



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS  
PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES



H. "BUTCH" BROWNING, JR.  
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Date: September 8, 2021  
To: Louisiana Nursing Home Association  
Louisiana Department of Health  
From: H. "Butch" Browning, Louisiana State Fire Marshal  
Re: **HEALTHCARE FACILITIES EVACUATED DURING A HURRICANE**

An assessment of field conditions shall be performed by this office prior to occupying any portion of a healthcare facility that was evacuated during a hurricane. All requests for re-entry must be emailed to [dora.kane@la.gov](mailto:dora.kane@la.gov) at LDH for approval. LDH will forward the request to this office and a re-entry assessment will be scheduled. Major building and operational features of concern will be assessed by visual inspection and will include, but will not be limited to the following:

- Permanent electrical power restored
- Emergency power systems (Generators) with fuel (if required for compliance under normal conditions)
- Fire protection systems (fire alarm, sprinkler, cooking suppression, etc.)
- Mechanical and Electrical items (HVAC, boilers, door operators, lighting, etc.)
- Egress systems (room arrangement, doors, corridors, exits, ramps, stairs, etc.)
- Medical Gas storage and systems (oxygen, vacuum, compressed air, nitrous oxide, etc.)
- Fire Safety Plan (revised/modified evacuation and relocation plan, staff responsibilities, etc.)

Evacuated facilities which are placed into operation without the aforementioned assessment by this office shall be considered a hazard to public safety.

#### REPAIR REQUESTS

Due to unusual conditions presented during this time of crisis, minor repairs and superficial alterations may be completed at the Owner's risk, provided a written request is granted by this office. The request shall be signed by the Administrator of the facility and shall include the name and address of the facility, a description of field conditions and the proposed scope of work to be performed.

*NOTE: The "scope of work" shall **NOT** include the installation of new walls, the relocation of existing walls, the reconfiguration of interior spaces, or any other construction, such as repairs to fire barriers, smoke barriers, fire protection systems/devices, fire rated assemblies, etc., that could adversely affect life safety, unless minimum code compliance is adequately explained and determined to be acceptable by this office.*

#### OPERATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION

Changes in floor plan arrangements are to be reviewed and inspected for conformance with minimum standards. In order to expedite the process, an "Operational Plan of Action" describing the field conditions and the proposed scope of work shall be submitted to this office for expedited cursory review and subsequent inspection. Full compliance with the provisions of the Life Safety Code shall be required and will be expected by this office. The "Operational Plan of Action" shall include a request for "FACILITY ASSESSMENT" as described above and shall also include a complete history of all previous special requests and/or assessments associated with the damage done by the hurricane/storm. A full formal review will be required at a later date as determined by inspection.

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Caution: This document shall in no way relieve the facility from compliance with minimum standards, and is not intended to circumvent state law or any regulations enforced by other authorities having jurisdiction.