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## MEMO

September 12, 2017

TO: Chief Executive Officers  
Chief Medical Officers  
Chief Nursing Officers  
Public Relations Staff  
Emergency Preparedness Staff

FROM: Herb Kuhn  
President and CEO

SUBJECT: Hurricane Irma Response — Resource and Staffing Request Procedures

As Hurricane Irma made landfall in Florida this weekend and impacts the southeastern United States today, Missouri health care providers continue to inquire of opportunities for deployment to support the response. As a follow-up to my August 30 memo regarding Hurricane Harvey, this memo serves to provide the current status of activated resources and outline the formal procedure for lending resources across state lines.

The [National Disaster Medical System](#) remains fully activated to provide medical support to the southeastern seaboard and Caribbean islands. Many of the teams deployed for Hurricane Harvey were demobilized for rehabilitation and quickly redeployed in preparation of Hurricane Irma's landfall. The National Disaster Medical System is a federally coordinated asset that provides patient care and patient movement through teams and partnering health care facilities in unaffected areas. Missouri metropolitan hospitals continue to receive periodic queries should federally-coordinated medical evacuations need to occur to our state.

Hurricane Irma, unlike Hurricane Harvey, has impacted the entire state of Florida, some areas certainly harder hit than others. In Texas, many areas of the state that were not impacted by the hurricane were able to provide resources quickly and efficiently to their fellow Texans. Florida and the surrounding gulf coast states may not be as fortunate. While Missouri has not yet received an Emergency Management Assistance Compact request from Florida — essentially a mutual aid agreement between states, we do anticipate there will be a need for additional hospital clinical and operational staff as recovery activities occur in the days and weeks to come. MHA staff continues to participate daily on national calls for awareness of such requests.

All hospital staff should continue to evaluate any request they receive for deployment and verify if the request is connected to the official, coordinated response. Unaffiliated deployments may not provide the necessary protections, such as workers' compensation, liability coverage and the appropriate wrap-around services to include food, shelter and security during the deployment. Hospital staff also should recognize the internal procedures for requesting time off and reporting their deployment to appropriate hospital leadership. Further, with the activation of NDMS, Missouri remains a potential receiving site for medical evacuees and needs to proactively retain the appropriate level of staff to be prepared for a patient influx.

Until Missouri hospitals receive a formal request to assist impacted hospitals, staff interested in providing assistance may consider the following:

- donating blood at their [local chapter](#) of the American Red Cross
- registering with the National [Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters](#) or the [American Red Cross](#)
- monitor the current situation at <https://missiontocare.org/irma/>

**Should you have questions or need further clarification on a specific inquiry you have received, please contact Jackie Gatz, Vice President of Grant Management and Safety at [jgatz@mhanet.com](mailto:jgatz@mhanet.com) or 573/893-3700, ext. 1330.**

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