



# Texas, Diabetes, and Weather Products

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# If you Don't like the Weather in Texas.... Wait a Minute!

State's unique location and geography makes for 'crazy weather'

Can vary greatly even over the course of a few hours

Situated between desert to West and “wet” Louisiana to the Southeast. The Gulf of Mexico to the South and Pacific Ocean to Southwest.

Flat Northern Plains, Hill Country, Coastal Plains, and Western Mountains all serve to conjure up severe storms!

# But We are Not Meteorologists

## How can we use weather products?

- NWS Warning Alerts and Email lists
- Hurricane preparedness/response (hospital teams)
- All weather conditions affect:
  - “Routine” Patient Safety
  - Healthcare Providers’ Safety
  - Medication/Equipment/Supplies

# Diabetes – chronic condition in Texas and the Nation!

CDC reports Diabetes Prevalence has DOUBLED in the last 10 yrs.

Texas Diabetes Council reports:

2007 Diabetes Prevalence Age 18 and older:

- Texans Diagnosed : 1.8 million
- Nationwide Diagnosed: 18.3 million
- Total still Undiagnosed in Texas-460,000
- Total still Undiagnosed in US: 5.7 million

# And...Diabetes

In 2004, 4% of the U.S. population were diabetics; that number is expected to increase to 7% by 2050

The total annual economic cost of diabetes in 2007 was estimated to be \$174 billion

# Special Cities

**San Antonio's** diabetes death rate is the second-highest of the 54 largest U.S. cities, behind only **New Orleans**, according to a recent report by the National Association of County and City Health Officials. The rate of death from diabetes in San Antonio was 49.8 of every 100,000 people in 2004, which is roughly double the national rate of 24.4.

# Hurricane Response



**“Katrina will likely be recorded as the worst natural disaster in the history of the United States.”**

— U.S. National Hurricane Center

<http://www.nvvl.noaa.gov/hurseas2005/Katrina1345z-050829-1kq12.jpg>

# MVCC-Medical Volunteer Coordinating Committee

- San Antonio is the regional evacuation center for the Gulf Coast
- **Medical Special Needs-MVCC**  
As a primary shelter hub community, it is important to plan for the care and housing of medical special needs residents. This often requires specialized equipment and personnel.

# A Diabetes Clinic in an Evacuation Shelter

Diabetic emergencies require rapid response  
Transportation can be a nightmare!

“I wouldn’t go out there if I were you!”



# Hurricane Shelter Diabetes Clinic

## The Weather Watcher

- ◇ **Medication Safety –  
Exposure to Hurricane  
Conditions/Contamination**
- ◇ **Diabetes Supplies and Equipment-  
Exposure to Heat, Humidity**
- ◇ **Diabetes Supplies and Medications- Resupply**
- ◇ **Case Management**

# The Second Storm!



# Warning Coordination Meteorologist- Email Alert!

**American Association Diabetes Educators**

**Healthcare Professionals**

**Texas Diabetes Council**

**Texas Ready Nurses**

# What can we do?

- Build the best communication network-  
Teach and Learn from each other!
- Look for storm trends and be prepared!
- Engage stakeholders: Patients, stakeholders, community, multi-disciplinary approach!
- Shared governance...but with clear defined expectation and links up, down, and laterally on the chain!

# California's Great ShakeOut

- **Rehearsing for California's Big Earthquake...a novel idea!**
- **? Teach and practice using weather tools?**



Failure to prepare is preparing to fail.

--- *Benjamin Franklin*