

Welcome to Disasterville

September 2009



GET KCER READY!

September is National Preparedness Month. This initiative aims to increase the nation's level of preparedness. The Kidney Community Emergency Response Coalition (KCER) is a proud sponsor of NPM. To find out more about National Preparedness Month, visit www.ready.gov.

The **KCER READY** program is a self-assessment that can assist your facility or organization in completing necessary planning activities in order to provide the highest quality patient care. The actions you take can save lives and create a safer working environment for your staff and patients.

We invite you to take a short quiz to evaluate your level of preparedness. Some of these questions are based on the national Readiness Quotient and others are based on the ESRD Conditions for Coverage regarding emergency preparedness. This quiz is available online at www.kcercoalition.com/npm.htm.

Being **KCER READY** means your facility or organization has taken the initiative to improve your disaster plans, patient education, staff education, and other critical areas of disaster preparedness and response.

SPOTLIGHT: HURRICANE IKE

Hurricane Ike made landfall on September 13 in Texas. Hurricane Ike was "only" a Category 2 storm but it carried 15-20 feet of storm surge, killing 103 people.*

In a disaster, always evacuate if you are told to do so! Don't wait until the storm is approaching – it's too late. Have a plan and a safe place to stay. Find out what resources are available, such as assistance with transportation, evacuation, and sheltering.

Even a Category 2 hurricane is deadly. Take the steps to prepare now!

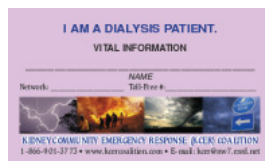
**National Weather Service, 2009.*

SPOTLIGHT: TWITTER

We've all heard about Twitter. Your kids probably use it. They're probably twittering instead of doing their homework. But did you know that you can use Twitter to get emergency notifications from dozens of government agencies? Even if you did not have access to email, you would still receive Twitter updates to your mobile device.

HHS, CDC, FEMA, and many other important government agencies use Twitter to send alerts about pandemic flu, safety, and disasters. KCER uses Twitter to send important disaster information to KCER volunteers, CMS, and ESRD Networks.

www.twitter.com/kcercoalition



KCER is a member of the National Preparedness Month Coalition.

For more information, visit www.kcercoalition.com, call 813-865-3267 or email sburris@nw7.esrd.net.