



Community/Home Care Emergency Preparedness for Volunteers

Hospice of Cincinnati (HOC)/Hospice of Hamilton (HOH) have a plan to ensure the necessary staff to deal with an emergency situation. There are policies and procedures in the Emergency Plan Resource Book for the following emergencies: Bomb Threats, Severe Weather, Utility Interruptions, Sewage Interruption, Telephone Interruption, Fire Safety, and Evacuation Plans.

In addition, Hospice of Cincinnati and TriHealth have each developed Hospice Command Centers (HCC) to coordinate a response to an emergency situation. The HCC may be initiated for any type of emergency/event, as necessary.

HOC/HOH developed a Community/Home Care Action Plan in case of a community emergency. A community emergency is considered to be any event that could interrupt the provision of services to multiple clients, i.e., terrorist attacks, bombings, flood, ice, snowstorm, tornado, fire or chemical spill, etc.

When staff members receive information regarding a community emergency the Administrator-On-Call is notified. They evaluate the situation and coordinate all activities. Staff members working in the field at the time of the disaster are to contact-HOC to report their location and status. All patients in the affected area are prioritized according to established guidelines.

Volunteers who are at a Long Term Care facility, a patient's home, or in the field at the time of an emergency should notify the main office at HOC of your location and status.
(513-891-7700)

Follow instructions given. If you are in the patient's home, have the patient/family keep the radio tuned to 700 AM or Emergency Broadcast station. Remain calm and stay with the patient/family if possible.

OVER

Radio Stations to Monitor in Case of Emergency Watches / Warnings

<u>Call Letters</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Dial Location</u>
WLW	.700	700
WCKY	153.000	1530
WKRC	550.000	550

FIRE

When you visit a home, note the location of the exits and telephones. In case of a fire evacuate the home. If possible assist the patient to evacuate. Then call 911 or get assistance to call 911. Notify HOC as soon as possible regarding your status.

TORNADOS

If a warning is issued for the area, take action to protect you and the patient/family from falling objects or debris. It is best to take cover in the corner of a basement, in a small room such as a closet or bathroom. Stay away from windows. If you are in a trailer or mobile home take cover elsewhere if possible. Notify HOC as soon as possible after the emergency. Follow instructions given.

WINTER SNOW / ICE STORMS

Notify HOC of your status and follow instructions given. Be prepared to reduce heating usage by reducing room temperature and closing off unused rooms temporarily. Layer clothing. Use several layers of loose-fitting warm clothing/blankets.

EARTHQUAKE

Stay where you are. Do not evacuate a home if you are indoors. Take cover, and assist the patient if possible, under a desk or in a doorframe. Stay away from windows. Avoid use of candles, matches, or open flames during or after the tremor. Notify HOC as soon as possible after the emergency. Follow instructions given.

CHEMICAL SPILLS

Notify HOC of the situation and follow instructions given.