

## **Individuals with Disabilities and Fire Safety**

In the event of a fire or other emergency that requires the evacuation of the building, individuals with disabilities on the upper floor of MU buildings should move to the stairwells and remain there until rescue assistance arrives.

These individuals may also have pre-arranged provisions for getting assistance to get down the stairs.

Do not attempt to use the elevators during a building evacuation.

Any individual in a residence life building who has a hearing disability can request a strobe light in their room. Contact Housing and Residential Programs staff to request a strobe light.

Any individual with a disability who requires an accommodation relating to fire safety (strobe light) should contact Facilities Management

## **Evacuation Procedures – Persons with Disabilities**

### **People Who Are Mobile**

- Persons who can evacuate with little or no assistance should be directed to the nearest exit.
- People with visual disabilities will hear the sirens warning them that they need to evacuate. Do not assume that a visually impaired individual needs assistance; ask them if they need help finding their way out of the building.
- People with hearing impairment will see the strobe lights indicating the alarm has activated and they need to evacuate the building.

### **People Who Are Not Mobile or Are Trapped on Upper Floors of Buildings**

- If there is a fire, the elevators will not work. The person should be directed to a stair tower. There, evacuation and rescue will be provided by emergency responders such as the Millersville Fire Department firefighters.
- If another person can wait with the person who is mobility impaired, in the stair tower, until rescuers arrive, that is helpful.
- It is imperative that someone communicate, to the arriving rescue personnel, the locations of all people with disabilities in the building and their exact location.
- Firefighters and emergency personnel will prioritize these areas for rescue operations. In ideal situations, one or more people exit the building and find the emergency responders to communicate this information, while another individual waits with the mobility impaired person in the stair tower.

- If an immediate evacuation is necessary, the person with a mobility disability may not be able to wait for rescue by emergency responders. In this situation, it is best to ask the person with a disability how best to aid them and effect the evacuation. Some persons may need to be carried, while others may need assistance walking. This should always be a last resort when an immediate threat is determined to be present.
- Persons with disabilities, especially mobility disabilities, like all students and employees, need to be familiar with the location of primary and back up exit pathways, elevators, stair towers, etc.
- Some people with disabilities, especially students, make prior arrangements to have friends come and assist them if they are on the top floors of our buildings, in the event of a fire or emergency. This practice is encouraged.