

Hospital Evacuation Decision Guide, and Facility Assessment Prior to Reopening

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Project Objectives

- Present organized and systematic guidance considering many factors that bear on the decision to order a hospital evacuation
- Create an inspection checklist for use by hospital staff to assess the status/damage of an evacuated hospital
- Identify specific areas or processes which require significant preplanning not currently addressed in hospital planning

Methods

- Literature review about hospital evacuation and reopenings
- Interviews with knowledgeable hospital personnel who have experienced hospital evacuation and reopening
- Interviews with department heads from several hospitals about inspection issues in each department
- Methodology similar to previous successful project looking at reopening shuttered hospitals
 - <http://www.ahrq.gov/research/shuttered/>

Hospital Evacuation Decision Guide

Hospital Pre-Disaster Self-Assessment (planning)

- Assessment of Critical Infrastructure
 - Identify specific items where shut down procedures are particularly complex or time consuming
- Evacuation Time Self-Assessment Worksheet, to estimate time required to safely evacuate all patients and staff

Hospital Evacuation Decision Guide

Pre-Event Evacuations in advance of an impending disaster (preparation):

- Worksheet for assessing the nature of the event, including expected arrival time, magnitude, area of impact, and anticipated duration
- Framework for anticipating effects on the hospital and the surrounding community, incorporating results of the Pre-Disaster Self-Assessment

Hospital Evacuation Decision Guide

Post-Event Evacuations (after substantial damage)

- Worksheet to assess damage to the hospital's water, sewer, electricity, and heating systems, and overall building integrity

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Sequence of Patient Evacuation

- Considerations as to whether most fragile patients should be evacuated first, or whether sheltering place would be safer for those at highest risk.

Hospital Assessment and Recovery Guide

For use when returning to an evacuated and damaged hospital, addresses:

- Different types and severity of damage to the hospital
- Damage to surrounding community and municipal services
- Evacuation/closure brief or protracted

Hospital Assessment and Recovery Guide: First Steps

Determine whether building is safe to enter (no structural jeopardy, hazmat, radiation)

- Are basic municipal services (fire, law enforcement) operational?
- Is communications infrastructure functional?
- Have enough staff returned to adequately operate the hospital? Where will they live?
- Is safe passage to/from the hospital possible for patients, staff and deliveries? (consider damage to roads, extreme civil unrest)
- Are EMS or local ambulance and paramedic services functional?

Hospital Assessment and Recovery Guide

subsections (note: cost and financing not addressed)

- Administration: coordination
- Facilities: HVAC, water, power, elevators, other critical infrastructure
- Security and Fire Safety: radiation containment, pharmacy security, perimeter security, vandalism
- Information Technology and Communications: data back-ups, password authentication, nurse call and paging systems
- Biomedical Engineering: medical equipment in all units, OR, ED, labs, pharmacy

Hospital Assessment and Recovery Guide

subsections (note: cost and financing not addressed)

- Medical/Patient Care Areas (ED, ICUs, ORs, units, clinics)
- Ancillary Services: pharmacy, morgue, blood bank, clinical and research labs
- Materials Management: supplies
- Building and Grounds Maintenance/Environmental Services: waste disposal, fencing, exterior/roof damage
- Support Services: housekeeping, dietary/kitchen, patient transport

Contributors

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