



ADVOCACY ALERT!

ISSUE: Strengthen Disaster Planning for Long-Term Care Facilities

[House Bill 143](#) / [Senate Bill 193](#) ("*Strengthen Disaster Planning / LTC Facilities*") is currently being circulated in the General Assembly. If this bill passes through both legislative bodies and is signed into law by the Governor, it will direct the Division of Health Service Regulation, Dept. of Health and Human Services to review recommendations from the [Disability and Elderly Emergency Management \(DEEM\) Task Force](#).

The DEEM initiative was developed to strengthen the emergency preparedness and response for people with disabilities and the elderly living in North Carolina. This initiative focuses on building a State Plan for enhancing North Carolina's ability to respond to the emergency management needs of persons with disabilities and the elderly prior to, during, and following man-made or natural disasters.

Additionally, Council on Aging's [Senior Disaster Registry](#) places Mecklenburg County into the group of 30 counties (out of 100) in North Carolina with a registry system for frail, homebound and special needs adults foreseeing the need for assistance in the event of a disaster or emergency.

DATE: April 2009

TIMEFRAME: Act NOW!

SUGGESTED ACTION:

- Help Council on Aging raise awareness on this issue. Print and share this information with family, friends and your community!
- Learn more about the Senior Disaster Registry. Click here for the [brochure](#), [registration form](#), or [personal disaster plan](#).
- Contact Council on Aging to set up a Senior Disaster Registry presentation and advocacy update for your organization, club, or community. Contact [Kellie Visker Gonyar](#) or 704-391-5216 ext. 204.
- Contact your [legislators](#) and request that they support HB 143 / SB 193.