

Russell Phillips & Associates, LLC

Fire and Emergency Management for Healthcare Facilities

Full Building Evacuation (FBE) Program

The incidents of September 11, 2001, the hurricanes of 2004, 2005 and 2008, Northeast flooding of 2006, Midwest Flooding of 2008, and the wildfires in 2007 and 2008 undeniably illustrate the critical need for a prepared response system for the healthcare community to protect its patients in the event of a large scale or catastrophic event.

Internal evacuation plans -- such as those used in the event of a fire --are designed to relocate patients in immediate danger to a safe area on the same floor. Although a "last resort," any disaster could force a healthcare facility to totally evacuate its patients. It is imperative for the safety of the people involved that a pre-designed, systematic plan is in place.

Russell Phillips & Associates provides services to assess your current plan, design site-specific procedures for a Full Building Evacuation (FBE), train key leadership and department heads on the activation of the plan, and establish a continuous readiness system with annual on-site plan updates and training.

1. Assessment and Plan Design

With input from appropriate staff in your facility, we will design a FBE plan for each of the inpatient buildings that will address the following points:

- Patient Preparation and Packaging Procedures
- Evacuation routes for each patient care area and emergency response entry routes
- Travel routes for staff and Emergency Agencies moving throughout the building
- Vertical and horizontal transportation methods for patients
- Staff labor pool and transport groups to manipulate patients throughout the process
- Triage/Discharge/Holding Areas through which patients flow as they leave the facility
- Patient tracking forms and documentation approaches

2. External Resource Coordination Support

Russell Phillips & Associates will work with the hospitals and regional resources to discuss options for patient evacuation locations, transportation methods and patient tracking. Several aspects of this process will need to be completed by the hospital with Russell Phillips & Associates guidance. If a formal Mutual Aid Plan is in place between the hospitals and alternate care sites, this process will require minimal hospital involvement.

3. Training in the Use of the FBE

The FBE plan will only be as effective as the staff is knowledgeable and trained to use the system. Following the design of the FBE plan, we will provide training to include the procedures and techniques for vertical and horizontal evacuation of non-ambulatory patients.

4. Disaster Exercise

A disaster exercise will focus on communications within the building, patient packaging, patient tracking and movement of patients to the areas of discharge. There will be a formal critique of the drill with the fire department and other local (or state) emergency agencies to discuss internal and external improvements to the plan.

For more information, please contact us at 585-223-1130, via e-mail at info@phillipsllc.com or visit us on the web at www.phillipsllc.com

Principals: Russell Phillips • David Hood • Scott Aronson