

Suffolk County, NY
Monday, April 3, 2017

Chapter 627. Nursing Homes and Health-Care Facilities

Article III. Emergency Preparedness Plans

§ 627-15. Legislative intent.

- A. This Legislature hereby finds and determines that the County of Suffolk is committed to protecting the health and safety of all County residents. This Legislature also finds and determines that natural disasters can occur at any time and dramatically impact communities for months and years following the event.
- B. This Legislature further finds and determines that nursing homes, long-term care facilities and group homes for the disabled provide necessary services to populations in need of assistance. This Legislature finds that such facilities should maintain written policies and procedures to ensure that residents receive necessary care while remaining safe and to plan for the variety of issues that may arise for facility residents during an emergency.
- C. This Legislature determines that emergency response professionals should have access to the emergency preparedness plans for these facilities so that emergency responders can tailor their response based upon each facility's unique plan and circumstances. This Legislature also finds that nursing homes, long-term care facilities and group homes for the disabled should be required to file an emergency preparedness plan with the Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services to facilitate communication and coordination to ensure an adequate response at their facilities during emergency situations.
- D. Therefore, the purpose of this article is to require all nursing homes, long-term care facilities and group homes for the disabled to annually establish and file with the Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services an emergency preparedness plan.

§ 627-16. Filing requirements.

- A. All nursing homes, long-term care facilities, group homes for the disabled, residential mental health programs and/or crisis residences for adults and crisis residence mental health programs for children and adolescents located in the County of Suffolk shall file with the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services a written emergency preparedness plan. Such plan must establish the facility's policies and procedures in the event that a natural disaster or similar emergency occurs.
[Amended 6-18-2013 by L.L. No. 31-2013]
- B. Commencing in 2013 and continuing each year thereafter, each facility shall file its written emergency preparedness plan with the Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services on or before January 30.

§ 627-17. Compliance.

[Added 6-18-2013 by L.L. No. 31-2013^[1]]

- A. Each facility which files a written emergency preparedness plan with the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services in accordance with this article shall receive a certificate of compliance from the Department.
- B. The Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services shall post on its official website a list of all facilities and programs required to file an emergency preparedness plan pursuant to this article and state the compliance status of each facility and program.

[1] *Editor's Note: This local law also repealed former § 627-17, Penalties for offenses.*

§ 627-18. Rules and regulations.

The Commissioner of the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services is hereby authorized and empowered to establish rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this article.

§ 627-19. Applicability.

This article shall apply to all actions occurring on or after the effective date of this article.