Do we ever check for the Fire Safety in hospitals before we admit someone or if we are visiting there for a consultation? It is unlikely, as we are already in an emergency while we visit a hospital, Fire Safety is the last thing anyone would have in mind.
HOSPITAL SAFETY AND ITS IMPORTANCE

Hospitals have many patients admitted in critical condition. Many people who would have mobility issues and many would not even be alert in case of an emergency. By ensuring Fire Safety in hospitals, we can prevent Fire Accidents. Hospitals stack a lot of combustible materials like chemicals, Cylinders, Surgical Equipment, etc. And many hospitals also have an inbuilt Kitchen or Canteen. A Fire Accident may have a lot of casualties as the Fire may become uncontrollable in minutes. So, the hospital management should ensure that their buildings are Fire Safe all the times.

IN CASE OF FIRE CALL 101
(It’s Toll Free)
## SOME OF THE WORST FIRE ACCIDENTS IN HOSPITALS IN INDIA

### 1. AMRI Hospital, Kolkata

On December 2011, a major Fire Accident at AMRI hospital in Kolkata killed around 95 people. The main cause of this mishap was an Electrical Short Circuit and stocking of Combustible Substances in the basement. This was a case of negligence by the management of the hospital. During the Incident, the hospital had around 160 patients and also many staff members. At least 50 patients were there in the intensive ward.

### 2. IMS & SUM Hospital in Bhubaneshwar

October 17, 2016, we saw one of the worst Fire accidents in IMS & SUM Hospital, Bhubaneswar. 22 were killed and 120 were injured. In this case, the hospital staff tried to douse the Fire with Fire extinguishers and in this process, they lost almost 20 crucial minutes before they called the Fire Department. This shows the lack of preparedness of the hospital staff during emergencies.

### 3. Rohini Super specialty hospital in Hanamkonda

On October 17, 2017, an electrical short-circuit triggered a Fire in Rohini super specialty hospital in Hanamkonda, Telangana. 199 patients were admitted to this hospital at the time of the accident. Two patients died and four were injured. The hospital’s Fire Safety system did not work during this crucial time. Everyone including the doctors and hospital staff was in a state of panic and did not know how to respond.

### 4. MY Hospital Indore

The lives of 47 newborn babies were in danger when a Fire broke on November 4, 2017, at MY Hospital, Indore. Fortunately, there was no loss of life. But, it is alleged that the hospital has been flouting Fire Safety laws. In all the cases, the Fire Safety laws have been violated.
WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS TO PREVENT FIRE ACCIDENTS IN HOSPITALS?

1. Strict adherence to the Fire Safety Laws

As we mentioned in our previous posts, it is important for all buildings in India to be compliant with the National Building Code of India (NBC) Guidelines. This specifies the Fire Safety of a building.

2. Fire Drills for the staff

The staff should be trained to handle emergency situations. If they are in a state of panic, they may not be in a position to help patients who need assistance. Periodical Fire Drills for the staff prepare them for emergency situations. The Evacuation becomes much easier when the staff is prepared.
3. Fire Safety System

The hospital premises should have Fire Safety system in place. The Extinguishers, Exit Paths, Sprinklers, Hydrant, etc should be regularly checked and kept ready at all times. This ensures the building is always Fire safe.

4. Fire Safety Audit

Periodical Fire Safety Audits are also necessary. This helps the hospital management to know if there are any potential Fire Hazards. The audit also suggests preventive measures if there is any risk. The next time you visit a hospital get more aware, ask the hospital administration if they follow any of the Fire Safety guidelines mentioned above. If you are uncomfortable with the response inform the local Fire authorities and ask them to take action. You may just be doing a good deed in saving someone in your family or someone else’s family.
IN CASE OF FIRE

1. REMOVE PATIENT(S) IN IMMEDIATE DANGER
2. REPORT FIRE & LOCATION
3. CLOSE ALL DOORS AND WINDOWS TO ISOLATE FIRE
4. EXTINGUISH FIRE

Always care
Always here
Emergency Service

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Instructions for Fire Safety for Hospital Staff

Instructions for Personal Safety All Hospital Staff should know:

(1) The location of Manually Operated Electronic Fire Alarm (MOEFA) push button Fire alarm boxes.

(2) Location of the Fire extinguishers, Hose Reel, etc. provided on their respective floors.

(3) The nearest exit from their work area,

(4) Their assembly point.

(5) Attack the Fire with Fire extinguishers/hose reel provided on the floor (after taking guidance from the Fire Warden)

(6) Evacuate, as directed by the Fire warden.
Matters to be reported to the Fire/Deputy Fire Warden

(1) If any exit door/route is obstructed by loose materials, goods, boxes, etc.

(2) If any staircase door, lift lobby door does not close automatically, or does not close completely.

(3) If any push button Fire alarm point or Fire extinguisher is obstructed, damaged or apparently out of order.

Evacuation Procedure

(1) Evacuate through the nearest safe Exit.

(2) In the event that an operation is in progress, the decision to evacuate is at the discretion of the surgeon in charge of the operation.

(3) When operations are not in progress, the designated senior staff member will supervise whatever evacuations may be required by whatever means are safest.

(4) Staff should make every attempt to turn off all medical gas supplies and electrical equipment before vacating the site.
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