

**ISDH Long Term Care
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National Preparedness Month

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

INDIANAPOLIS-Being prepared is never a bad thing especially when an unwanted emergency arises. September is a great time to practice being prepared as it has been designated National Preparedness Month. This year's theme is "You can be the Hero."

National Preparedness Month, now in its ninth year, encourages Americans to take steps to prepare for any emergency in their homes, businesses, schools and communities. State health officials are working to prepare Hoosiers by providing tips and advice about what to do with pets, how to prepare children, what the elderly and people with functional needs should do, and how business can help in any potential emergency.

Natural disasters such as extreme summer heat, tornadoes or flooding remind us about the need to be prepared. However, we must also consider other potential threats, such as bioterrorism or a chemical or radiological incident, when we think about preparing for an emergency.

Ideally, individuals should be prepared to be self-reliant for three days without utilities and electricity, water service, access to a supermarket or local services, and without response from police, fire or rescue.

To get prepared, health officials recommend the following:

- Be informed about emergencies that could happen in your community, and identify sources of info in your community that will be helpful throughout an emergency.
- Make a plan for what to do in an emergency.
- Build an emergency supply kit.
- Get involved by finding opportunities to support preparedness in your community.

Preparedness is a shared responsibility and it takes a whole community. This year's National Preparedness Month focuses on turning awareness into action by encouraging all individuals and all communities nationwide to make an emergency preparedness plan. Preparedness information and

events will be posted to <http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM>.

To read the weekly tips for preparedness during September, visit the Indiana State Department of Health's website at www.StateHealth.in.gov, Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ISDH1, or Twitter account at <http://twitter.com/#!/statehealthin>.

For more information about National Preparedness Month, visit the Indiana State Department of Health's website at www.StateHealth.in.gov or www.ready.gov.

Nurse Aide Curriculum

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) is pleased to announce the release of the updated Certified Nurse Aide Curriculum. The nurse aide curriculum established minimum course standards for approved certified nurse aide training programs. The curriculum is now available on the ISDH Certified Nurse Aide Program web site at <http://www.in.gov/isdh/20510.htm>.

Approved certified nurse aide (CNA) training programs will be expected to implement the updated curriculum for any class that begins on or after January 1, 2014. Programs may continue to use the current curriculum until January 2014. Programs may elect to implement the updated curriculum in place of the current curriculum prior to the January 2014 implementation date.

The Indiana Nurse Aide Curriculum is organized into thirty (30) "lessons". Each of these lessons provide objectives, terms, content, and review questions. Nurse aide training programs are expected to include this content as part of their course.

The current nurse aide curriculum was introduced in July 1998. The care provided today at Indiana nursing homes has a higher acuity level than in the past. Nurse aides also play an increasing important role in the delivery of quality health care. In early 2012 the ISDH began a project to update the nurse aide curriculum to better reflect current standards of care.

In developing the updated curriculum, the ISDH received input from IVY Tech, nurse aide training programs, long term care provider associations, and agency staff. The ISDH particularly thanks Becky Bartle, RN, Hoosier Owners and Providers for the Elderly, for her contributions in organizing and writing the lessons.

The updated nurse aide curriculum is an important tool towards ensuring quality of care. The curriculum better reflects the current scope of practices in health care facilities. The ISDH is available to assist training programs as we transition to the updated curriculum. Please feel welcome to contact Courtney Hamilton, ISDH Director of the Division of Healthcare Education and Training, chamilton@isdh.in.gov, 317-233-7480, and Gina Berkshire, ISDH Education and Training Program Director, gberkshire@isdh.in.gov, 317-233-7497.