NC Department of Health and Human Services

The LTAT Command Center's Role in Supporting DONs and EMAC Nurses During Disasters –

What We Do

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- 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

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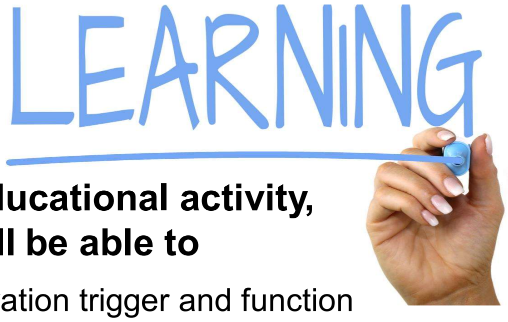


By the end of this educational activity, LHD DONs will be able to

- 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, pollical 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

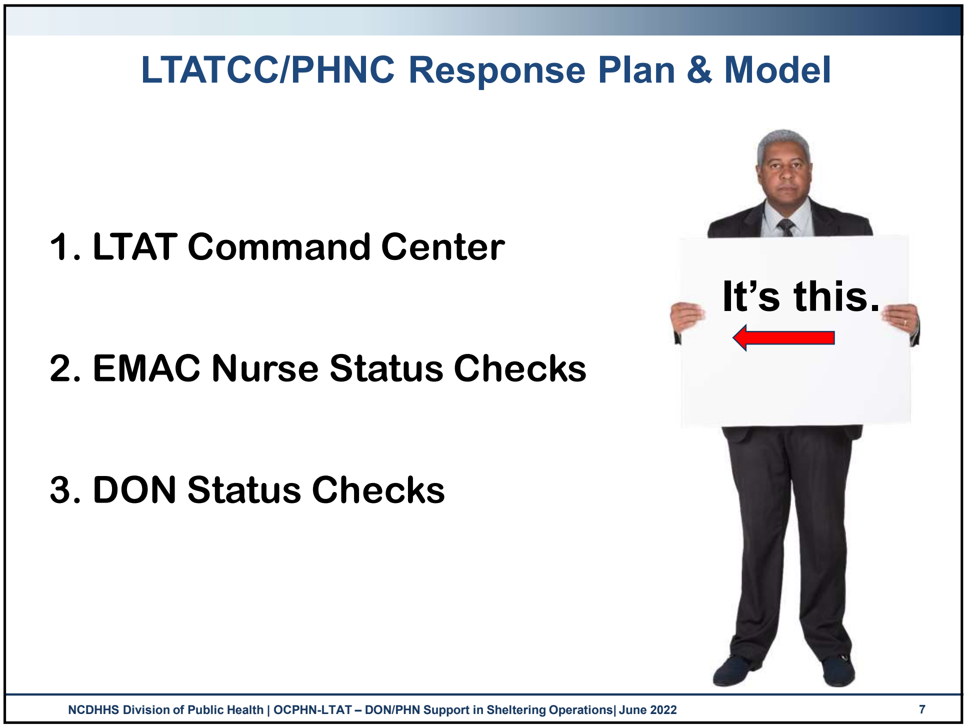
Incident – Unplanned event with risk for public health or mass fatality impact. Ex. Pandemic, flooding, hurricane, tornado, nuclear meltdown.

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

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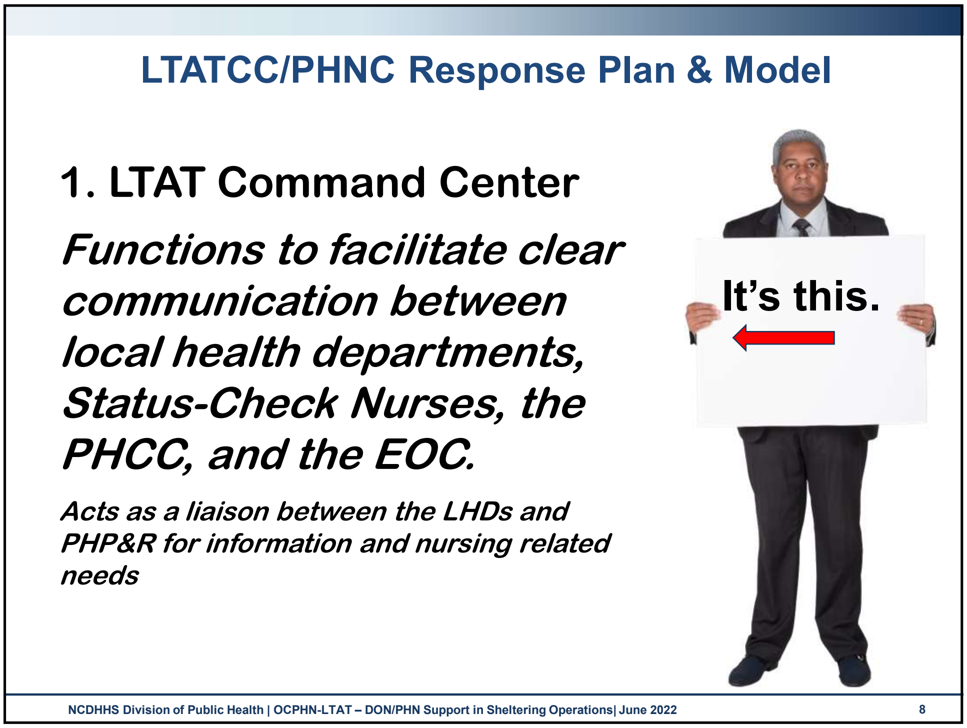

LTATCC/PHNC Response Plan & Model

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

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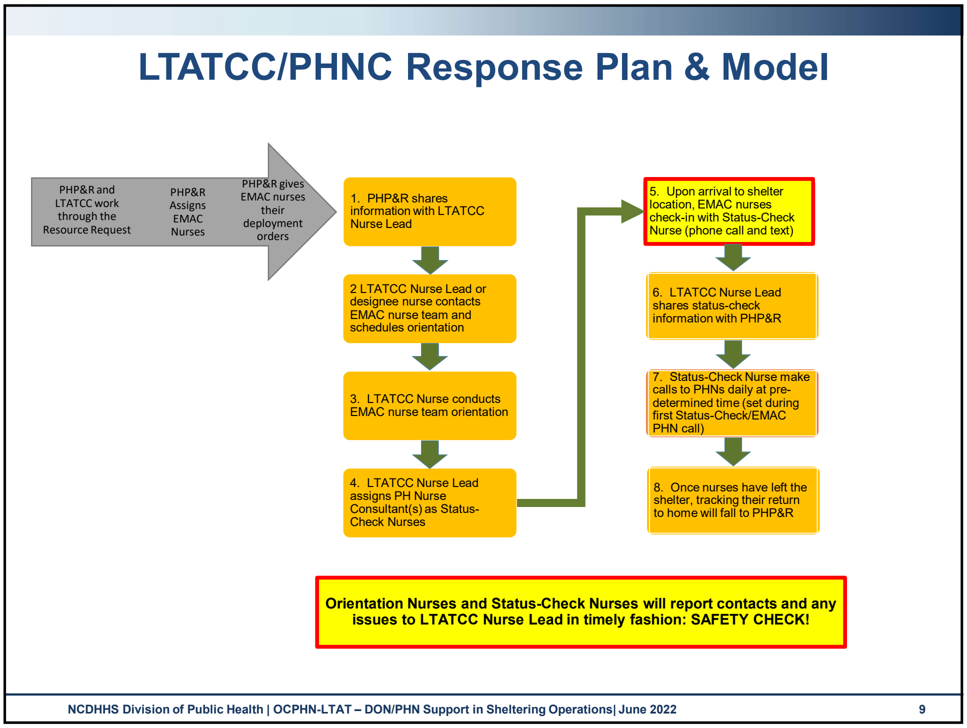


LTATCC/PHNC Response Plan & Model

PHP&R and LTATCC work through the Resource Request

PHP&R Assigns EMAC Nurses

PHP&R gives EMAC nurses their deployment orders

1. PHP&R shares information with LTATCC Nurse Lead

2 LTATCC Nurse Lead or designee nurse contacts EMAC nurse team and schedules orientation

3. LTATCC Nurse conducts EMAC nurse team orientation

4. LTATCC Nurse Lead assigns PH Nurse Consultant(s) as Status-Check Nurses

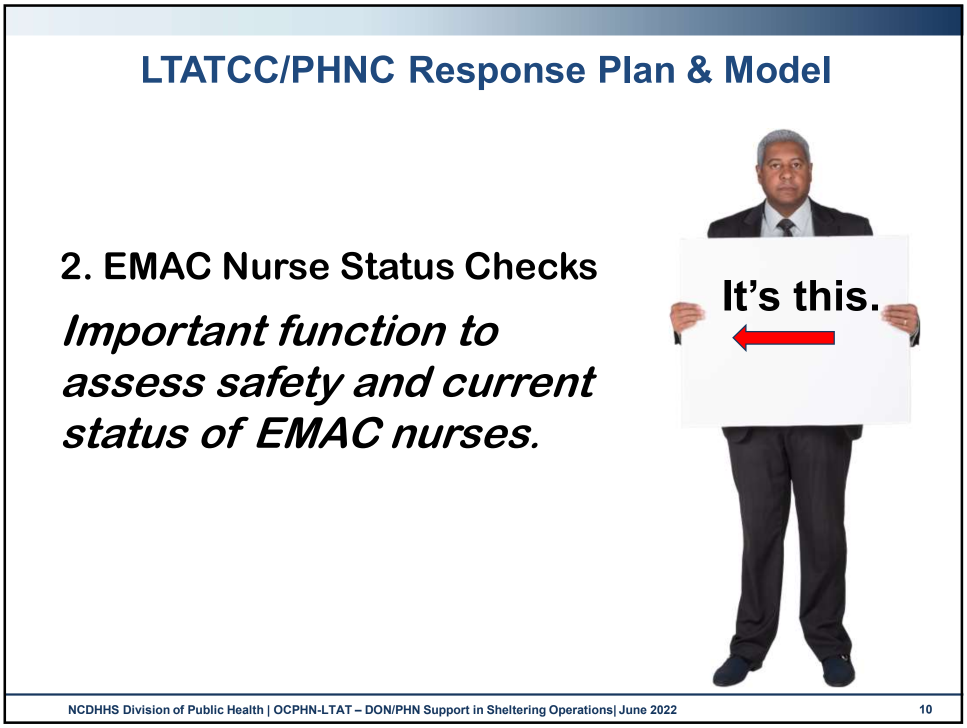
5. Upon arrival to shelter location, EMAC nurses check-in with Status-Check Nurse (phone call and text)

6. LTATCC Nurse Lead shares status-check information with PHP&R

7. Status-Check Nurse make calls to PHNs daily at pre-determined 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

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



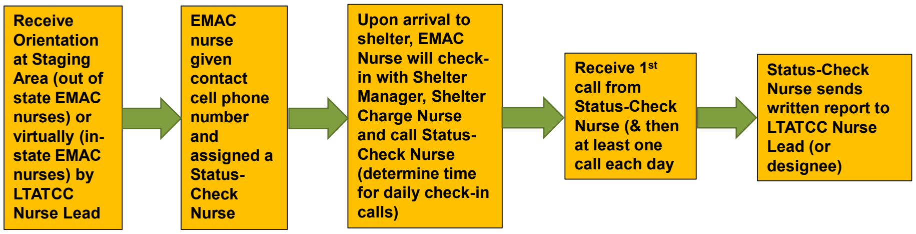
LTATCC/PHNC Response Plan & Model

2. EMAC Nurse Status Checks

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

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

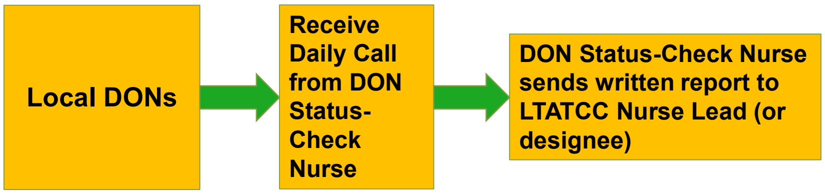
LTATCC/PHNC Response Plan & Model

3. DON Status Checks

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

LTATCC/PHNC Response Plan & Model

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

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