

KEEPING OUR PATIENTS SAFE WHEN MOTHER NATURE RULES

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I, Holly Hatfield have always been involved with Disaster Preparedness and Medicine working with Search dogs, and American Red Cross Disaster Services, and Louisville Metro Medical Reserve Corps and have taken this to the PACU where I work. It started out with me wanting my coworkers to be prepared so if something happened they could continue to work on our patients, knowing their family was safe. This led to many flyers from FEMA that everyone could pick up to help them be prepared. It grew with the tornado that hit Joplin and destroyed one of their hospitals to encompass more than just our employees and families but our patients also. I attended a webinar put on by that hospital and Missouri public health department, took their ideas back to our Shared Governance Committee, and grew it. We now have yellow disaster bags with sharpies, paper, small clipboard, helmet/head lamp, flashlight, water, gloves, hand sanitizer, pens, pencils, IV transpore tape, and pictures clipped to them of our evacuation plan to help out in emergencies located at 5 of our 6 exits. After this was complete, our evacuation plan was developed showing exits that should and should not be taken.