

How the Manual Can Help You Make Your Hospital Safer

This manual will help you to reduce one of the major sources of earthquake-related damage and losses: your hospital's medical equipment and supplies, contents, architectural elements, and building utility systems. Damage to these items has caused deaths, injuries, loss of building function, and economic loss in past earthquakes, even in cases in which the building structure itself was essentially undamaged.

The manual contains information on how to:

- Determine your hospital's earthquake risk
- Identify items that could fall, slide, or topple and injure people or break
- Anchor and brace those items to reduce risk
- Prioritize actions to reduce risk according to your hospital's needs and budget

Here's an example of what you'll see for one of the most important pieces of equipment in your hospital, the emergency generator:



Here is a glimpse at the manual's contents:

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Swiss Re



For information on how to make your hospital safer

please write to: contact@geohaz.in

info@geohaz.org

GEOHAZARDS INTERNATIONAL
A Nonprofit Working Toward Global Earthquake Safety



GeoHazards Society
I N D I A

Is your

Hospital



prepared

for an

earthquake?



Earthquakes

threaten your hospital's ability to carry out its responsibilities to care for the ill and injured



Your community

expects you to save lives after a major earthquake

You can take simple steps to help keep your hospital functioning after an earthquake

The 2001 Gujarat Earthquake

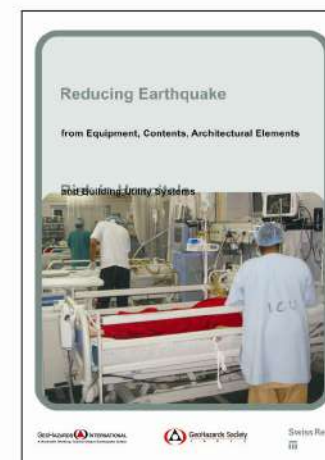
On the morning of January 26, 2001, people throughout Gujarat were just starting their Republic Day celebrations. School children were putting on special programmes and taking out parades. In the district of Kachchh, one of the largest districts in India, hospital staff continued their daily routine of providing care for the sick and ailing.

At 8:46 A.M., the earth shook violently, bringing down hundreds of buildings, including homes, schools, offices, and hospitals. 13,805 people lost their lives. The city of Bhuj in Kachchh district was hit especially hard—thousands of people died, and the city center was devastated. Fearing for their lives, as aftershocks threatened to topple damaged buildings, people rushed injured family members to local hospitals, only to find that those facilities were damaged or destroyed.

More lives were lost, as people needing immediate medical treatment had nowhere else to turn. In some cases, doctors and nurses had been killed or injured, and hospital medical equipment and supplies were damaged and unusable. The medical response to the earthquake was poorer due to the loss of these critical facilities.

Hospitals need to remain functional after a catastrophic earthquake. It is not enough for the hospital building to remain standing, but critical equipment and services in the building have to remain functioning so the hospital can handle the influx of patients from the surrounding community after the earthquake. **Kachchh's hospitals failed their community when they were most needed. What will happen when an earthquake strikes your community?**

GeoHazards International introduces a manual on



Reducing Earthquake Risk in Hospitals from Equipment, Contents, Architectural Elements, and Building Utility Systems

“This manual is a comprehensive tool with numerous practical and graphic details to enable all hospital administrators and departmental in-charges to initiate safety measures within their area of influence.”

— **General NC Vij**, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM (Retd.)
Vice Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority
Government of India

“All hospitals in the country are advised to undertake actions as detailed in this manual as it will help reduce one of the major sources of earthquake-related damage and losses.”

— **Lt. Gen (Dr.) J R Bhardwaj** PVSM, AVSM, VSM PHS (Retd.)
Member, National Disaster Management Authority
Government of India

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Or request a hard copy from
contact@geohaz.in

Tel.: +91 11 46509848

GeoHazards Society, 71, B Floor,
Vinobapuri, Lajpat Nagar-II,
New Delhi-110024, India