



## Mandatory Home Care Emergency Response Drill **Providers Will Test Their Emergency Plans**

On October 17, the DOH sent a Dear Administrator Letter announcing that it will conduct a mandatory emergency response drill from November 6 through November 8. All CHHAs, LHCSAs, LTHHCPs and hospices must participate.

According to DOH, each provider should be prepared to:

- implement its emergency preparedness plan, document participation and activities conducted, and to evaluate the plan's effectiveness; and
- contact its community partners and test its communication plan/system.

Providers will also gain an understanding of the communication methods and information needed by DOH during and after an emergency event, so that they can develop systems to quickly obtain such information. This includes DOH's revised survey tool for information gathering, the Health Electronic Response Data System (HERDS) Home Care Emergency Response Survey.

DOH said it is using the drill to test its communication and data collection systems prior to an actual emergency.

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