

November 22, 2011

TO: CHA Members

FROM: Roger Richter Senior Vice President, Professional Services
Cheri Hummel, Vice President, Disaster Preparedness

SUBJECT: Preparing for Tent Use for the Upcoming Flu Season

On November 10, 2010, CHA distributed information to hospitals (attached) in preparation for the 2010-2011 flu season. This information remains current for the 2011-2012 flu season. In summary:

- CDPH L&C district office must provide written approval for tent use as explained in AFL 09-39. In the absence of any specific suspension of statute or regulation by Governor's Executive Order, tents will be approved for use only as waiting rooms; to conduct triage and medical screening exams; and to provide basic first-aid and outpatient treatment that meets all applicable rules and regulations. Any other use may require a program flex.
- SFM approves the nonflammable material used in tents. SFM requires each section of the top and sidewalls of tents designed to hold 10 or more occupants to have an SFM-approval label. Hospital owners should only use tents with an SFM label. If no labels are affixed to one or more of your tents, please contact:

Jason D. DeWitt
Office of the State Fire Marshal
1131 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95811
(916) 445-4106
Jason.dewitt@fire.ca.gov

Manufacturers of tents are required to recertify their tents annually. The SFM does not expect hospitals to have knowledge of which tents are recertified, nor are hospitals responsible for recertifying tents.

- Local Fire Marshals, depending on their jurisdiction, may have a variety of requirements/permits as prerequisites for tent use. Hospital owners should be in contact with their Local Fire Marshals now to learn the requirements prior to the use of a tent. If a local Fire Marshal asks about the recertification status of one of your tents, you can contact Mr. DeWitt at the SFM office for assistance.

- OSHPD will review utility connections for tents that originate in, pass through or pass under buildings regulated by OSHPD. OSHPD will also ensure that tents shall not obstruct the required means of egress from the hospital. OSHPD is willing to pre-approve the use of a tent when a hospital can specifically designate where it will be located on the hospital grounds. Hospitals are encouraged to receive this preapproval. This can be scheduled through a field review by area compliance staff.

If you have any questions, please contact Roger Richter at (916) 552-7570 or rrichter@calhospital.org or Cheri Hummel at (916) 552-7681 or chummel@calhospital.org.