Evacuation Procedure – Persons With Special Needs

Some UAlbany Community members cannot, due to a permanent or temporary disability, readily exit a building from the upper floors during a fire alarm activation. These persons should seek refuge on the landing of a fire rated exit stair tower. Fire rated exit stairs are posted with tactile signage. One stair tower in each of the Academic Podium fire rated stair towers is equipped with a red phone, or direct dial telephone that connects the caller with the 911 Dispatcher at the University Police Building on campus. Directions to the nearest red phones can also be located in most classrooms and conference rooms on the Academic Podium.

Fire rated enclosures, known as Areas of Refuge, may exist in certain areas of UAlbany buildings. These rooms or enclosures will be posted with signage indicating that they are Areas of Refuge. Persons unable to exit a building on their own may seek refuge in these areas, which are equipped with two-way communication to the campus 911 Dispatcher.

On the Academic Podium, building Fire Marshals perform a quick sweep of their assigned areas to note to location of any persons seeking assistance in evacuation. The location of these persons should be reported immediately to on-scene University Police or firefighting personnel. Disabled persons may also use a blue light telephone or red colored phone to let the 911 Dispatcher know their location and status. They can contact emergency services on their cell phone by dialing 518-442-3131.

This procedure should be practiced during regular evacuation drills, which are held in the academic buildings three times annually. Four fire drills are conducted in each residence hall every year. Building occupants should pre-plan emergencies by noting the location of fire rated exit stairs, exit doors, emergency communications (blue light telephones or red phones), and Areas of Refuge. Any questions or non-emergency concerns should be reported promptly to Fire Safety at 518-442-3400.

Resident students with hearing impairments can request a “bed shaker” from the Office of Residential Life that will assist with fire alarm notification, even when the student is asleep in bed. These devices work in conjunction with the building fire alarm system to cause a vibration in the bed, alerting the student to a fire alarm activation.