Mutual Aid Plan, this unique plan for the region will supplement those existing resources when the local plan is overwhelmed by a single facility incident or a regional event where multiple homes are at risk due to an ice storm or other disaster.

Supplemental Information

With long term care facilities being the most vulnerable of all inpatient healthcare facilities due to limited resources and building infrastructure challenges (no redundancy on generators at most LTC facilities, 2,900 fires annually per NFPA data), this group needs the most support to ensure the healthcare infrastructure remains intact in the region.
Benefits to the participating facilities and their local responders include:

- Preplanned Evacuation Strategy - fast evacuation (i.e. Fire/Gas Leak), with the potential need for the use of Stop Over Points, and delayed evacuation (i.e. Hurricane/Loss of Emergency Power.)
- Web-based Management System and Emergency Reporting System for real-time updates on bed capacity, operational status and resources & assets.
- Preplanned Staffing, Supply, Equipment and Pharmaceutical Support when isolated or receiving an influx of patients from another evacuating healthcare facility.
- Provide local public safety incident commanders with easy on-site access and on-line access to user friendly plans including contact information for evacuation resources and key personnel.
- Provide local EMS commander with resources needed to efficiently identify, transfer and track residents to pre-designated receiving facilities.
- Development of proactive Communications for ALL parties to stand up as one group – core activation and stand down algorithm for all long term care facilities (healthcare, emergency agencies) and a Long Term Care (LTC) Coordinating Center to support regional coordination (staffed by long term care facilities).
- Plan will be designed to meet Department of Public Health (DPH) and Joint Commission disaster drill/exercise requirements and allow for community participation in disaster preparedness.
- Provide Situation Report on the LTC-MAP group to the Region, DPH and for posting on WebEOC.

**Russell Phillips & Associates, LLC**

Russell Phillips & Associates, LLC (www.phillipsllc.com) is a consultant to the Connecticut Region Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan (LTC-MAP) and Healthcare Mutual Aid Plan (HMAP). The firm provides on sites assessments, customized plan design, training and exercises in fire safety, emergency management and code compliance for more than 1,300 healthcare facilities representing 2,200 facility locations. Since 1976, they have volunteered to review fires and disasters throughout the United States and Canada. Most recently, they were involved in supporting the northeast during the Massachusetts tornadoes, Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene, the September flooding and Storm Alfred / "Halloween Storm". They are voting members of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 and 99-12 and also serve as the Vice Chair for the NFPA Healthcare Executive Board.