



BrightLife
Enhancement Services
Holistic approach to healthcare

SEVERE WEATHER & NATURAL DISASTER

I. POLICY:

- A. It is the policy of Brightlife Enhancement Services to protect persons served, staff members, visitors, and property in the event of a severe weather emergency or natural disaster. All potential emergencies cannot be anticipated, therefore, emergency plans shall provide for adaptability to multiple situations.

II. PROCEDURES:

- A. The Safety Officer is responsible for oversight of emergency disaster plans and drills and ensuring that the organization's facilities are well prepared to respond effectively to any emergency.
- B. Specific procedures will be maintained for severe weather and natural disasters. In addition, emergency severe weather and natural disaster drills will be conducted at each site on an annual basis.
- C. The overall components of the organization's severe weather emergency plans are as follows:
 - 1.) Severe weather is defined as any weather condition or natural event that has the potential to cause physical harm and/or property destruction. These events include severe thunderstorms, tornados, and flash floods. Procedures for severe weather are as follows:
 - a. If a severe weather or tornado watch is issued, each site shall access radio or television reporting that provides information from the National Weather Service.
 - b. In the event of a "watch," staff members on duty will be informed of procedures to be taken in the event a "warning" is declared.
 - c. During "watch" periods, all persons served and staff members will be encouraged to limit trips and transportation to and from the site.
 - d. In the event of a severe weather or tornado warning, all persons within the facility will immediately move to the designated areas in the interior of the building that are designated on the posted evacuation routes.



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- e. Staff members will assist persons served in arriving at the designated safety locations, and if time permits, will close all windows and blinds and all doors.
- f. The Safety Officer, or designee, will secure the first aid kit, flashlights, and a radio, and maintain them in the area being used for shelter.
- g. The Safety Officer shall oversee the process of moving to the designated safety location(s) and conduct a head count when this activity is completed.
- h. The Safety Officer shall announce the end of the need to remain in the designated location when the warning is no longer in effect, according to the national weather service.
- i. The Safety Officer will be responsible for contacting any emergency entity that may be needed due to injuries or events such as power loss and/or broken utility lines.

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