



**Pan American
Health
Organization**



*Regional Office of the
World Health Organization*

Virtual Journey through a Safe Hospital

Multimedia Training Program on Hospitals Safe from Disasters



USER'S GUIDE

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Virtual Journey through a Safe Hospital is a multimedia training tool produced by the Area on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief of the Pan American Health Organization, Regional Office of the World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO). This production is part of a DIPECHO project on Safe Hospitals in disasters, financed by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO).

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The multimedia training program, **Virtual Journey through a Safe Hospital**, introduces the technical elements involved in keeping hospitals (or any health facility) safe when faced with natural disasters or disasters caused by human activity.

With the interactive use of video, animation, images, sound, text and graphics, this program will help you to understand all aspects of hospital safety.

The virtual tour is organized by modules, which can be used independently to explore specific aspects of the issue or which can be followed in sequence for a complete overview. A User's Guide accompanies the journey through the safe hospital, enabling the 'traveler' to adapt the route to his/her needs. A complete journey may take about three hours; on the other hand, the opening video—which gives a good overview of all the program's components—can be viewed in about 15 minutes.



While taking a **Virtual Journey through a Safe Hospital**, you will learn what makes a hospital safe in disaster situations, the components that can make a hospital vulnerable and elements that can make it safe when exposed to hazards. Each of the following modules emphasizes different aspects of Hospital Safety:

- Preparing for the journey
- What is a Safe Hospital?
- Location and main hazards
- Let's study the structural components
- Let's analyze the non-structural components
- Let's analyze the functional components
- The Hospital Safety Index
- The Hospital Disaster Planning

In addition, in the Library you can browse through (and download) technical documents, supporting material, videos and photographs that PAHO and WHO have produced about Safe Hospitals.

If you have any problems, remember that you can consult the Help Section in the general navigation bar (horizontal menu), where you will find answers to frequently asked questions about using this tool and about Safe Hospitals.

This short animated presentation will help make the most of your journey. It explains how to use the menus to access the Contents, the Library (that includes photographs, videos, technical guidelines, training material, promotional material and the Hospital Safety Index) and the Help Section. It also explains how to use the interactive graphics, animations and virtual tours that you will find in several sections.

The general navigation bar (horizontal menu) takes you to the Main Menu, the Library, Contents and the Help sections.

The Main Menu (vertical menu) shows the general contents. You can access any specific issue by clicking on it.



What is a Safe Hospital?

This 14-minute video gives an overview of the Safe Hospital concept, basic elements that affect safety and the Hospital Safety Index, a tool for evaluating hospital safety that was recently produced by PAHO/WHO. The video can be used for general audiences to promote Safe Hospital concepts and strategies. Videos have controls to Play and Pause and a navigation bar for easy control.

Virtual Journey through a Safe Hospital
Multimedia training program on hospitals safe from disasters

Pan American Health Organization
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What is a safe hospital?

It is a health establishment where services remain accessible and operate at full capacity during and immediately after a disruptive phenomenon of whatever origin in a disaster scenario.

Including "Safe Hospital" gives priority to strengthening critical areas in existing hospitals and in the construction of new facilities to ensure facilities operate effectively during a disaster.

Download the PowerPoint presentation: Introduction to the strategy and to Safe Hospitals.

Text about Safe Hospitals.

Remember that you can download the videos from the Library.



In this section, animation depicts the main natural hazards or those caused by human activity that can have an impact on health facilities. At the end of the presentation, you will be able to identify and evaluate external risk factors and the most common types of damage caused by hazards in health care centers.

In this section:
animation shows
different phenomena
that can affect
a hospital.

Download the
PowerPoint presen-
tation: Identify and
evaluate main hazards.

Virtual tour.
During the introduc-
tory video, move the
mouse over the screen
and click on the red
flags to access more
information about
hazards that can affect
a hospital.



Text about the location of
hospitals and main hazards
that can have an impact on
health facilities.

Let's study the structural components

This section shows the structural or supporting elements that can affect the safety of a building. The selection of these components is based on the contents of the Hospital Safety Index.

Interactive graphics allow you to access additional information about the structural components.



Download the PowerPoint presentation: Structural Safety.

In this section: graphics explaining the safety issues related to structural components and construction materials that will affect the integrity of a health facility.

Text on the structural components of a hospital.

Virtual tour. After the introduction, use the arrows to learn more about the structural components that influence the safety of a hospital.

Use the arrows to move around the image.



Click on any of the components to learn more about structural elements of a building.

Let's analyze the non-structural components

This is similar to the previous module, but it describes the non-structural elements, such as lifelines, medical equipment and furnishings and architectural components of a building. By clicking the mouse on the interactive graphics, you will be able to examine certain items more closely.



Interactive diagrams allow you to learn about non-structural elements that affect hospital safety.

In this section: virtual tours and animation explaining how hospital safety is influenced by non-structural components.

Use the *mouse* to click on different items to learn more about non-structural elements.

Use the arrows to move around the images.

Let's analyze the non-structural components

Download the PowerPoint presentation on non-structural components.

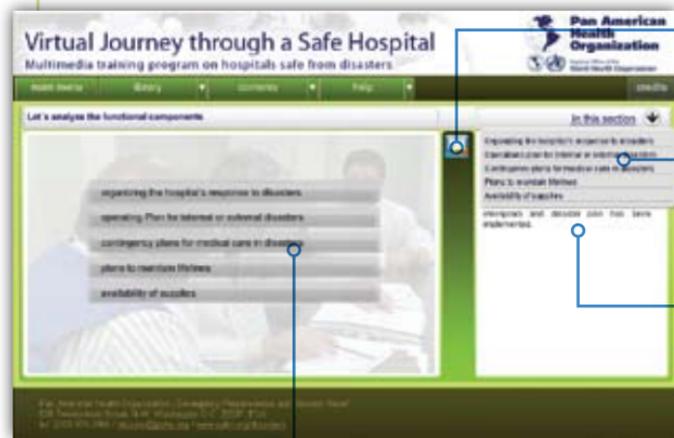
In this section: a virtual 360° tour. Click on the green thumbtacks to learn about special safety measures to protect non-structural components.



Text describing non-structural elements that must be evaluated to ensure the safety of hospitals.

Let's analyze the functional components

This section explains functional and organizational components of the hospital in emergencies and disasters. It includes the necessary steps for developing the hospital's response before, during and after an emergency.



Download the Power-point presentation about functional components.

In this section: videos about preparing hospital personnel and plans for response in an emergency.

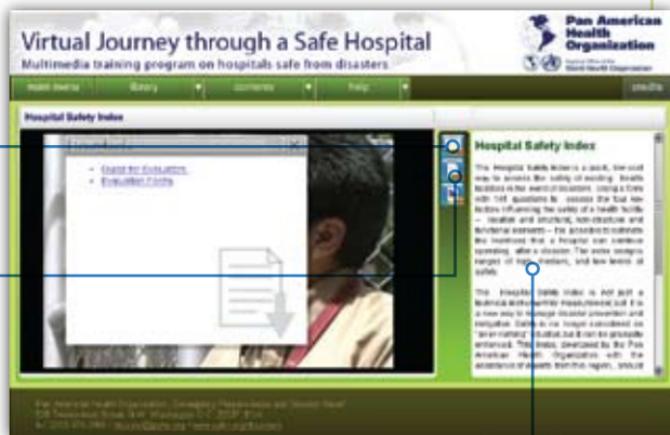
Text about the functional components that can affect the safety of a hospital.

You can click on each of these items to learn more about the functional components of hospitals.

This short video about the new evaluation tool developed by PAHO/WHO, explains what the Index is, how to use it and what factors affect the safety of a hospital. You can also download the Hospital Safety Index from this module.

Download the Power-Point presentation about the Hospital Safety Index

You can download these PDF documents: Guide for Evaluators, Evaluation forms and the Safety Index Calculator.



Text about the Hospital Safety Index.

Hospital Disaster Planning

This material can assist in planning a course on disaster and emergency preparedness. These documents provide the methodology and contents needed to develop disaster response plans for hospitals. This section includes the updated version of the course on Hospital Preparedness for Disasters as well as a new module for training instructors.

Currently, this material is only available in Spanish. Coming soon in English.



Download the training materials on Hospital Preparedness for Disasters

Text about Hospital Disaster Planning.

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For more information, or to send your comments, please write to:
disaster-publications@paho.org

More information is also available on the PAHO/WHO website:
www.paho.org/disasters

and the website of the Regional Disaster Documentation Center:
www.crid.or.cr (visit the Safe Hospitals section).



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The logo for Canada is in the bottom right. It features the word "Canada" in a large, black, serif font. To the right of the letter "a" is the Canadian flag, which is a red vertical bar on the left, a white square in the middle with a red maple leaf, and another red vertical bar on the right.