



CHC ANYS DEFINING NEW DIRECTIONS
Community Health Care Association of New York State

TALs

Transportation Assistance Level Classifications



CHCANYS EM Program

Our Goal: To support New York FQHCs in efforts to meet federal (HRSA) and State requirements related to Emergency Management (EM) and to increase their level of preparedness and ability to actively respond to an emergency or disaster.

The CHCANYS EM Program Provides:

- Training and Technical Assistance
- Tools, Templates, and Resources
- Relationship-building Opportunities



New York State Department of Health Office of Health Emergency Preparedness (OHEP)

CHCANYS has partnered with OHEP to provide health centers with information and assistance to support situational awareness and planning initiatives which promote system-wide preparedness and response capabilities.



2015 Critical Asset Survey

In March 2015, CHCANYS distributed the annual Critical Asset Survey to collect information on health center operations and ongoing EM activities from health centers across New York State.



Purpose

- To provide an overview of the Transportation Assistance Levels (TALs) Classifications
- To review the history of TALs and the obstacles presented
- To present the TALs standards for planned evacuations
- To detail the TALs assessment scale

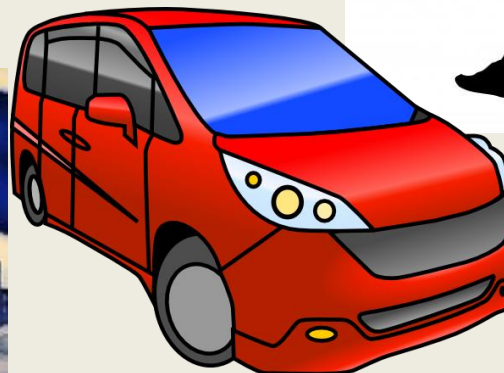
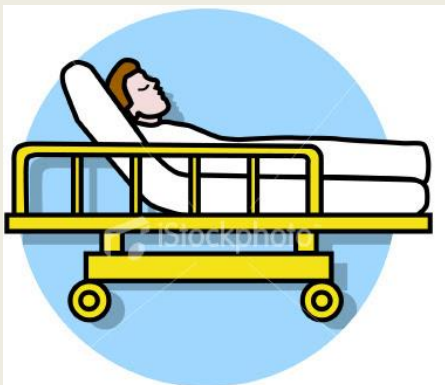
Learning Objectives

At the end of this webinar, participants will be able to:

- Explain how the TALs classifications can be used to facilitate planned evacuations
- Categorize the transportation needs of patients/residents according to the TALs classifications
- Identify additional training and resource needs to implement TALs within their facilities



Transportation Needs



Background

In August of 2010, concerns with TALs were brought to the attention of New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Office of Health Emergency Preparedness (OHEP)

In the following months, OHEP and the NYSDOH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (BEMS) began looking into the concerns raised regarding the TALs classifications

OHEP and BEMS concluded that there was a potential for “color confusion” because of the similarity of the EMS SMART Tags and the TALs

Color Confusion

EMS SMART Tags

For triage prior to transport

RED – Priority 1 -Urgent

YELLOW – Priority 2 - Less urgent

GREEN – Priority 3 – Ambulatory
& no urgency

TALs

To assess transportation needs

RED – Must be transported supine
may be critical - 3

YELLOW – Non-ambulatory & able
to sit for a long period – (w/c) - 2

GREEN – Able to walk unassisted
with no risk of harm - 1

Finding a Solution

A workgroup was formed with the goal of establishing a practical, standardized statewide TAL classification system to help streamline and coordinate evacuations statewide.

The workgroup consisted of representatives from:

- NYS Bureau of EMS
- New York State Office of Emergency Management
- New York State Office of Health Systems Management
- New York State Office of Health Emergency Preparedness (OHEP)
- Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS)



Transportation Assistance Levels (TALs)

TALs categorizes patients / residents via one of three levels.

Each level influences:

- the number of staff necessary to move the person
- the type of internal movement device needed
- the loading area they will be relocated to for a facility evacuation
- the type of external transportation asset required

TALs *are not* intended for clinical triage

TALs *are* intended for triaging transportation needs

More about TALs

- TALs are a standard process established for quickly assessing and categorizing patients / residents by mobility levels
- TALs are used to assess the type of transportation resources needed during a **planned** evacuation
- TALs are **not** intended for use during an emergent situation such as fire or bomb threat



2012 Superstorm Sandy



Midtown Tunnel



Breezy Point



Queens



Battery Park Tunnel



Transportation Assistance Level 1

1	Non-Ambulatory			
	<p>Individuals unable to travel in a sitting position (e.g. require stretcher transport).</p> <p>These patients/residents are clinically unable to be moved in a seated position, and may require equipment including but not limited to oxygen, mechanical ventilators, cardiac monitors, or other biomedical devices to accompany them during movement.</p>	<p>Require clinical observation ranging from intermittent to 1:1 nursing. Critical cases or interrupted procedures may require a team of health care providers</p>	<p>Requires an ambulance or other specialized vehicle (e.g., helicopter medevac) for transport dependent on circumstance (e.g. high water)</p>	<p>Must be accompanied by one or more clinical provider(s) (e.g. EMT, paramedic, nurse, or physician) appropriate to their condition</p>



Transportation Assistance Level 2

2	Wheelchair			
<p>Individuals who cannot walk on their own but are able to sit for an extended period of time.</p> <p>Those who are alert but unable to walk due to physical or medical condition. They are stable, without any likelihood of resulting harm or impairment from wheelchair transport or prolonged periods of sitting, and do not require attached medical equipment or medical gas other than oxygen, a maintenance intravenous infusion, an indwelling catheter or a PEG tube during their relocation or evacuation.</p>		<p>Safely managed by a single non-clinical staff member or healthcare facility-designated person</p>	<p>May be transported as a group in a wheelchair appropriate vehicle (e.g., medical transport van or ambulance)</p>	<p>A single staff member or healthcare facility-designated person appropriate to the most acute patient/resident's condition while accompanying a group of patients/residents</p>



Transportation Assistance Level 3

3	Ambulatory	Escorted by staff members, but may be moved in groups led by a single non-clinical staff member or healthcare facility-designated person. The optimum staff-to-patient ratio is 1:5.	Can be transported as a larger group in a passenger vehicle (e.g., bus, transport van, or private auto)	A single staff member appropriate to the most acute patient/resident's condition while accompanying a group of patients/residents
<p>Individuals who are able to walk on their own at a reasonable pace.</p> <p>Those who are able to walk the distance from their in-patient location to the designated relocation or loading area without physical assistance, little supervision, and without any likelihood of resulting harm or impairment</p>				



TALs Re-cap

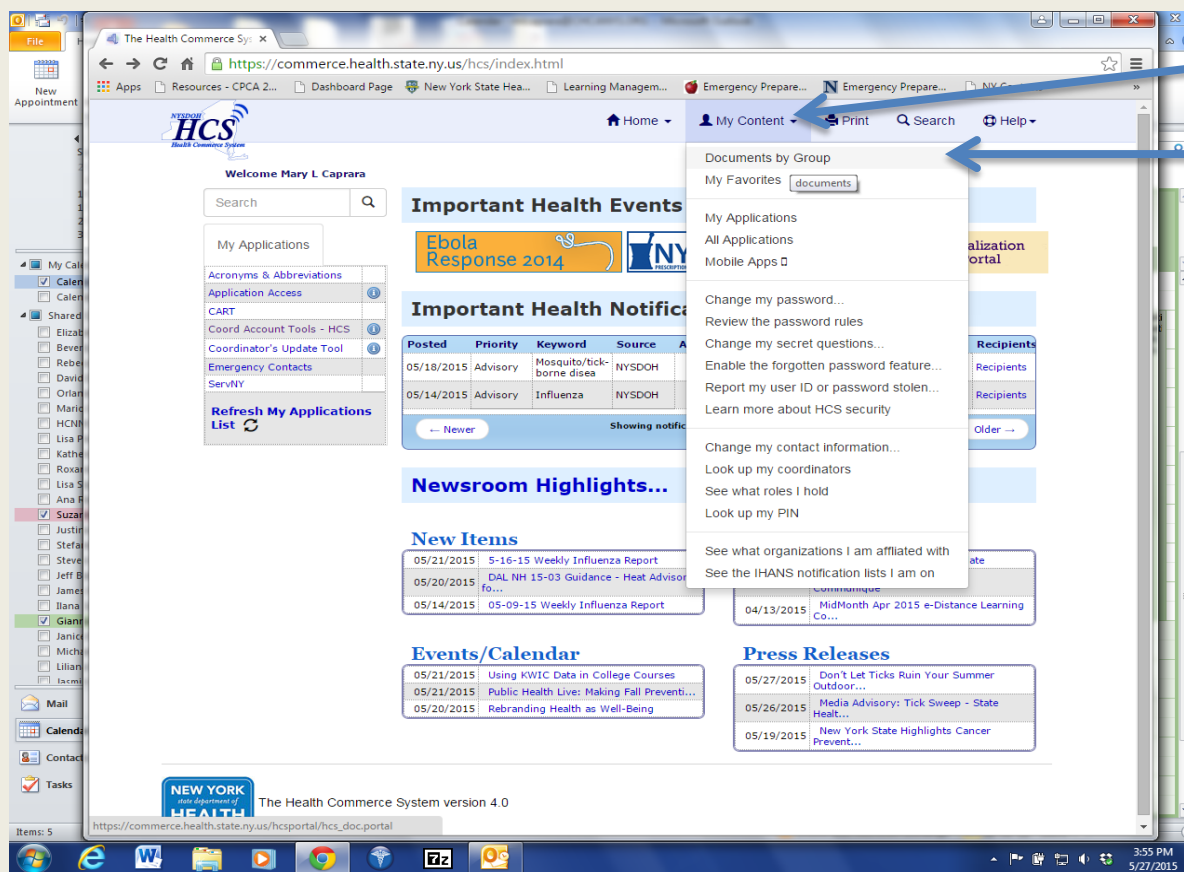
- TALs are for use only during a staged or planned evacuation and ***not*** an emergent situation.
- TALs are a universally recognized, standardized classification system to help streamline and coordinate evacuations statewide

Resources

The following TALs documents are available on the NYSDOH Health Commerce System (HCS):

- TALs Tracking form
- TALs Guidance Document
- TALs Label Template
- NYSDOH TALs Slides

To access the TALs documents on the HCS:



Select My Content

Select Documents by Group

Select Resources

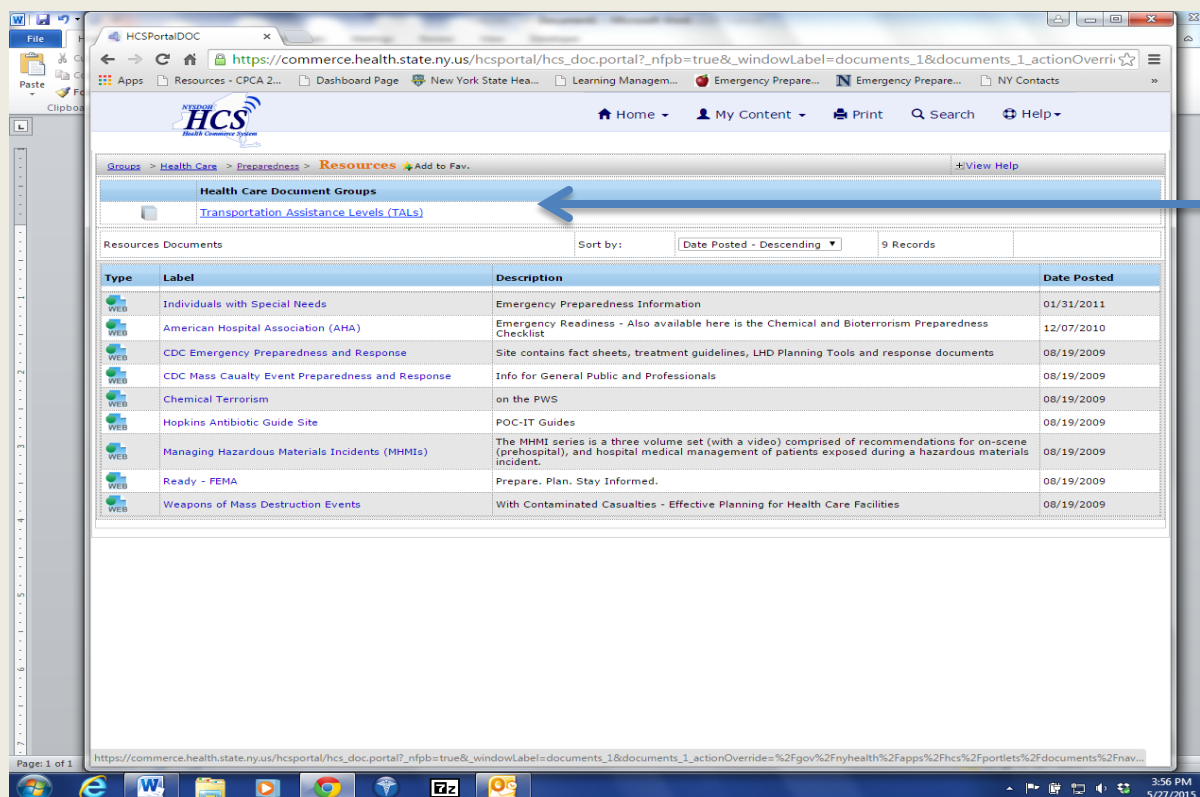


HCSPortalDOC x
https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/hcsportal/hcs_doc.portal
Apps Resources - CPCA 2... Dashboard Page New York State Hea... Learning Managem...
NYSDOH HCS Health Commerce System Home
Health Commerce System Documents
My Groups +View All Document Groups
Getting Started
Health Care

After selecting
Resources
select
Health Care
group and then
Preparedness

NYSDOH HCS Health Commerce System Home My Content
Groups > Health Care Add to Fav.
Health Care Document Groups Health Care Document
Calendars Preparedness
Contacts Prescription Information
Dear Administrator Letters Public Health Promotion
Dear Practitioner Letters Publications

HCS TALs documents continued...



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the HCS Portal. The URL is https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/hcsportal/hcs_doc.portal?_nfpb=true&_windowLabel=documents_1&documents_1_actionOverride=.... The page title is "Health Care Document Groups" and it shows a list of document groups under "Resources Documents". A blue arrow points to the "Transportation Assistance Levels (TALs)" link. Below the list is a table of resources with columns for Type, Label, Description, and Date Posted.

Type	Label	Description	Date Posted
WEB	Individuals with Special Needs	Emergency Preparedness Information	01/31/2011
WEB	American Hospital Association (AHA)	Emergency Readiness - Also available here is the Chemical and Bioterrorism Preparedness Checklist	12/07/2010
WEB	CDC Emergency Preparedness and Response	Site contains fact sheets, treatment guidelines, LHD Planning Tools and response documents	08/19/2009
WEB	CDC Mass Casualty Event Preparedness and Response	Info for General Public and Professionals	08/19/2009
WEB	Chemical Terrorism	on the PWS	08/19/2009
WEB	Hopkins Antibiotic Guide Site	POC-IT Guides	08/19/2009
WEB	Managing Hazardous Materials Incidents (MHMIs)	The MHMI series is a three volume set (with a video) comprised of recommendations for on-scene (prehospital), and hospital medical management of patients exposed during a hazardous materials incident.	08/19/2009
WEB	Ready - FEMA	Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.	08/19/2009
WEB	Weapons of Mass Destruction Events	With Contaminated Casualties - Effective Planning for Health Care Facilities	08/19/2009

Finally select
**Transportation
Assistance
Levels (TALs)**

Additional NYSDOH Resources

New York State Evacuation of Facilities in Disasters Systems NYS e-FINDS

(<http://nysandyhelp.ny.gov/e-FINDS>)

On June 5, 2013, Governor Cuomo announced plans for NYS to launch a statewide emergency location tracking system to ensure the safety of patients and residents when healthcare and human services facilities are forced to evacuate as a result of a natural disaster.

NYS e-FINDS

- is a common platform for real time sharing of patient / resident location information by Health Commerce System (HCS) authorized users statewide
- allows facilities to track patient / resident movement by the use of bar-coded patient / resident wristbands read via a handheld scanner and a paper log

CHCANYS

For more information on TALs, e-FINDS or other emergency management topics, please contact
CHCANYS EM Team at:

EMTeam@CHCANYS.org