

## **Evacuation Guide for People with Physical Disabilities**

The College is committed to ensuring the safety of all community members, including those who may require special assistance during an emergency. Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to prepare personal emergency plans tailored to their specific needs, including evacuation and sheltering procedures. If applicable, supportive personnel such as personal care attendants should be included in emergency plans as well.

How an individual with a disability responds to an emergency depends on the type of emergency, the specific disability, and the individual's location on campus. The planning steps identified below will: (1) ensure that you are familiar with accessible exit routes and other safety features of the building, (2) ensure that emergency response personnel know that you may need additional assistance to evacuate the building.

### **Planning Steps:**

- Communication devices, cell phone batteries, alerting devices, and other critical items (e.g. medications) should be placed in an emergency evacuation "to go" bag.
- Identify primary and secondary routes to exits, stairwells or areas of refuge.
- If appropriate, contact the Disability Services Center.
- Contact the Fire Marshal to assist you in your planning efforts and advise them of any special circumstances they may encounter during an evacuation so they can prepare i.e. (Battery powered motorized wheel chair, etc.).

### **During an Evacuation:**

- Immediately move to your pre-designated area of refuge.
- Contact University Police at (934) 420-2111 via cell phone or call box. Provide your location and describe any specific evacuation assistance you may need.
- Position yourself so that you are not blocking the egress flow of other evacuees.
- Avoid blocking stairwell doors.
- Await instructions - Emergency personnel may determine it is safer to remain where you are. If so, stay calm and wait until the "All Clear" signal is given.