



HOSPITAL SEISMIC SAFETY

Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development

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California state law requires hospitals to evaluate their facilities, develop plans to meet seismic standards and ensure that their buildings are seismically sound.

This bulletin shares the latest news on OSHPD's partnership with the state's 521 acute care hospitals working to meet seismic safety deadlines. Also included are recent items that may be of interest to those involved in hospital construction, planning and design.

To contact OSHPD about this bulletin, call (916) 326-3606.

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Facilities Development Division's Logbook evolves into E-Services Portal



The Facilities Development Division's (FDD) Logbook is in the midst of a transformation. Previously the Logbook was a cumbersome mixture of paper and computerized processes that increasingly buckled under the weight

of its growing volume of hospital construction projects. The new Logbook will soon emerge as the centerpiece of FDD's new Electronic E-Portal.

FDD's Logbook is primarily used by division staff to track all hospital construction projects. Design professionals and facilities have limited capabilities to access the status of their project. While past complaints focused on its old and unwieldy structure that was unable to meet today's technical challenges, it ultimately was the increased project workload that taxed its capacity. Built in the early 1990s at a time when FDD's construction projects amounted to \$2-3 billion dollars annually, the system is no longer robust or flexible enough to manage

project workloads that have grown to more than \$23 billion annually.

The new Logbook will be a paperless system that allows FDD staff and its clients to communicate via Internet portals and continuously update and view project data. Field staff will be able to submit reports electronically rather than mailing them in on paper. Inspectors will be able to wirelessly submit data from construction sites, rather than inputting handwritten notes at a later date. Hospital managers, building contractors and design professionals will now access a dashboard of options that will provide real-time status updates of their project's progress in greater detail with less effort. Hospitals and designers will be able to immediately request needed services and submit applications online. Clients will be able to interact with FDD electronically, while receiving more accurate updated information.

Perhaps the biggest advantage of the new Logbook is that it will greatly streamline the approval process by allowing electronic plan submittal and reviews.

It is through these changes along with other initiatives that FDD hopes to provide better service to its clients. The new E-Portal will be coming online in phases during 2010.

Los Angeles Fire Life and Safety Graduates



Left to right:
Gary Dunger,
Keith Lee,
Pamela O'Brien,
Shawn Foley,
Jonathan Cook,
Sandra Reyna,
Alan Schulz.

Not pictured:
Mari Stockton

HOSPITAL SEISMIC SAFETY



Ombudsman Line

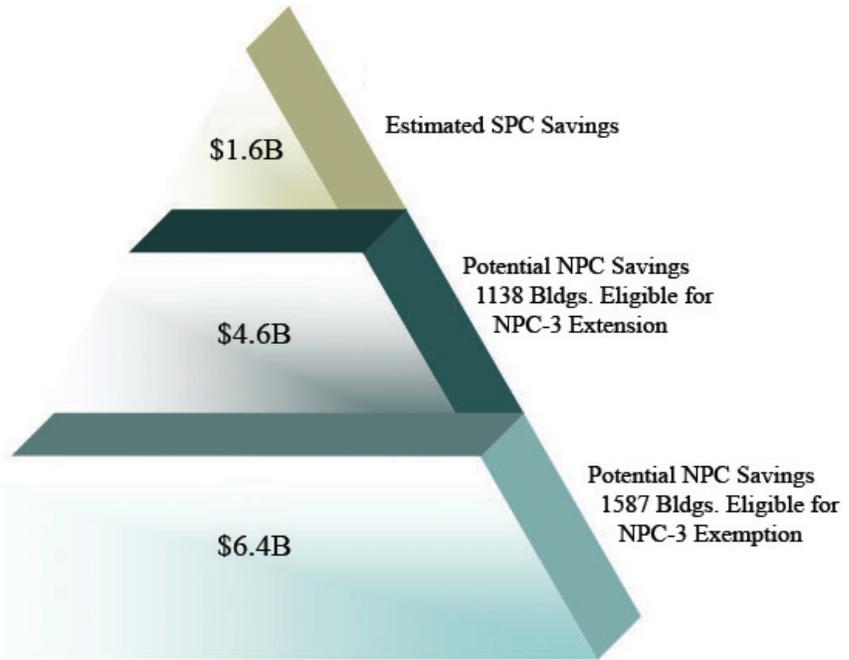
If you have questions, unresolved issues or complaints about OSHPD's Facilities Development Division (FDD), call the **Director's Ombudsman Hotline at (916) 326-3608**.

The line is available 24/7. If you have any questions, leave a voice message. Your call will be returned within two to three working days or as soon as possible. You may also e-mail your questions to: **Ombudsman@oshpd.ca.gov**.

This line is not intended to handle specific questions regarding code interpretation or routine construction. These questions should be directed to OSHPD's plan review or field personnel.

LA Office

The Southern California office of FDD is located in the Metropolitan Water District Building in downtown Los Angeles, adjacent to the historic Union Station and within minutes of the region's transportation hubs such as Amtrak, Metro Red Line (subway) and MTA bus networks. Driving directions and parking in the vicinity may be found at www.mwdh2o.com/mwdh2o/pages/about/union_station_parking_map.pdf.



Forecasted Economic and Fiscal Impact of Senate Bill 499

Total \$12.6B forecasted savings that hospitals may divert to structural seismic safety

Senate Bill 499

Senate Bill 499 (Chapter 601, Statute of 2009), which amended § 130060, 130061 and 130022 of the Health and Safety Code was signed by the Governor and filed with the Secretary of State on October 11, 2009 and became law on January 1, 2010. This law allows OSHPD to revise regulations relative to Hazards US (HAZUS) and for nonstructural performance deadlines on an “emergency” basis. It also allows hospitals that had submitted a SPC-1 (buildings most at risk of collapse) building to the Office by the June 30, 2009 deadline to be eligible for a possible two-year construction extension from 2013 to 2015. The bill makes substantial changes to the information that hospitals must report regarding their SPC-1 buildings and changes the next report deadline to November 1, 2010 instead of June 30, 2011.

The Facilities Development Division has worked with the Hospital Building Safety Board in developing the emergency regulations. The proposed regulations have been submitted to the Building Standards Commission for consideration. If adopted by the Commission, the regulations will become effective immediately after they are filed with the Secretary of State.

The proposed regulations will change the “cut score” for reclassification of a hospital building from SPC-1 to SPC-2 from .75% Probability of Collapse

(PoC) to 1.2%. Those buildings that score between the .75% and the 1.2% will be required to mitigate specified deficiencies by 2015. It is expected that more than 100 buildings will qualify for reclassification through HAZUS 2010 resulting in a potential \$1.6 billion savings to hospitals.

Those hospital buildings located in Seismic Design Category D (SDC D) will be eligible for a NPC-3 exemption and those buildings located in Seismic Category F (SDC F) will be eligible for an NPC extension to 2020. (If non-structural items in these buildings are adequately braced and the building is not badly damaged, the hospital should be able to provide basic emergency medical care following an earthquake.) It is forecasted that if all 1587 buildings in SDC D receive the exemption and all 1138 buildings in SDC F receive the extension a total of \$11 billion could be saved. This is money that hospitals would have been required to spend under current law and regulations and could be redirected to structural seismic safety. In this manner it may be possible that most, if not all, of the remaining acute care hospital SPC-1 buildings in California may be made safer with a substantially reduced possibility of collapse during a major earthquake.

Plan Review Report Card

In the works for the future, the Facilities Development Division (FDD) debuts a new communication tool that documents and evaluates the time frame from project receipt to plan approval. Known as the Plan Review Report Card this vehicle will list the following information:

- Time FDD had the planning documents
- Whether that amount of time was above or below average
- Time the design team had the planning documents
- Whether that amount of time was above or below average
- The total time for plan review from Date-in to the Plan Approval
- Whether that amount of time was above or below average
- The number of backchecks for the project
- Whether that amount of backchecks was above or below average

Hospital plan review is a collaborative process between FDD Project Managers and the architects and engineers designing the facility. Continuous interaction and communication is critical to address and resolve questions and concerns as they arise. The Plan Review Report Card will offer an unprecedented level of transparency that will inform all interested parties in a timely manner and move projects toward the shared goal of timely and efficient completion of the venture.

Initially, the Plan Review Report Cards will be available only for “G” and “S” projects, or those that are less complex and do not have major structural work. Because of the mandated furloughs, these types of projects currently have a plan review goal of seventy (70) days for first reviews, forty (40) days for back checks and thirty (30) days for post approval documents. Applicants have ninety (90) days within which to respond to any comments made on the plans by the reviewers. Therefore, the number of back checks and the amount of time the designers have the plans before resubmitting plans for back check can have a substantial impact on the overall duration of a project from first submittal to approval.

Larger, more complex “H” and “I” projects are usually “managed” projects, meaning that the time frames for reviews and resubmittals are negotiated for each project between the designers and the review team. The Plan Review Report Card program will eventually be expanded to include these projects so that hospital owners can know how well all parties kept their commitments.

The Plan Review Report Card will allow clients access to a project’s details. Interested parties will be able to compare a project’s actual statistics to averages for similar jobs. Further options will allow for comparisons to projects of a certain complexity (estimated cost) or all projects of a similar complexity (estimated cost). Averages will be computed to allow comparison of the approved project with projects of similar complexity (estimated cost). During generation of the plan approval letter, Logbook will compute project statistics to compare to the averages described above.

Look for the Plan Review Report Card as one more component of FDD’s new E-Services Portal and to be online by the second half of 2010.

Senate Bill 1953 (SB 1953) requires hospitals that have buildings that are considered hazardous and at risk of collapse or significant loss of life in the event of an earthquake or other natural disaster be replaced or retrofitted to higher seismic safety standards by 2013, or later with an approved extension. A slide presentation of OSHPD’s testimony on Hospital Seismic Safety before the California Senate Health Committee on February 17, 2010 is now available at http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/SeismicSafetyHearing_Final.pdf.



FDD’s Web Site Undergoes a Redesign

Another component of the Facilities Development Division’s (FDD) new E-Service Portal is the upcoming revamping of its Web site. The redesigned site will provide users with an improved presentation of FDD’s information in a look that will be common on multiple platforms and browsers.

Users accessing the site will encounter an attractive layout similar to one’s PC desktop with folders clearly labeled by topic and category. Clearly defined navigational menus will be highlighted and divided by specific topics and subjects allowing users to immediately access its content. All FDD pages will have a ‘popular topics’ menu on the left side of each page. This ‘breadcrumb trail’ will show viewers where they are, and provide links back to where they’ve been, as is standard in the main OSHPD Web site template. All images will be optimized for best Web retrieval and be compliant to current ADA standards.

The Facilities Development Division invites users to experience the features of its new Web site throughout 2010.



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California's Hospitals - A Beacon of Hope

California has experienced major, catastrophic earthquakes in the past and it is merely a question of when and where the next temblor may strike. These quakes have occurred throughout the state, and not just in the more commonly perceived earthquake hotbeds of Los Angeles and the Bay Area. A recent example of the unpredictable locales of these temblors was the 6.5 magnitude earthquake that occurred off the Humboldt County coast in January 2010. Additionally, as we have been reminded so vividly through the images in Haiti, earthquakes can kill hundreds of thousands, leave tens of thousands homeless and cause inestimable economic losses.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Geological Survey estimates an 80 percent to 90 percent likelihood of a 7.0 earthquake in Southern California and a 62 percent chance of a similar-size one in Northern California before 2030. A 7.0 temblor like the one that hit Haiti would pack about double the power of the Northridge quake and roughly three times the energy of Loma Prieta, which knocked down buildings, freeways and bridges as far as 40 miles from its epicenter near Aptos.

Hospitals are a beacon of life and hope for a community. Through their unique role in a society's survival capability hospitals are the first place that the public turns to in the event of a terrorist attack, earthquake or some other natural disaster for emergency care. It is crucial that hospitals remain standing and functional during one of these events for the safety of patients and staff to provide medical care to victims. If these buildings are damaged so that they cannot function, society remains vulnerable. Without functioning hospitals, it takes much longer for a community to recover from a disaster.

This prolonged recovery seriously delays the area's economic and social renewal. Because the evacuation of seriously ill patients can be detrimental and sometimes fatal, hospitals cannot be evacuated like other buildings, making it imperative that they survive earthquakes intact. Replacing a heavily damaged hospital building can often take years, depriving the community of sorely needed healthcare resources.

As we have tragically seen, the massive Haiti earthquake disabled nearly all of the country's hospitals. Haiti's injured are being treated in the streets, in tents or wherever they can be treated because their hospital facilities have collapsed. It is nearly unimaginable for Californians to have to experience scenes of American doctors performing amputations with ordinary hacksaws in the first post-quake days because sophisticated equipment those hospitals once possessed lies beneath tons of rubble.

The reality of those scenes coming closer to home provides a sobering reminder for quake prone California of the risks hospitals face in a catastrophic temblor and a reassurance that during such a crisis hospitals serve as the lifeline and beacon of hope, survival and recovery.



Haitians walk past damaged buildings on Jan. 12 in Port-au-Prince after a huge earthquake measuring 7.0 rocked the impoverished Caribbean nation of Haiti, toppling buildings and causing widespread damage and panic. AFP / Getty Images / Daniel Morel



People search for survivors among the ruins of the Childrens Hospital, following a major aftershock on Jan. 13 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Getty Images / Frederic Dupoux



Hospital Building Safety Board (HBSB)



Inspection Services Program



Building Permits and Construction Observation



Plan Review



Pre-Approvals / Special Seismic Certification



Regulations, Building Codes, Policies and Interpretations



Seismic Compliance



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