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PHARMACIES AFFECTED BY RECENT NATURAL DISASTERS

The Missouri Board of Pharmacy has become aware of several pharmacies that have been required to close or relocate due to severe weather. On May 22, 2011, Governor Jay Nixon declared a state of emergency for areas affected by the recent tornadoes. Rule 20 CSR 2220-2.016 establishes pharmacy operating procedures during declared disasters. You can find 20 CSR 2220-2.016 at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/20csr/20c2220-2.pdf>. Pursuant to section (2), pharmacies in the affected areas may relocate to a temporary or mobile facility. Pharmacies may begin operation upon relocation. However, licensees should notify the Board of the temporary/mobile facility's location within 48 hours after relocation and provide an estimate of how long the temporary/mobile facility may be needed. Notification may be provided by calling the Board at 573/526-6985 or may be faxed to 573/526-3464 or e-mailed to pharmacy@pr.mo.gov. You will be contacted by your inspector to schedule an inspection at a later date. *Note: Licensure is not required for the temporary/mobile facility, however, an official change of pharmacy location will be required if the temporary/mobile facility is operational for more than six months.*

Licensees temporarily closing or relocating are cautioned to ensure medications are adequately stored and secured. For additional questions, please contact Inspector George McConnell at 417-627-0315 or email him at george.mcconnell@pr.mo.gov, or you may contact Kelly Bray at 573-526-6985, pharmacy@pr.mo.gov.

The Board has received several inquiries regarding emergency dispensing by pharmacies or pharmacists not licensed in Missouri in response to the declared disaster. Rule 20 CSR 2220-2.025(1) provides an unlicensed non-resident pharmacy may dispense drugs into Missouri or to a Missouri resident in an emergency situation. In light of the state and federally declared emergencies, unlicensed non-resident pharmacies may dispense for emergency purposes only to patients unable to procure medication as a direct result of the recent tornadoes. Non-resident pharmacies should exercise due diligence to determine proper dispensing. The Board will recognize this emergency exemption until May 28, 2011, unless otherwise extended by the Board.

At this time, the Governor has not issued an Executive Order to allow pharmacists not licensed in Missouri to practice in the affected areas. Interested parties should monitor the Board's website for future guidance.

CONSUMER INFORMATION:

To assist the public, the Board will be posting pharmacy or customer service contact information on its website for those Missouri-licensed pharmacies affected by the recent tornadoes. If you would like to include contact information for your pharmacy, please e-mail the Board immediately at tammy.siebert@pr.mo.gov or call (573) 751-0093. Please include the affected pharmacy's name, address and relevant contact information.