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AS 4083—2010

Australian Standard®

Planning for emergencies—Health care facilities

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This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee HE-026, Hospital Emergency Procedures. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 13 July 2010. This Standard was published on 9 August 2010.

The following are represented on Committee HE-026:

- Australasian College for Emergency Medicine
- Australian Centre for Security Research
- Australian College of Ambulance Professionals
- Australian Nursing Federation
- College of Emergency Nursing Australasia
- Department of Health (Western Australia)
- Department of Human Services (Victoria)
- NSW Health
- Queensland Health
- Safety Institute of Australia
- Southern Health

This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR AS 4083.

Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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Australian Standard®

Planning for emergencies—Health care facilities

Originated as AS 4083—1992.
Second edition 1997.
Third edition 2010.

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Published by SAI Global Limited under licence from Standards Australia Limited, GPO Box 476, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia

ISBN 978 0 7337 9656 2

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee HE-026, Hospital Emergency Procedures to supersede AS 4083—1997, *Planning for emergencies—Health care facilities*.

This Standard is based on AS 3745, *Emergency control organization and procedures for buildings, structures and workplaces*, but deals specifically with emergencies in health care facilities that are usually attended, in the first instance, by the facility's staff.

This Standard differs from AS 3745 as it describes the internal and external emergency procedures for health care facilities. Facilities need to consider the level of dependence placed on staff and the patient acuity when developing plans. The patient to staff ratio makes the initial response to an emergency even more critical. Facilities may also be requested and be prepared to supply resources to an event external to their site.

The information contained herein provides a framework for emergency planning management in health facilities, which includes residential care, to enhance the safety of occupants in these facilities and their visitors during an emergency. However, the size, function and location of the facility will impact upon how the Standard should be implemented.

The objective of this Standard, therefore, is to assist facilities in effectively planning for both internal and external emergencies.

Emergency management for facilities incorporates the elements of prevention (including mitigation), preparedness, response and recovery. Planning occurs at facility, local, State/Territory and national levels. An 'all hazard, all agency' comprehensive approach to emergency management requires facilities to plan in cooperation with other agencies and their community, and should recognize the scope of emergency management, including mass casualty, public health, mental health and recovery planning.

Emergencies relate to a large range of potential and actual situations of varying scales requiring immediate action. The term 'emergency' is utilized in this Standard in preference to the term 'disaster'. For the purposes of this Standard, disasters are regarded as a subset of emergencies.

The principal differences between this edition and the 1997 edition include—

(a) re-location of 'illegal occupancy' into Clause 5.5 (Code 'Black'); and

(b) the recommendation that State/Territory health departments introduce a nationally consistent and unique two- or three-digit number for notification of internal hospital emergencies.

During review of this Standard it was identified that future considerations should include integration of contemporary business continuity management principles. Also acknowledged, is the changing nomenclature surrounding emergency management and that the facility should be guided by local and State/Territory recommendations.

During the review of this Standard, account has also been taken of the following:

(i) AS 3745, *Emergency control organization and procedures for buildings, structures and workplaces*.

NOTE: AS 3745 is being revised and will be retitled, *Planning for emergencies in facilities*.

(ii) AS 4485.1, *Security for health care facilities*, Part 1*: General requirements*.

(iii) AS 4485.2, *Security for health care facilities*, Part 2: *Procedures guide*.

(iv) AS 2220.1—1989, *Emergency warning and intercommunication systems in buildings*, Part 1: *Equipment design and manufacture*.

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(v) AS/NZS/ISO 31000, *Risk management—Principles and guidelines*.

(vi) CS-FP 001—1995, *Fire Emergency Response*, (published by the Fire Protection Industry Association of Australia).

(vii) Relevant State/Territory legislation, including occupational health and safety legislation.

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The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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