



Letter of Recommendation

Emergency Managers have seen disasters take on characteristics which at one time were reserved for big budget Hollywood films. Beginning with 9/11, and followed by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike, emergency planning is no longer limited to local or even regional events. Today, the impact of a single crisis can be nationwide in that one of the most daunting aspects of emergency management is how to quickly and orderly move a population around the country and out of harms way.

In my role as Assistant Vice President of Emergency Planning for Ochsner Health System in New Orleans, I've developed a large multifaceted plan including several layers of "backup." One of the most essential components of our plan involves evacuating patients out of the region, and we've partnered successfully with U.S. Air Ambulance for two years on this initiative.

The benefits of this relationship is that it allows Ochsner to focus on preparing its facilities and staff who are in imminent danger, while U.S. Air Ambulance handles the logistical details of relocation including contracting with transportation providers and facilitating MOUs with receiving hospitals.

We've been so impressed with U.S. Air Ambulance professionalism and reliability, we've recommended this program to other hospitals, nursing homes and university medical centers.

Norris D. Yarbrough
Asst. Vice President, Emergency Preparedness and Response
Ochsner Health System