

Nancy K. Keeling
Authorized Signature

Number: CW_IM_08_015
Issue Date: 08/11/2008

Topic: Provider Information

Subject: Emergency Preparedness Information for Certified Foster Families

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> | County Mental Health Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> | Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Children, Adults and Families | <input type="checkbox"/> | Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | County DD Program Managers | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify): |

Message:

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the federal government is requiring state child welfare agencies to plan for disasters and major emergencies for the purpose of continuing vital services and ensuring that children placed in the custody of the State are adequately cared for and protected.

In an effort to continue and maintain services to our families, in the event of a major emergency or disaster, DHS has implemented a toll-free, Child Welfare Emergency Hotline. This number (1-866-610-2581) is specifically dedicated to emergency communication and will only be activated and staffed in the event of a major emergency or disaster.

The attached letter will be mailed out to all certified families in the State of Oregon, the week of August 4, 2008 informing foster families of the toll-free Child Welfare Emergency Contact Number and providing basic emergency preparedness information. The letter also addresses the foster provider's responsibility to keep their emergency contact information up-to-date and to notify their certifier of any changes. Future communication of this information will be provided to foster parents at their two year recertification and through Foundations Training.

The direct link to the "Emergency Preparedness Information for Certified Families" attachment is:

http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/im/2008/cw_im_08_015_attchmER_Preparedness_.pdf

The brochure "Preparing Makes Sense Now" will be included in the mailing:
http://www.ready.gov/america/downloads/trifold_brochure.pdf

If you have any questions about this information, contact:

Contact(s):	Sandra Weddle		
Phone:	(503) 945-6577	Fax:	(503) 373-7492
E-mail:	sandra.weddle@state.or.us		