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**May 2011**

**Contact: Grady Forrer**  
**202-835-3460**

## **Rx Response Continues to Monitor Southeast Tornadoes' Impact on Bio-pharmaceutical Supply System** Pharmacy Status Reporting Tool Activated at Request of Three States

Washington, D.C. – As the string of deadly tornadoes ravaged the Southeast United States, officials at Rx Response in Washington, D.C. began immediately monitoring the storms' impact on the flow of medicine in the affected areas. On Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, Rx Response elevated its engagement status from Stand-By to Alert.

Also on Friday, Rx Response activated its Pharmacy Status Reporting Tool at the request of the Alabama and Tennessee Departments of Health. Red Cross officials requested its activation for Mississippi as well. The Pharmacy Status Reporting Tool provides emergency management officials and the public with online information about the status of open pharmacies in areas affected by large scale disasters. (The tool can be seen at [www.rxresponse.org](http://www.rxresponse.org).)

In response to the tornadoes, the Governor of Alabama issued an executive order authorizing pharmacies to provide 30-day refills for patients lacking prescriptions if the patient brings an empty pill bottle or insurance documents pertaining to the prescription. This order only applies to non-controlled substances. The Alabama Health Department also released a voucher form to pay for prescriptions for persons who qualify. The form is available at [www.rxresponse.org](http://www.rxresponse.org). Patients must bring the voucher to the pharmacy and present it to the pharmacy staff to pay for their prescriptions.

As part of its response to the tornadoes, Rx Response facilitated a request from the American Red Cross to find an area in the disaster zone to park a relief vehicle. Rx Response was able to fulfill that request within 30 minutes thanks to the help of the Healthcare Distribution and Management Association (HDMA). Both the American Red Cross and HDMA are members of the Rx Response Coordinating Body, the governing body that helps manage the activities of Rx Response.

“We will continue to monitor the impact of the tornadoes on the supply system to help ensure that medicine gets to patients in need,” said Rx Response Director Erin Mullen, R.Ph., Ph.D.

Rx Response members include:

- American Hospital Association (AHA)
- American Red Cross
- Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)

- Generic Pharmaceutical Association (GPHA)
- Healthcare Distribution Management Association (HDMA)
- National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)
- National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA)
- Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)

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