

Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts: Important Information for Physicians
South Dakota State Medical Association
Friday, September 9, 2005

Today, the SDSMA was notified that South Dakota is still a potential location for receiving hurricane evacuees and medical volunteers are needed. South Dakota officials are preparing sites at Rapid City, Yankton, and Sioux Falls for a total of 1,000 evacuees for a period of up to 90 days. FEMA officials have indicated that states will receive a two to 24-hour notice period if they will receive evacuees.

Physicians should use the attached form to sign up as a potential volunteer. Fax this information to SDSMA at (605) 336-0270. This information will be used to identify health care volunteers for both in-state and out-of-state service. SDSMA will forward a list of potential physician volunteers to the South Dakota Department of Health, which, in turn, will provide the list to the South Dakota Red Cross (Red Cross is coordinating in-state volunteers). In-state volunteers will be contacted by the local Red Cross office should they require personnel for services in Rapid City, Yankton, or Sioux Falls.

The list of out-of-state volunteers will be provided to federal emergency management officials and volunteers will be contacted by the State should FEMA require personnel in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, or Texas.

Those who wish to help with immediate financial assistance are encouraged to do so directly with one of the following voluntary organizations designated by FEMA:

American Red Cross (800) HELP NOW (435-7669) in English, (800) 257-7575
in Spanish

- Aberdeen: 605.225.9664
- Brookings: 605.692.6772
- Huron: 605.352.4361
- Madison: 605.256.0550
- Mitchell: 605.996.3087
- Pierre: 605.945.0400
- Rapid City: 605.342.4010
- Sioux Falls: 605.336.2448
- Watertown: 605.886.3420
- Yankton: 605.665.7572

Salvation Army (800)-SAL-ARMY (725-2769)

Operation Blessing (800) 436-6348

America's Second Harvest (800) 344-8070

Adventist Community Services (800) 381-7171

Catholic Charities, USA (800) 919-9338

Christian Disaster Response (941) 956-5183 or (941) 551-9554

Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (800) 848-5818

Church World Service (800) 297-1516

Finally, the American Medical Association is working to collect and disseminate important physician-targeted information in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Currently, the AMA site contains links to information from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and many other federal, state and local agencies. The AMA's Web site link is: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/15474.html>

Thank you for taking the time to assist in this effort.