May 1, 2018 – Emergency Power Plan Rule Implementation

FEPA, through its Health Care Working Group, continues to collaborate with the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) regarding implementation of the Nursing Home and Assisted Living Facility Emergency Power requirements and local Emergency Management Review of Emergency Power Plans (EPPs).

As the EPPs were due by April 25, 2018 many counties have completed or will soon complete reviews. FEPA has verified with AHCA that local emergency management notification of approved plans (as required by the rules) should be forward to the Agency using the following email addresses for Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities:

Nursing Homes: NH_Emergencyrule@ahca.myflorida.com
Assisted Living Facilities ALF_Emergencyrule@ahca.myflorida.com

AHCA has also advised that the Agency is not specifically tracking Emergency Power Plan submissions from licensed facilities. Providers are only required to advise AHCA when their plan is approved. Although not required of local EM, AHCA is very interested in receiving periodic reports regarding facilities that have never submitted an EPP; those that are compliant; those that have been submitted, have been reviewed and need revisions and EPPs that have been received and are still under review or waiting for review.

In addition, Laura MacLafferty with AHCA has provided clarification on EM review/approval of Emergency Power Plans with implementation dates in the future – please see the email below. This clarification is not yet available on the AHCA website "Q and A" document.

> *Eve – We have had some questions from some of the local emergency management agencies inquiring as to whether or not they can approve an emergency environmental control plan if all components are not currently in place. (For instance, the facility is planning to or has purchased a generator, but the generator is not yet installed and operational.)*
>
> *The answer is "Yes". When reviewing compliance with the emergency environmental control rules for nursing homes and assisted living facilities, the facilities must demonstrate how they will comply with the rule. In some instances, all aspects are in place and in others they may not be. Facilities that are not able to implement their plan by June 1, 2018 can request an extension up to January 1, 2019, and are required to provide either monthly or quarterly reports to AHCA to keep the Agency apprised of their progress, and must notify the Agency once the plan has been fully implemented. The Agency will coordinate inspections in order to ensure implementation of the plan in compliance with the rule.*
>
> *If you could assist in getting this message out to your members, it would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please let us know.*
>
> *Sincerely,*
> *Laura MacLafferty, Bureau Chief*
> *Agency for Health Care Administration*
> *Bureau of Health Facility Regulation*
> *2727 Mahan Drive, Mail Stop #28A*
> *Tallahassee, FL 32308*

FEPA thanks AHCA for their continued coordination on implementation of these requirements and the Health Care Working Group for sharing their expertise, advice and best practices.