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This e-mail is provided by the Urban Indian Health Institute, a division of the Seattle Indian Health Board. It contains opportunities for staff development, grant announcements and other relevant public health information. We hope you find these resources useful. If you have any questions about the information below, or you are unable to open any of the links, please contact info@uihi.org. If this e-mail was forwarded to you, you may sign up here.

**Health Alert: Emergency Preparedness**

**How to Prepare for a Disaster**

Health centers are responsible for preparing and maintaining a disaster plan in order to serve their patients in the event of an emergency. Several resources are available for Urban Indian Health Organizations (UIHOs) and the public to prepare for emergencies.

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) provides emergency preparedness and management information for health centers including Health Center Preparedness Assessment Tools and Emergency Management Plans. These resources can be found on the Emergency Management Planning webpage on the NACHC website.
According to NACHC, to prepare for an emergency, health centers should conduct a risk assessment to determine potential hazards. The findings from this assessment should aid health centers in creating a plan that:

- Addresses the impact that an emergency would have on health center operation
- Identifies resources that can be used during a disaster
- Focuses on emergency response, especially preparing for an influx of patients during an emergency
- Outlines disaster recovery and the steps needed to resume normal health center operation

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) maintains an Emergency Operations Center for health professionals and government officials to report emergencies and answers questions about patient care during emergencies. More information about the CDC's Emergency Operations Center can be found on their Emergency Preparedness and Response webpage or by calling (770) 488-7100. Your state and local health department can also assist with emergencies and should be contacted in the case of an emergency involving a communicable disease. Contact information for health departments in UIHO service areas can be found on the UIHI website.

In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Ready website provides disaster specific information, offers resources for making an emergency plan and supplies checklists for building disaster kits. By taking the time to prepare for emergencies, individuals and clinics better equipped to handle crisis situations when they arise.

More reports, resources and other information can be found on the UIHI website, www.uihi.org

Urban Indian Health Institute
Seattle Indian Health Board
PO Box 3364
Seattle, WA 98114
(206) 812-3030