



Nursing Facility Emergency Preparedness

Southeast Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

Results in Brief

Why OIG Conducted This Inspection

The Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General Audit and Inspections Division (OIG Inspections) conducted an inspection of Southeast Nursing & Rehabilitation Center (Southeast Nursing), a skilled nursing facility.

In 2020, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General conducted a review of selected nursing facilities in Texas to evaluate compliance with life safety and emergency preparedness requirements. The report identified noncompliance with emergency preparedness requirements related to emergency preparedness plans, emergency supplies, emergency power, communication plans, and emergency preparedness plan training.

OIG Inspections initiated this inspection because of potential health and safety concerns caused by inadequate emergency preparedness programs at nursing facilities.

Key Results

Southeast Nursing & Rehabilitation Center's (Southeast Nursing) emergency preparedness plans and processes complied with 19 of 23 (82.6 percent) state and federal emergency preparedness requirements for nursing facilities reviewed as part of this inspection. Southeast Nursing had an updated emergency preparedness (a) plan and (b) training and testing program. Southeast Nursing also had updated procedures related to alternative power sources and subsistence needs for residents and staff. During a site visit to Southeast Nursing's facility, inspectors saw multiple emergency preparedness elements, including a generator used as an alternate energy source and supplies for resident and staff subsistence. However, Southeast Nursing did not consistently comply with four emergency preparedness requirements. Specifically, Southeast Nursing did not:

- Document initial employee training on emergency preparedness.
- Document required annual staff training on emergency preparedness.
- Maintain a printed copy of its current emergency preparedness plan at each workstation assigned to a personnel supervisor who had responsibilities under the plan.
- Document the required contact information for the Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman in its communication plan.

Summary of Review

The inspection objective was to determine whether Southeast Nursing followed select state and federal requirements for emergency preparedness.

The inspection scope included Southeast Nursing's

(a) documentation of calendar year 2021 emergency preparedness training and testing and
(b) emergency preparedness program in place as of May 2022.

Recommendations

Southeast Nursing should ensure:

- All employees complete emergency preparedness plan training within 30 days of assuming applicable job duties and maintain documentation of each completion.
- It conducts emergency preparedness training annually and maintains documentation of each completion.
- A copy of its current emergency preparedness plan is present at the workstation of each personnel supervisor who has responsibilities under the plan.
- Its communication plan includes the required contact information for the Texas HHS Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

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