

## Situation

- A severe storm with damaging winds tore through three counties in the West Tennessee region. On October 26<sup>th</sup> 2019 at around 1300 hours the storm began to impact Hardin and McNairy Counties and shortly thereafter Decatur County.
- A long term care facility (Adamsville Healthcare) lost their water supply. The facility had water for drinking and cooking, but did not have water for toilet flushing, mopping floor, or other things that non potable water could be used for.
- Initially, Decatur County General Hospital was on generator power for a short, but otherwise was essentially unaffected.
- The following day, DCGH notified their Regional Hospital Coordinator that they were expected to lose their water supply within the next 12-18 hours. They would that have water for drinking and cooking, but nothing for flushing toilets, mopping floors, etc.



## Intervention

The WATCH Healthcare Coalition has developed multiple relationships with many different agencies in their region. This allows the HCC to utilize some unconventional resources through the relationships that have been created.

### Specifically:

- In this instance, those relationships helped support two facilities with unlikely resources.
- Working with EMA and local fire department contacts, the Regional Hospital Coordinator was able to locate a 5,000 gallon water tanker. Once the water tanker was located the appropriate requests were made through the State EOC to acquire the asset. The water tanker was requested and deployed first to the long term care facility. The long term care facility was initially expecting to be out of water for days, but luckily was brought back online after about a 12 hour outage.
- As the nursing home was preparing to release the water tanker, the Regional Hospital Coordinator was notified of the above issue with DCGH's water supply and worked with their EMA director and state EOC to get the water tanker moved to the hospital in Decatur County.



## Impact

- The networking and relationships that have been fostered through the healthcare coalition and hospital preparedness program over the years were vital in this situation.
- Those relationships that have been built allowed for these facilities to provide means to flush their toilets, and continue providing a safe environment for their patients.
- Due to the community partnership from local fire departments, relationships with EMA directors, as well as the hospital coordinators assistance in coordinating resources, this water supply helped keep these facilities from having to consider evacuation due to not having sanitary means to flush toilets, mop floors and other means of use for non-potable water. Additionally had the water supplies not been re-established the HCC has water filtration equipment that could have been deployed to make this resource even more valuable to produce potable water.

