

# PREPPED AND READY

*ALG deploys disaster plan to keep residents, staff safe during hurricane*

**M**ore than 100 senior living communities housing more than 7,000 residents and staffed by more than 4,500 employees. When a 400-mile-wide hurricane barrels toward the bulk of these communities, it takes planning, communication and around-the-clock staff to keep things running smoothly — and that's just what Affinity Living Group has done this week during Hurricane Florence.

“Our main focus is the safety and security of our residents and staff,” said Sandra Korzeniewski, vice president of quality assurance and regulatory compliance at ALG. “We strive to maintain normal operations with minimal disruption, and we engage our residents and staff in interactive activities.”

Korzeniewski, along with other members of the company's management team, was stationed in a command center at the corporate headquarters in Hickory, N.C. as Hurricane Florence approached Friday. Equipped with up-to-date storm information and all available methods of communication, the company's leaders worked throughout the week to prepare communities across the Carolinas for impacts from Florence.

ALG deployed 30 portable generators, 50 hurricane kits, emergency lighting, 500 sets of alternate bedding and support personnel, including nurses, to the communities in the storm's path. Three refrigerated semi-trailers have been stationed throughout the affected area with emergency food, water and medical supplies. As of Friday morning, nine coastal communities had been evacuated to sister communities further inland.

“We have a systematic process to relocate the entire op-



Affinity Living Group management teams review updated community and storm information in the command center at the corporate office in Hickory, N.C. on Friday as Hurricane Florence makes its way across the Carolinas.

erations of an existing community to another location,” Korzeniewski said. “ALG chartered buses to transport the residents and box trucks to transport at least seven days worth of clothing, medications, medical supplies and equipment. The community housing the evacuated residents is stocked with food, water, ice and other emergency supplies to accommodate everyone.”

Corporate personnel were deployed earlier in the week to be stationed at various communities during the storm and assist with evacuation procedures, Korzeniewski said. ALG has a designated executive within the Raleigh Emergency Operations Center providing continuous live updates to the team as well as a point person to manage communication with the N.C. Adult Care Licensure Section.

The work the management team has put into the preparing for the storm has been crucial to the communities, according to Springs of Catawba assisted living Executive Director Jaylee Wilson.

“I feel that (ALG) has really done an excellent job preparing ahead of time for the storm and getting to know what com-

**Springs of Catawba Executive Director Jaylee Wilson stands in the stocked staff bunker room set up for the storm at the Hickory assisted living community.**



munities needs will be once the storm hits,” Wilson said Friday morning, standing in the staff bunker at Springs, next to a shelf of batteries and flashlights prepped in case of a power outage. “Someone has checked in with me every hour to two hours to make sure that there's nothing that I need, and the storm hasn't even hit yet.”

Wilson said her community is ready for whatever Florence may throw their way, fully stocked with food, water, sandbags, light sources and plenty of activities for the residents.

“It's important for the residents to remain calm because it keeps them in the best spirits possible,” Wilson said. “We've involved some of the staff's children to come in and play games with them, keeping

written activities, coloring books, things they can do with low lighting. We have lots of music, we have battery operated radios and lots of other fun things.”

Springs of Catawba is expected to see impacts from the hurricane beginning Friday night and continuing into the weekend. At ALG communities throughout the Carolinas, staff is ready to hunker down with their residents, keep them safe and also keep them in good spirits with plenty of games and activities for residents and any evacuated guests from other communities.

For up-to-date information about ALG communities during Hurricane Florence, visit the Affinity Living Group or individual community's Facebook page.