

Evacuation for Students with Disabilities

Students with vision, hearing, or mobility disabilities, may need additional assistance during an emergency. Be aware and ready to help these students in your class. The responsibility of ensuring safe evacuation of a student with disabilities should be the the teacher in charge of the student that class hour...the classroom teacher.

Individuals who are blind or have low vision

- Communicate nature of emergency. Describe nature and location of emergency if relevant
- Offer assistance. Offer your arm to assist with guiding the individual.
- Communicate verbally. Provide details about where you are going and any obstacles in the route
- Take to assembly area. Bring student to his/her teacher on the football field, inquire if additional assistance is needed before leaving

Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing

- Alert individual. gain students attention: by touch or eye contact
- Communicate evacuation instructions: if interpreter is not present, indicate directions with gestures or written notes (may want to have some premade notes)
- Take to assembly area. Bring student to his/her teacher on the football field, inquire if additional assistance is needed before leaving

Individuals with mobility limitations (non-wheelchair and wheelchair user)

- Ask if assistance is needed and preference for how to be assisted
- Ensure clear path of travel. Wait for crowds to disperse, particularly in stairways
- No Imminent danger. If there is no imminent danger, the person may choose to remain at the Area of Refuge to wait for emergency personnel to arrive. At least one adult must stay with the student.
- Imminent danger. If danger is imminent take student to Area of Refuge and contact IC immediately. Keep in contact with IC until emergency personnel arrives to assist with evacuation. If student wishes to be carried down the stairs determine if best to move in wheelchair, use a sturdy chair, or use carrying techniques to help carry the person to safety. Untrained persons should not attempt to move person up or down stairs. Never take an electric wheelchair up or down stairs. Abandon the chair and move person to safety.
- Mobility aids or devices. Return any mobility aids or devices to the person as soon as possible
- Notify Incident Command of any students remaining in the building and location.

Utilize all aspects of monthly evacuation drills at least two drills per year.

During drills, it may not be advisable to evacuate all disabled persons from the building; potential risk of injury may outweigh the benefits of the drill. In these drills, only evacuate those individuals to the designated Areas of Rescue.

Carry Techniques

TO BE USED ONLY IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS WHERE DEATH OR SERIOUS BODILY INJURY IS IMMINENT!

One-person Carry Technique (The Cradle Lift)

- The Cradle Lift is the preferred carry method when the person to be carried has little or no arm strength. It is safer if the person being carried weighs less than the carrier.



Two-person Carry Technique (The Swing Carry or Chair Carry)

- carry partners stand opposite sides of individual
- wrap individual's closest arm around
- Grasp carry partner's forearm behind the individual in the small of the back.
- Reach under the individual's knees to grasp the wrist of carry partner's other hand.
- Both carry partners should then lean in close to the individual and lift on the count of three.
- Continue pressing into the individual being carried for additional support in the carry.



Wheel-Chair Carry (two to four people)

- Do not attempt to carry an electric wheelchair
- Ensure that the seat belt is securely fastened
- Determine which points on the wheelchair the carriers should hold on to for lifting.
 - Wheelchairs have many movable weak parts which were not constructed to withstand the stress of lifting (e.g., the seatbar footplates, wheels, movable armrests). The strongest person(s) should grip the chair handles at the back. Other assisting person(s) will grip the front seat frame or non-removable leg rests.
- Always keep the wheelchair facing away from the stairs.
- ROLL the wheelchair up or down the stairs. DO NOT carry as this may cause back trouble for the assistant. Let the wheelchair carry the weight.
- Keep the wheelchair slightly tilted back to keep the wheelchair user secure. However, do not tilt too far as this could cause the assistant to lose balance and pitch forward



Area of Refuge: North stairway landings on 2nd and 3rd floor