

Severe Weather Action Plan

The following is a timeline of activities that will occur in the event a hurricane or other severe weather event. Should a storm develop more rapidly, the timeline will be adjusted accordingly.

**72 Hours
Before Event**

Hospital Services will contact hospital partners within the impacted zones to determine if they have closure plans.

- If the Hospital is closing, Hospital Services will work with the hospital to schedule pick up of all blood inventory.
- Hospitals within evacuation zones that are remaining open will have their stock levels adjusted to emergency par levels and will be provided an inventory of fresh apheresis platelets to hold during the weather event.

**48 Hours
Before Event**

For hospitals that are closing, arrangements will be finalized to pick up all blood components for the duration of the weather event. Blood components will be returned to hospital inventory after the hospital has reopened and is deemed safe to do so.

**24 Hours
Before Event**

Hospital Services will contact all open hospitals for final blood component orders and notify them of our pending shutdown plans.

**12-24 Hours
Before Event**

Once a final determination is made to suspend blood delivery activities, Gulf Coast Blood will begin temporary shutdown procedures.

During Event

Gulf Coast Blood operations will be suspended until the conditions are safe to resume activities.

Once winds reach sustained 39 mph or more, no routine deliveries or specimen pickups will be made. Rapid Delivery services will be placed on hold or delayed due to evacuation traffic, flooding, ice on the roads, or other hazardous conditions.

Every effort will be made to resume activities as quickly as possible to minimize impact on patient care services; however, the safety of our Hospital Services staff is priority during the disaster event.



Once it has been deemed safe by our Command Center, Gulf Coast Blood will resume blood product deliveries to facilities as needed.



Hospital Services will call to arrange for restock of blood components and will contact hospital partners who had their inventory increased during the severe weather to pick up any excess or unneeded blood components for redistribution.

Important Contact Information

Hospital Services (713) 791-6250

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| Additional Product Management Emergency Numbers | (713) 791-9307 (713) 791-9308 |
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