



COMMISSIONER  
Adelaide Horn

August 7, 2009

To: Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities in the Following Counties: Aransas, Brazoria, Brooks, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Ft. Bend, Galveston, Harris, Hidalgo, Jackson, Jefferson, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Liberty, Matagorda, Nueces, Orange, Refugio, San Patricio, Victoria, Wharton and Willacy

Subject: **Provider Letter 09-15** – Evacuation Plans for Facilities Located Along the Texas Coast

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, with the assistance of the Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, and Texas Health Care Association, is collecting information on evacuation plans for facilities located along the Texas coast. We need your assistance in completing an online survey to help us evaluate the resources available and whether any additional resources may be needed. Your information will also be extremely useful for identifying contacts if a hurricane comes ashore in Texas.

To assist you in planning for evacuation transportation, we have included links to the following documents:

- State of Texas Hurricane Evacuation and Mass Care Plan Attachment titled *Ground and Air Ambulance Utilization Criteria for Statewide Disaster and Hurricane Evacuations*:  
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/AmbUtilCriteria.pdf>
- Texas Department of Transportation information titled *Public Transportation Division Medical Transportation Program Transportation Service Area Provider (TSAP) Contact Information*:  
[http://www.regionalserviceplanning.org/coordination/workshops/06\\_29-30\\_2006/TSAP\\_reg\\_planning\\_contacts.pdf](http://www.regionalserviceplanning.org/coordination/workshops/06_29-30_2006/TSAP_reg_planning_contacts.pdf)

Your facility's hurricane evacuation plan should be reviewed annually for accuracy and shared with your local jurisdiction for emergency management. All agreements should be confirmed.

**Please complete the online survey by August 21:**

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=l3zWliPACu5YuToyVXTW3w\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=l3zWliPACu5YuToyVXTW3w_3d_3d).

It is important that you include contact names and telephone/cell/satellite numbers so that ongoing communication can be maintained in the case of an emergency.

Thank you for your assistance in providing this information. If you have questions regarding completing the survey, please contact a policy specialist in the Policy, Rules and Curriculum Development unit at 512-438-3161.

Sincerely,

*[signature on file]*

Veronda L. Durden  
Assistant Commissioner  
Regulatory Services

VLD:ca