Objective

- Provide ongoing access to library resources in various types of disasters
- To create a statewide library service continuity plan ready for implementation in the event of a disaster that impacts hospital or academic healthcare providers’ access to core library services and resources

Methods

- National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) grant awarded for 2 training sessions on disaster planning
- Meetings were held with interested parties
- Used pre-existing relationships between UNC, Duke, Wake Forest and ECU, AHEC Libraries, and hospitals
- Core services: Reference Assistance
- Interlibrary Loan
- Access to Online Resources
- Executive committee formed with all constituents represented
- Formalized Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA) was drafted and refined
- Agreement was signed by all library directors (agreement is intentionally not legally binding)

Results

- Signed agreement in place by September 2010
- Email listserv distribution list created
- Contact information shared among institutions
- Levels of readiness established: Level 1 = Normal to Level 5 = Use out of state resources (contact Regional Medical Library-RML)
- National resources outlined and shared with the group
- Executive Committee established to administer the MAA agreement, response activities and needed modifications

Conclusion

- Agreement provides for core library services at any time, in any part of the state
- Other alternative communication means established
- Libraries successfully activated “on alert” status during a recent hurricane threat—Hurricane Earl, September 2, 2010

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