

**“Prevención, preparación y respuesta a desastres provocados por productos químicos” • 1999 edition**

Available only in Spanish  
Price: US\$ 30.00



This CD-ROM has an instructional approach to preventing, preparing for and responding to chemical accidents in Latin America and the Caribbean, using a combination of graphic presentations and text. It uses a Web-page format to present technical information and includes reference sections that will link the user to other valuable information sources on the Internet.

This material can also be consulted on the Internet at:  
[www.disaster.info.desastres.net/quimicos/](http://www.disaster.info.desastres.net/quimicos/)

**Disasters Newsletter: Preparedness and Mitigation in the Americas**

2002 edition  
Available in English and Spanish  
Price: US\$ 30.00

This CD-ROM has the entire collection of newsletters published by the Emergency Preparedness Program at PAHO, beginning with the first issue published in January 1979, in both English and Spanish. The disk uses a simple, Web-page format and has search tools that facilitate access to any topic covered in the newsletter.



- All of the editorials or lead articles have been grouped together by title, and are included in a special section;
  - Key words have been assigned to ease the search for topics.
- The issues of the newsletter are available in two electronic formats: PDF and HTML. This is a helpful tool for tracking the occurrence of natural disasters in the Region of the Americas over the past 20 years and will help to review how countries have prepared for and responded to these events.

Students and others interested in disasters can now consult all of this information in one place.

**New**  
New and expanded version of the Virtual Health Library for Disasters

2001 Edition  
Price: \$US 30

Available on CD-ROM and the Internet

The Virtual Library, which has been available free of charge on the Internet to anyone interested in the topic, has been produced on a CD-ROM to facilitate its use and availability. (More information on page 36.)



**Disaster Mitigation in Health Facilities**

2001 Edition  
Price : US\$ 40

Available in English and Spanish

This disk contains the main training materials—books and PowerPoint graphic presentations—that PAHO/WHO has published on disaster mitigation in health facilities. It is designed as a simple Web page and can be used with any personal computer (although we recommend at a minimum a Pentium 1 processor or the equivalent, with hard drive capacity of 40 Mb. (More information on page 9.)



**SUMA**  
2001 Edition  
Price : US\$ 30

Available in English and Spanish

This CD-ROM gathers all the components necessary to understand, apply, and teach SUMA, including:

- The latest SUMA software
  - A section devoted to training materials
  - An overview of SUMA
- (More information on page 39.)





### Prehospital Medical Care in Disasters

(31 slides; available in English and Spanish)  
Price: US\$ 25.00

These slides deal with mass casualty management at the site of a disaster. It covers the command post, transportation, communications and triage.

### Hospital Care in Disaster Situations

(39 slides; available in English and Spanish)  
Price: US\$ 25.00

This slide set presents the main components of a hospital disaster plan. It outlines the steps that hospitals can take during the preparedness phase, the warning phase when the hospital plan is put into effect, and the emergency phase when disaster victims begin to arrive.

### Disaster Reports: Earthquake in Mexico

(39 slides; available in English and Spanish)  
Price: US\$ 25.00

These slides record the devastating earthquake that hit Mexico in September 1985. They illustrate aspects of structural damage in health facilities, search and rescue operations, and the huge quantities of relief supplies that overwhelmed authorities after the earthquake.

### Manual for Bacteriologic Analysis of Water in Disaster Situations

(28 slides; available in English and Spanish)  
Price: US\$ 25.00

This demonstrates the membrane filter method using portable equipment as a means of detecting coliforms in water.

Each slide set comes with a teaching guide

### Seguridad en hospitales

(44 slides; available only in Spanish)  
Price: US\$ 25.00

These slides illustrate safety measures for hospitals and health centers in disaster situations. The accompanying guide provides steps for developing a hospital safety plan and determining the areas that the plan should cover.

### Terremotos y hospitales 1: efectos y medidas de emergencia

(29 slides; available only in Spanish)  
Price: US\$ 25.00

This slide program presents general information on the effects of earthquakes in terms of human and material losses and basic emergency procedures for hospitals in the event of a severe earthquake.

### Terremotos y hospitales 2: reducción del riesgo

(28 slides; available only in Spanish)  
Price: US\$ 25.00

This program presents measures for mitigating seismic risk to hospitals and decreasing the overall vulnerability of these facilities.

### Manejo de cadáveres en situación de desastre

(27 slides; available only in Spanish)  
Price: US\$ 25.00

This series addresses basic techniques for the transport, identification, temporary storage, and final disposal of cadavers in disaster situations.

### Simulacros hospitalarios

(40 slides; available only in Spanish)  
Price: US\$ 25.00

These slides review the essential elements for developing emergency simulations in hospital settings.

Each slide set comes with a teaching guide





## Mental Health Care in Disaster Situations

(34 slides; available in English and Spanish)  
Price: US\$ 25.00

Disasters generally cause some degree of psychosocial trauma in nearly all sectors of society. The psychological response in communities varies and changes with the passage of time. This slide set serves to make health professionals aware of certain expected patterns of emotional response in disaster situations in communities and measures that can be used to deal with them.

## Risk and Resource Map: Organizing Communities to Prepare for Emergencies

(1994; 40 slides; available in English and Spanish)  
Price: US\$ 25.00

These slides are aimed at helping community leaders or facilitators to increase the level of community preparedness in the face of hazards.

## Disaster Mitigation in Health Facilities

Price: US\$ 25.00

(1998; 42 slides; available in English and Spanish)

### Structural Elements

These slides provide practical information about basic aspects of disaster mitigation in health facilities. Focusing on seismic hazards, the slides address risk reduction in structural components of health facilities (including load-bearing elements such as columns, beams, walls, and foundations).

(1999; 42 slides; available in English and Spanish)

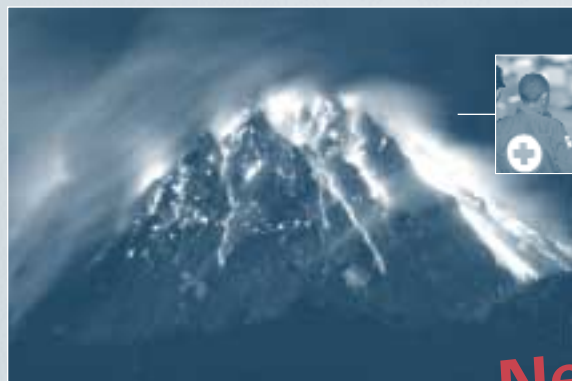
### Non Structural Elements

The second part of this slide program addresses the mitigation of damage to nonstructural elements in health facilities. These include non-load-bearing and architectural features (such as partitions, windows, and false ceilings) as well as elements that are essential to the operation of a facility (communications, gas, water, and electricity), and all hospital equipment and supplies. Damage to any of these elements can have serious impacts on the ability of health facilities to function, and their vulnerability should be assessed when carrying out disaster mitigation plans.

These two slide sets are also available in electronic format on the Disaster Mitigation in Health Facilities CD-ROM (see page 9).

Each slide set comes with a teaching guide.





**New**

## Volcanoes and the Protection of Health

(2001; 36 minutes, available in English and Spanish)

This video combines images of volcanic eruptions, commentary by experts, technical and scientific information, and lessons learned in many emergencies. It uses an educational format to explain the main risks that volcanic eruptions have for health, and the basic planning measures that the health sector can and should take to reduce adverse health affects to vulnerable populations.

The video is divided into two distinct but complementary sections that can be viewed separately. **The first** section addresses the principle risks that volcanic eruptions pose to health. It dispels certain misconceptions about the effects that lava, rocks, or other debris expelled from the volcano can have on public health, and focuses on hazards that may be less spectacular but are much more dangerous to humans, such as pyroclastic flows or lahars that have been responsible for the majority of deaths associated with volcanic eruptions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**The second** part of the video focuses on health sector preparedness and prevention plans and measures to minimize the damage caused by volcanic eruptions. The program emphasizes that plans should cover several possible scenarios, be realistic and flexible, and carried out with the participation of scientists and emergency response agencies.

The video has technical content and was prepared for health personnel who will be involved in preparedness and response.

The video includes a short teachers guide.



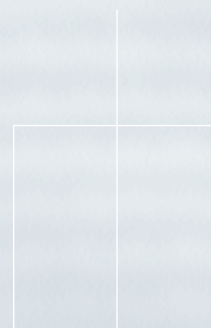
## Myths and Realities of Natural Disasters

(26 minutes; available in English, Spanish, and French)

Myths have surrounded the occurrence of natural disaster phenomena since the beginnings of civilization. This video presents some popular beliefs in the context of some of the most devastating disasters to occur in the Region of the Americas. It emphasizes the importance of dispelling certain myths through education and understanding of actual events. The video examines the following misconceptions:

- Foreign medical volunteers with any kind of medical background are needed.
- Any kind of international assistance is needed, and it's needed now!
- Epidemics and plagues are inevitable after every disaster.
- Disasters bring out the worst in human behavior.
- The affected population is too shocked and helpless to take responsibility for their own survival.
- Disasters are random killers.
- Locating disaster victims in temporary settlements is the best alternative.
- Things are back to normal within a few weeks.

This video gives positive and realistic examples of what actually occurs in disaster situations, with the hope that these myths about disasters will no longer influence decision makers confronted with emergency situations.





## Earthquake in Mexico

(24 minutes; available in Spanish, English, Portuguese, and French)



This program documents health problems and response activities following the earthquake that devastated Mexico City on 18 September 1985. Thousands of people were killed, some 420 buildings collapsed and more than 50,000 homes were damaged. The video also focuses on the chaos resulting from the arrival of tons of unsolicited relief supplies that in most cases did not meet the actual needs of earthquake victims.

## Volcanic Eruption of Nevado del Ruiz in Colombia

(15 minutes; available in English and Spanish)



On the night of 13 November 1985, the Nevado del Ruiz volcano, some 70 kms from Bogotá, began to erupt. Hot lava mixed with melting snow to create a massive mudslide that descended the sides of the volcano at a speed of 25 mph, burying the town of Armero. An estimated 20,000 persons died and 10,000 persons were made homeless. Rescue and evacuation of survivors had to be done by air; water and sewerage systems were completely destroyed; the supply of food, medicines, and drinking water required massive mobilization of the international community. This video provides a record of the events and medical and health impacts of the disaster.

## International Humanitarian Assistance

(15 minutes; available in English and Spanish)



This video examines positive and negative aspects of international humanitarian assistance provided to health care systems in countries affected by disasters.

## Earthquake in El Salvador

(10 minutes; available in English and Spanish)



This short program provides a record of the impact of the earthquake—measuring 7.5 on the Richter scale—that hit San Salvador on 10 October 1986. More than 40 per cent of the health facilities suffered damage, hampering treatment of the disaster victims. At least 12,000 people died and half of the inhabitants of El Salvador's capital were left homeless. Government buildings were severely damaged which greatly affected both response and reconstruction activities in the country.

## Humanitarian Fuel Assistance Program

(25 minutes; available in English and French)



During Haiti's political crisis in the 1990s, acquiring fuel was a major challenge faced by humanitarian organizations operating in the country. This video describes how PAHO and other agencies worked to transport and deliver fuel to these organizations.

## Disaster Mitigation in Health Facilities

1996 (15 minutes; available in English and Spanish)



This video demonstrates the enormous vulnerability to natural disasters—primarily earthquakes and hurricanes—faced by most countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. It documents advances made in carrying out mitigation measures in certain countries, and addresses how much has to be done to ensure that health facilities reduce their levels of vulnerability so that they continue to provide critical services after the impact of a hurricane or earthquake.

## Facing Disasters in Smaller Countries

(19 minutes; available only in English)



This addresses the problems faced by the smallest countries when they are impacted by major natural disasters. The video uses Caribbean countries as an example of the importance of regional cooperation and solidarity when facing these challenges.

## SUMA: Humanitarian Supply Management Project

1995 (13 minutes; available in English and Spanish)



This program introduces the Humanitarian Supply Management Project (SUMA), which was created by PAHO/WHO with the cooperation of experts from a variety of countries in the Region of the Americas, and the support of the Netherlands Government. SUMA assists national authorities to identify, classify and distribute humanitarian supplies in emergency situations, ensuring a more organized process that gets needed supplies to beneficiaries quickly. The video emphasizes the importance of developing a national cadre of professionals trained in humanitarian supply management methods before disaster strikes, and addresses the mobilization of international experts.

## SUMA: Tool for Transparency and Credibility in Emergencies and Disasters

2000 (4 minutes; available in English and Spanish)



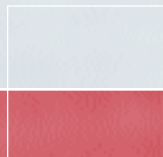
This short video shows difficulties created by the indiscriminate shipment of donations to disaster-affected countries, and the importance of having an information management tool such as SUMA. Besides its technical role, SUMA is a policy tool that can favor transparent and responsible management of donations, and as such provide an image of credibility and responsibility for authorities.

## En la senda del huracán

1988 (15 minutes; available only in Spanish)



This video documents the impact of hurricanes Gilbert in October 1988 and Joan, a month later in Central America and the Caribbean. Gilbert's path cut across the Cayman Islands, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, and finally Mexico. More than 90 per cent of health facilities in Jamaica were damaged. Hurricane Joan hit Colombia, Costa Rica and Nicaragua a month later, causing major crises in these three countries.



# Disasters Newsletter: Preparedness and Mitigation in the Americas



Published every three months in English and Spanish since 1979, this is PAHO's most important means of communicating with the international community about disasters. While there are many other ways to communicate today, such as through Web pages, electronic mail, discussion lists, the newsletter continues to fulfill its mission of disseminating information, and it has become a "classic" among professionals interested in emergencies, disasters or humanitarian assistance. More than 26,000 copies are distributed every three months worldwide. It can also be viewed on the Internet. ([www.paho.org/disasters](http://www.paho.org/disasters)).

The editorial page looks at current issues that have technical or political importance to the disaster management community. There are sections on recent disasters or happenings in the Americas; news from PAHO/WHO and other organizations involved in disaster reduction; information on PAHO/WHO Member Countries; new publications; and a "selected bibliography" that focuses on recently published material on disasters.

Published for the first time in 1979, it is an excellent source of information on recent disasters in the Region, and the path countries are taking to reduce the impact of these disasters.

- Now all issues of the newsletter (Nos. 1-85) are available on:
- Internet: [www.helid.desastres.net](http://www.helid.desastres.net)
  - CD-ROM (see page 24 of this catalog)



The most recent issues can be accessed at:  
[www.paho.org/disasters](http://www.paho.org/disasters)

For a free subscription to the newsletter, send a request to:  
[disaster-newsletter@paho.org](mailto:disaster-newsletter@paho.org)

