

HEALTH CARE ALERT

EXPERTLY ENGINEERING SAFETY FROM FIRE

CMS New Emergency Preparedness Rule

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a new emergency preparedness rule for health care facilities. The CMS Medical Learning Network is hosting a public call to discuss the requirement on October 5, 2016 at 1:30pm ET. Register for the call at <https://blh.ier.intercall.com/details/d4e7a2cd3a1245f5b20fa6e053e215fe>

The 650-page document can be downloaded on the ASHE website, with the regulations for hospitals beginning on page 584.

The requirements include:

- Emergency plans
- Policies and procedures
- Communication plans
- Training and testing
- Emergency and standby power systems

The CMS rule will apply to 17 different provider types, including:

- Hospitals
- Critical access hospitals
- Ambulatory surgical centers
- Long-term care facilities
- Home health services

The biggest implications for existing facilities include:

- Creating a formal communications plan
- Coordinating a collaborative response with state and local government when a disaster strikes
- Using an all-hazards approach in the hazard vulnerability assessment (HVA). The HVA must also identify all contingencies for which a hospital should plan and should outline necessary arrangements with other entities
- Verifying that alternate sources of energy maintain utilities and sewage/waste disposal
- Addressing policies for volunteers who are not licensed independent practitioners

Facilities need to implement these regulations by November 15, 2017.

For additional details and implications of the emergency preparedness rule [CLICK HERE](#)