Helping Your Practice Survive an Emergency or Disaster

Every healthcare office should maintain written policies for addressing any kind of emergency (e.g., utility disruption or a manmade disaster) and particularly inclement weather and hurricanes. Physicians should also be aware of emergency management plans in the county or community. Click here for a list of local Texas emergency preparedness websites provided by Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

Here are a few important tips for you and your staff when dealing with an emergency or disaster:

- Know where your office gas, electricity, and water connections are in case you need to turn them off. Keep back-up generators or a storage plan for your refrigerating systems.
- Protect your patient records accordingly.
- Prepare your staff with employee contact lists and information sheets so you and your staff can communicate if an evacuation is necessary.
- Additionally, the following websites offer preparedness tips for all business:
  - Ready Business - FEMA
  - Emergency Preparedness for Businesses - CDC