

Evacuation Assistants: for persons with Limited Mobility

Evacuation Assistants

- A person with limited mobility may choose to have a plan developed by the Fire Safety Division in which volunteers from their area can be trained in the proper techniques to use while assisting persons with limited mobility to evacuate a building during emergencies.

Mobility Impaired - Wheelchair

- Persons using wheelchairs should stay in place, or move to an area of refuge with their assistant when the alarm sounds. The evacuation assistant should then proceed to the evacuation assembly point outside the building and tell the University Police or the responding fire officials the location of the person with a disability. If the person with a disability is alone, he/she should phone emergency services at 911 with their present location and the area of refuge to which he/she is headed to.
- If the stair landing is chosen as the area of refuge, please note that many campus buildings have relatively small stair landing, and wheelchair users are advised to wait until the heavy traffic has passed before entering the stairway.
- Stairway evacuation of wheelchair users should be conducted by trained professionals (i.e. the fire department or other trained emergency responders). Only in situations of extreme danger should untrained people attempt to evacuate wheelchair users. Moving a wheelchair down the stairs is never safe.

Mobility Impaired - Non-Wheelchair

- Persons with mobility limitations, who are able to walk independently, may be able to negotiate stairs in an emergency with minor assistance. If danger is imminent, the individual should wait until the heavy traffic has cleared before attempting the stairs. If there is no immediate danger (detectable smoke, fire, or unusual odor), the person with physical limitations may choose to stay in the building, using the other options, until emergency personnel arrive and determine if evacuation is necessary.