

Specific Recommendations for Persons with Disabilities

Visually Impaired Persons

- Tell the person the nature of the emergency
- Act as a “sighted guide” by offering an arm for guidance
- Tell the person where you are and where obstacles are located
- Upon reaching a safe location, orient the person to the location and ask if further assistance is needed

Hearing Impaired Persons

- Inform person using alternative methods
- Write a note regarding the emergency situation, the nearest evacuation route and where to meet. (Sample script: “FIRE! Go out the rear door on your right. Now! Meet outside on the front lawn.”)
- Turn the light switch on and off to gain attention, use gestures or a written note for further information and instructions. **DO NOT USE THIS TECHNIQUE IF NATURAL GAS SMELL IS PRESENT.**

Individuals in Wheelchairs/On Crutches (Non-ambulatory)

- Assist with evacuation of building and proceed to closest Designated Meeting Area (if access to exit does not require use of elevator)
- If person is on upper floor, assist to inner stairwell away from smoke, vapors or any other hazard. Most non-ambulatory persons will be able to exit safely without much assistance if they are located in an area that has exits that lead directly to the outside.
- If the individual is unable to evacuate, notify emergency personnel of their location within the building

If you are assisting a non-ambulatory person, be aware that some people have minimal ability to move and lifting them may be

dangerous to their well-being. Some individuals have very little upper trunk and neck strength.

Frequently, non-ambulatory people have respiratory complications – remove them from smoke and vapors immediately. Some people who use wheelchairs may have electrical respirators; they should be given priority assistance, as their ability to breathe may be seriously in danger.