



Training Materials and Information Resources on Disasters



Pan American Health Organization
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Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the
World Health Organization

**Publications and
information sources
on emergencies and disasters**

2002 Catalog



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In 1976, PAHO established the Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief Coordination Program in response to requests of the Member Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to create a technical program to help the health sector strengthen disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation activities.

Since its creation, the Program's main objective has been to assist the Region's health sector to strengthen national programs for disaster reduction and to support interaction with other sectors involved in disaster reduction. Three principal areas have been strengthened through this support: disaster preparedness; disaster mitigation; and disaster response.

In addition to the ongoing promotion of disaster preparedness programs within the ministries of health, training activities (accomplished through hundreds of classes and workshops), and the development and distribution of training materials (books, slides, and videos) are regular activities of the Program.

The area of disaster mitigation is particularly important, since investment in disaster preparedness is futile if a hospital, health center, or drinking water system fail in a disaster situation, just when these lifelines are most needed. PAHO supports and promotes the inclusion of mitigation activities in national disaster reduction programs.

In the area of disaster response, PAHO works with affected countries to identify and assess damage and needs, carry out epidemiologic surveillance and inspection of drinking water supplies, mobilize international humanitarian assistance, and manage humanitarian supplies. PAHO has established the Voluntary Emergency Relief Fund, which collects money for post-disaster activities.

The Program has also invested in a number of special technical projects such as Disaster Mitigation in Hospitals and Drinking Water Systems; Humanitarian Supply Management Systems (SUMA); Use of the Internet for Disasters and Emergencies; and the Regional Disaster Information Center (CRID).

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Our readers have waited for a new catalog that would gather all of the technical information available from PAHO in the area of emergencies and disasters. We are pleased to be able to offer this catalog and hope that it will inform and save time for those interested in this topic.

It is simple to print a catalog. The more difficult task is to respond to the demand for information and to be flexible and innovative in ensuring that all of this material can reach interested parties when it is needed. This is our main objective.

The production of publications and training materials continues to be an essential aspect of the work of the Emergency Preparedness Program at PAHO and this catalog is an illustration of this commitment. Older publications have been updated and many new titles have been added to meet the needs of our audience.

Publication methods are changing. We will not abandon traditional print publications, but recognize that electronic publishing is a valuable complement to printed documents for our readers. All of our new publications are immediately published on the Web. We also have invested time and resources in producing CD-ROMs because they are an excellent storage tool, easy to use, and are inexpensive to distribute.

Internet use is growing rapidly in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Internet provides us with the opportunity not only to make our documents available on-line, but is a tool for information exchange and finding other resources. This catalog gives an overview of the most important PAHO Web pages on disasters.

This catalog also lists other tools that use information and technology such as SUMA (the Humanitarian Supply Management System), CRID (the Regional Disaster Information Center) and the electronic Virtual Health Library for Disasters.

We want to provide every opportunity for those who are interested to obtain this material. You will find a list of the Emergency Preparedness Program offices and PAHO/WHO offices in the Region as well as the office of Publications and Editorial Services of PAHO.

Finally, we would like to know whether the materials are useful, and whether you have been able to access the material we list here. Please e-mail your comments to disaster-publications@paho.org or write directly to our office.

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