



July 18, 2012

Dear Emergency Manager:

Earlier this year, we reached out to you to explore ways in which we might facilitate communications between you and your local Adult Care Facility and Assisted Living providers. We learned from Hurricane Irene the importance of these relationships and believe that any efforts on our part to facilitate the provider/local OEM relationship will strengthen our emergency response, and keep people safe.

Adult Care Facility and Assisted Living providers have not been well understood and can be confused with nursing homes and senior housing. With recent changes in assisted living, it has become even more confusing. We determined that perhaps the greatest service we could provide would be to create a resource to enable Emergency Managers to better understand Adult Care Facilities and Assisted Living—what they do, who they serve, and what their needs and abilities may be in the event of an emergency. To this end, we have developed a short video to provide an overview of these very topics. The video can be viewed online by clicking here. This video has been developed with funding awarded through a grant by the New York State Department of Health Office of Health Emergency Preparedness (OHEP).

We know that many of you have already established relationships with your local provider community, and may already have regular forums to exchange information. In this case, we would encourage you to ensure that Adult Care Facilities and Assisted Living providers are included in these forums. If you do not yet have this line of communication established, we hope this will provide you with information and resources to get started. We know that a better understanding of one another's roles will be a terrific asset in the midst of the challenges that emergencies and disasters can bring. To locate providers in your county, you can go to the [Adult Care Facility Directory](#) on the New York State Department of Health Web site.

Please also know that we can be a resource to you as well, should you have questions about Adult Care Facilities or Assisted Living, or want assistance in connecting with providers in your community. The Empire State Association of Assisted Living (ESAAL) and LeadingAge New York are both associations that represent Adult Care Facilities and Assisted Living throughout the state. If you have any questions, you may reach us via email at lnewcomb@esaal.org and ddarbyshire@leadingageny.org. We hope that you find this video informative. Don't hesitate to reach out if we can be of further assistance. Thank you for all the hard work you do to keep New Yorkers safe.

Sincerely,

Lisa Newcomb

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