



# KCER Watch

**Safety and Health Topics: Emergency Preparedness Bulletin**

**June 2017**

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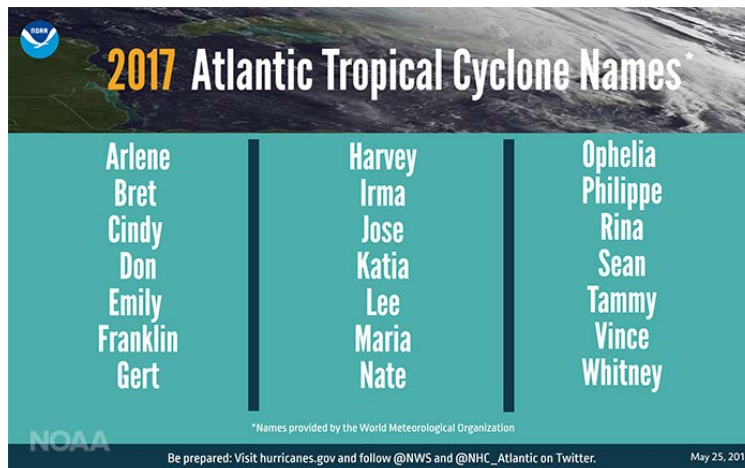
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## Hot Topics

### June 1 Marked the Start of the 2017 Hurricane Season



The National Hurricane Center forecast calls for 11–17 named storms and hurricanes this year. Now is the time to take the steps necessary to protect your family and yourself. It takes just one hurricane to destroy a community. KCER urges you to take time *now* to make your disaster plan and to build an emergency kit.

The projected storm forecast will be updated in early August, right before the peak of the hurricane season, which runs until November 30, 2017.

**Read More:** <https://goo.gl/w399wz>

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## CMS Emergency Preparedness Final Rule Interpretive Guidelines

Last year, on September 16, 2016, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published the final rule on Emergency Preparedness Requirements for Medicare and Medicaid Participating Providers and Suppliers. The rule, which affects all 17 provider and supplier types, became effective on November 15, 2016. All participating providers must comply with the regulations by November 15, 2017. The Advanced Copy—Emergency Prep Interpretive Guidelines is now available for review.

Read more: <https://goo.gl/sBE4O5>

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## Poll Shows Natural Disasters Are Still the Number One Fear for Americans

A new poll, conducted by international polling firm YouGov for Healthcare Ready, shows that Americans still fear natural disasters more than terrorist attacks, cyber-attacks, or environmental disasters, but that they are not prepared to deal with one. Additionally, when asked who holds the most responsibility for preparing a community for a natural disaster or disease outbreak, most survey participants failed to recognize the preparatory services provided by national and local non-profit relief organizations.

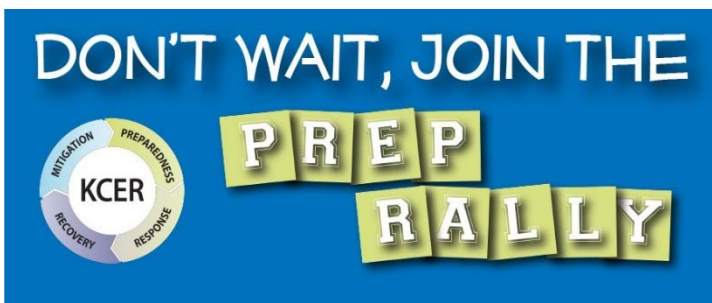
Read more: <https://goo.gl/hCBneQ>



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## Education/Communication

### Join the KCER Prep Rally Campaign!



Patient-developed *Prep Rally* tools and resources are now available on the KCER website. The *Prep Rally* campaign is designed to get patients talking with their care team, family, neighbors, and friends about their emergency preparedness plans. It also offers a creative way for patients to plan and share how they prepare for emergencies through selfie videos, themed photos, and use of the My Game Plan sheet.

Visit [www.kcercoalition.com/PrepRally](http://www.kcercoalition.com/PrepRally) to view and download the KCER *Prep Rally* materials. All Prep Rally tools and resources are also available in Spanish.

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## Going Somewhere? Take Precautions if You're Travelling to a Mosquito Zone

The summer travel season is heating up. If you and your family are traveling anywhere where mosquitos love to be, make sure you take steps to protect yourselves from mosquito-borne viruses like Zika. Pack the insect repellent and use it—liberally! Using insect repellent is the best way to prevent diseases like Zika.



The most common symptoms of Zika virus are fever, rash, joint pain, and/or red eyes. See your healthcare provider if you develop these symptoms while travelling.

**Read more:** <https://goo.gl/fyjO7M>

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## June is Pet Preparedness Month—Make a Disaster Plan for Your Pets

In an emergency, your pets will be even more dependent on you than ever for their safety and well-being. Make sure your family's disaster plan includes your furry family members, too. Planning ahead is key to keeping you and your pets safe if disaster strikes. While a disaster and its damages may be unavoidable, thinking about the unthinkable may save a life and give you reassurance in a scary situation.

Learn what to do to keep your beloved pets safe.

**Learn More:** [www.ready.gov/animals](http://www.ready.gov/animals)

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## Make Your Disaster Plan and Build Your “Go Bag”

Are You Prepared? Do you have a plan and a survival kit or ‘go bag’ at the ready? A disaster “go bag” is a collection of basic items you and your family may need in the event of an emergency. It's important to create this survival kit well in advance of a disaster because you may have to evacuate your home at a moment's notice. As you make these preparations, include your entire family in the process. By making it a family, fun, and matter of fact activity, you empower not only yourself, but the rest of the family, too.

**Learn More:** <https://goo.gl/mWh8XD>

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**You can find this month's KCER Watch and past editions on our website:**

[www.kcercoalition.com/kcerwatch](http://www.kcercoalition.com/kcerwatch)

### What do you think about KCER Watch?

We want your feedback! Please click here to complete a short survey: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/6-2017](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6-2017)



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