The LTAT Command Center’s Role in Supporting DONs and EMAC Nurses During Disasters – What We Do

Joseph Bowman, BSN, RN
Preparedness and Environmental Health Nurse Consultant

Susan Haynes Little, DNP, RN, PHNA-BC, CPH, CPM, FAAN
Chief Public Health Nursing Officer

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AGENDA

- LTATCC Trigger and Function
- Describe function of the following:
  - LTATCC
  - EMAC nurse orientation process and status-checks
  - DON status-checks
- Status-Check Nurse assignment process and responsibilities
  - EMAC nurse
  - DON
- Q&A
By the end of this educational activity, LHD DONs will be able to

- Describe the LTATCC activation trigger and function
- Describe the process of EMAC nurse orientation
- Describe the function of EMAC nurse and DON status-checks
- Describe the assignment process and responsibilities of PHNC Status-Check Nurses for EMAC nurses and DONs

Definitions

**EMAC Nurse** - Emergency Management Assistance Compact Nurse. EMAC Nurses can be out-of-state nurses or in-state PHNs (from non-affected counties) deployed through the state PHCC to work in disaster shelters in affected counties

**LTATCC** – Local Technical Assistance and Training (Branch) Command Center

**PHP&R** – Public Health Preparedness and Response Branch (DPH)

**Event** – Planned event with potential risk to the public’s health. Ex. US Open and heat-related illness, political party national convention during a pandemic

**PHCC**– Public Health Command Center

**Public Health Nurse Consultant** – DPH and DCFW nurse consultants

**Status-Check Nurse** - Any nurse consultant assigned to perform daily check-ins with EMAC nurses and DONs of counties with open shelters

**Incident** – Unplanned event with risk for public health or mass fatality impact. Ex. Pandemic, flooding, hurricane, tornado, nuclear meltdown.
LTAT Command Center Activation and Function

• LTATCC performs a vital safety/accountability function and reports daily to PHCC, so they have clear situational awareness of sheltering and any issues needing attention
• LTATCC is triggered when local shelters open or EMAC nurses are scheduled to deploy
• PHCC sends deployment order(s) to available EMAC nurses

LTATCC/PHCC Response Plan

What Is It ???
LTATCC/PHNC Response Plan & Model

1. LTAT Command Center

2. EMAC Nurse Status Checks

3. DON Status Checks

LTATCC/PHNC Response Plan & Model

1. LTAT Command Center

*Functions to facilitate clear communication between local health departments, Status-Check Nurses, the PHCC, and the EOC.*

*Acts as a liaison between the LHDs and PHP&R for information and nursing related needs*
2. EMAC Nurse Status Checks

*Important function to assess safety and current status of EMAC nurses.*

Orientation Nurses and Status-Check Nurses will report contacts and any issues to LTATCC Nurse Lead in timely fashion: **SAFETY CHECK!**

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**LTATCC/PHNC Response Plan & Model**

1. PHP&R shares information with LTATCC Nurse Lead
2. LTATCC Nurse-Lead assigns PH Nurse Consultant to deployed EMAC PHN team
3. LTATCC Nurse conducts EMAC nurse team orientation
4. LTATCC Nurse-Lead assigns PH Nurse Consultant(s) as Status-Check Nurses
5. Upon arrival to shelter location, PHNs check-in with Status-Check Nurse (phone call and text)
6. LTATCC Nurse-Lead shares status-check information to PHP&R
7. Status-Check Nurse makes calls to PHNs daily at predetermined time (set during first Status-Check/EMAC PHN call)
8. Once nurses have left the shelter, tracking their return to home will fall to PHP&R
9. LTATCC Nurse-Lead assigns PH Nurse Consultant to deployed EMAC PHN team
10. LTATCC Nurse conducts EMAC nurse team orientation

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**LTATCC/PHNC Response Plan & Model**

2. EMAC Nurse Status Checks

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**LTATCC/PHNC Response Plan & Model**

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**LTATCC/PHNC Response Plan & Model**

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LTATCC/PHNC Response Plan & Model

EMAC RN Orientation and Status-Check Process

Receive Orientation at Staging Area (out of state EMAC nurses) or virtually (in-state EMAC nurses) by LTATCC Nurse Lead

EMAC nurse given contact cell phone number and assigned a Status-Check Nurse

Upon arrival to shelter, EMAC Nurse will check-in with Shelter Manager, Shelter Charge Nurse and call Status-Check Nurse (determine time for daily check-in calls)

Receive 1st call from Status-Check Nurse (& then at least one call each day)

Status-Check Nurse sends written report to LTATCC Nurse Lead (or designee)

Status-Check Nurse Assignment

Once PHCC assigns available Public Health Nurses for deployment:

- LTATCC Lead begins assigning Status-Check Nurses
  - One Status-Check Nurse consultant to be assigned to each sheltering location (unless mega-shelter established)
  - Begin by assigning available Status-Check nurse consultant living outside impact zone of incident
  - Deployed EMAC nurses MUST check-in with assigned Status-Check Nurse consultant within 1 hour of arrival to shelter
    - If no contact in reasonable amount of time, Status-Check Nurse will attempt contact with deployed EMAC nurse
  - LHD/County DON and EMAC nurses should communicate with Status-Check Nurse daily to ensure accurate situational awareness
**LTATCC Lead Responsibility – Deployed EMAC Nurse Orientation**

- LTATCC contacts EMAC nurses designated for deployment and provides orientation to deploying on PHN Sheltering Job Description and any additional forms PHP&R requires
  - In-state EMAC nurses will be oriented virtually
  - Out-of-state EMAC nurses to be oriented in person at staging area. If deploying straight to sheltering site, orientation can be provided virtually

**LTATCC Status-Check Nurse Responsibility**

- LTATCC Status-Check Nurses are responsible for daily communication with deployed shelter nurses.
  - To assess personal safety of deployed EMAC nurses and assist in providing necessary resources to accomplish their duties
  - To provide a designated line of communication with deployed EMAC nurses and access to real-time consultation if needed
  - To assist the deployed EMAC nurses in feeling supported and safe
LTATCC/PHNC Response Plan & Model

3. DON Status Checks

*Important function to assess that our DONs in counties with open shelters are supported and any needs/questions are addressed.*

Local DON Status-Check Process

- **Local DONs**
- **Receive Daily Call from DON Status-Check Nurse**
- **DON Status-Check Nurse sends written report to LTATCC Nurse Lead (or designee)**
LTAT Status-Check Nurse Responsibility – LHD DON Support

- LTATCC Status-Check Nurses are responsible for daily communication with DONs in counties with open shelters.
  - To provide a designated line of communication with DON to assist with needs being met locally in real time
  - To provide PHCC and state EOC with accurate and timely reporting to assist with maintaining up-to-date situational awareness
  - Provides an additional layer of support for questions and some needs to be addressed

CONTACT INFO:

Joe Bowman, BSN, RN
Emergency Preparedness and Environmental Health Nurse Consultant
joe.bowman@dhhs.nc.gov