

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

EFFECTIVE DATE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2009

TITLE: OUT-OF-STATE LICENSED PROFESSIONAL NURSES PRACTICING IN PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS DURING DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) Division of Public Health (DPH) is mandated under Emergency Support Function (ESF) 6 (Mass Care) and ESF 8 (Health and Medical) to assist with mass care and to assure the health and safety of the public during times of disaster and emergency. Nursing resources are essential to DCH being able to fulfill its mandated responsibilities. Nursing resources activated under these mandates may be used to assist any health care entity or community in Georgia that is impacted by a disaster or emergency.

AUTHORITY:

Georgia Board of Nursing Policy: *Out-of-State Licensed Professional Nurses Practicing in Established Healthcare Systems in Georgia during an Emergency/Disaster*, May 14, 2008.

O.C.G.A. § 43-26-12-(a)(2)

GENERAL PROVISIONS:

If out-of-state licensed professional nurses are available to assist with the response to a disaster or emergency in Georgia, the public health system shall use these nursing resources in the following manner:

1. Verify the nurse's professional license in the state of licensure through the Internet. If Internet is not available, the nurse's paper license may be viewed and copied. If there is no access to a copier, the nurse's paper license may be viewed and the license number written down for verification.
2. Provide the names and license numbers of each out-of-state RN to the Georgia Board of Nursing within 30 days of initial credentialing verification.
3. View and make a copy of the nurse's driver's license as photo identification. If the nurse does not have a driver's license, then ask to see some other appropriate photo ID, such as an employment badge. If there is no access to a copier, write down the identifying information from the photo ID.
4. Volunteer must sign the DCH Volunteer Form (Public Health Clinic Volunteer Agreement).
5. Provide Just In Time training to the nurse in relation to the specific volunteer duties assigned.
6. Provide supervision, guidance and access to the tools and resources needed to perform the assigned duties.