



ASHE Publishes Damon Greeley Emergency Preparedness—Judiciously Pared (Down) to be Spare

Charlotte, N.C., October 22, 2008 - Tighter budget constraints for hospitals are inevitable. This means that design considerations relative to day-to-day operational issues will always surpass those necessary to respond to the next catastrophic event. As a result, design dollars for emergency preparedness may continue to be spare.

Nevertheless, those hospitals embarking upon a new construction project need to consider emergency preparedness in terms of selecting only the most critically threatening risks and respond with the most fiscally-viable design element(s). Damon Greeley has begun this conversation “A Fiscally Responsible Guide to Emergency Responsive Systems” published within the official publication of the American Society for Healthcare Engineering, i.e., *INSIDE ASHE* (September/October 2008).

Damon begins his article by describing the Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA) - the analytical base for planning a design response for emergency preparedness and ends with discussing 7 key considerations for engineers when considering emergency planning as follows:

- “Critical Axis”: Begins with the Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA)
- Loss of Communications
- Loss of Water Utility
- Loss of Normal Power & Flood
- Loss of Cooling Systems via Utility Outage
- Major Equipment Failure & Earthquake
- Mass Contagion

While healthcare engineers are well aware of the “possible events” such as epidemics, floods, earthquakes and even severe winter storms—Damon’s article gives them a few considerations help them mitigate these risks through analytical and cost-considerate design.