

cal complex; also, to advise other personnel involved in the preparation of operating rooms and vital equipment.

What we would like to show you now is a command alert telephone system that was specially designed to meet this need in any hospital with dial switching telephone service. The backbone of this system is dial switching equipment that provides the regular telephone service in a hospital.

Let me briefly describe the actions that ensue in a matter of seconds.

A patient in room 324 has suffered a cardiac arrest. A nurse can initiate an alert from any dial telephone in the hospital—the one right next to the patient's bed, for instance. There is no special telephone needed for this purpose. The nurse simply dials a special number that has been designated for this particular purpose. Let's say 1212 is this emergency number. The telephone is immediately connected to an announcement machine and a tone is returned to the telephone which tells the nurse, we are ready for message.

The nurse now simply says, "Code Blue, Room 324," and hangs up. Now, this is a typical code used to indicate an emergency condition in a hospital, "Code Blue." This has only taken the nurse a few seconds and it is all the action that is required by her to bring the patient the support she needs. She now can devote her full attention to the patient.

While the nurse is recording the message, the switching equipment is ringing preselected hospital telephones with a distinctive ringing signal. These can be any telephones associated with the hospital system and can vary according to the established emergency procedures. Anyone answering these telephones will hear the alert message, "Code Blue, Room 324."

In the event the telephone is busy at the time of the alert, spurts of tone will be heard on the line signaling that an emergency condition exists. As soon as the person hangs up the telephone, it will ring with the distinctive signal. Upon answering, they will get the alarm, "Code Blue, Room 324."

At the same time, the dial switching equipment can also seize control of the paging system, stop all public address announcements, and broadcast the alert message. Also simultaneously, signaling devices such as pocket radios, horns, bells, or lights can be activated. Any members of the resuscitation team seeing or hearing the signal will dial a predetermined number from any telephone in the hospital to receive the alert message. The emergency code would activate emergency vehicles, shutting off the 110-volt power supply that charges the self-contained batteries and activating the electronic apparatus contained in the cart, such as electrocardiographic and electroencephalographic equipment. This places all the equipment in a ready condition for service the instant the cart reaches the patient.

An elevator is a key factor in moving the resuscitation equipment to the patient and can also be activated by the dial equipment. Upon receiving a signal, the elevator will close its doors and move automatically to the floor where the resuscitation cart or equipment is stored. On arrival, the doors will open and the electric power will be cut off to prevent the car's use by anyone else during the emergency. This cuts vital seconds off the time needed to move the equipment to the patient. The elevator will then be waiting to move the patient to the operating room.