Emergency Dept. Preparedness: Hurricanes and COVID-19

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Assumptions

1. **Hospitals** in hurricane prone areas have well established hurricane response plans

2. **Emergency Departments** in hurricane prone areas have knowledge of whether they are in a flood zone

3. **Healthcare workers** living in hurricane prone areas have home and family preparedness plans
Before the Hurricane

• Know your region.
  – What are the current COVID numbers?

• Know your Institution.
  – Be involved with Hospital Emergency Management!
  – What patient population will be sheltering at the hospital?

• Know your Unit.
  – What is on Emergency Power?
Emergency Power

• Red outlets
• Emergency Lighting
• CT-scanner
• HVAC
  – Negative Pressure Rooms
During the Hurricane

- Team A:
  - Ideally no “cohorting” of sleep quarters should occur
  - Staff who work the Infectious/fever areas of the ED should sleep in individual areas (hotels?)
  - Temperature & symptom surveillance
After the Hurricane

- **Team B:**
  - Sleeping arrangements once the hospital becomes more full
  - Displaced population = hotel accommodations, restaurants, etc.
  - A returning patient population
THANK YOU!

Questions?