EVACUATING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Persons using a wheel chair.

First responders are trained to assist persons in wheelchairs to evacuate buildings. However, if a person in a wheelchair is in immediate danger and asks for your assistance, you may. If it is safe to do so, assist them to relocate to a safer location such as a stairwell. Once you have evacuated the building, immediately inform Fire Wardens, Campus Security or an available first responder of the location of any person or persons in a wheelchair who remains in the building.

Persons who are visually impaired.

Most persons who are visually impaired will be familiar with their immediate area. Tell the person the nature of the emergency and offer to guide him/her. As you walk, tell the person where you are and advise of any obstacles. When you have reached safety, orient the person to where he/she is and ask if any further assistance is needed. Please do not leave the person alone.

Persons who are hearing impaired.

Persons who are hearing impaired may not perceive emergency alarms and an alternative warning technique may be required. An example is: Turning the light switch on and off to gain attention, then indicating through gestures or in writing what is happening and what to do (e.g. "FIRE – Go out rear door to the right and down, NOW!").

If you are a student with a disability.

If you know you will require assistance in the event of an emergency and/or if you are unable to walk down the evacuation stairwells on your own, make arrangements for assistance in advance of an emergency. This could include arranging for someone (e.g. a roommate or classmate) to accompany you to a safe stairwell where first responders can provide further assistance.

For further information on Evacuating People Who Need Assistance in an Emergency, see the Government of Canada’s Office of Disability Issues Planning for Safety Guide at:

If you will require assistance evacuating and would like to arrange an evacuation plan, please contact:
Student Accessibility Services: 204-474-7423 or online at http://umanitoba.ca/student/saa/accessibility/
or
Environmental Health and Safety: 204-474-6633 or online at http://umanitoba.ca/admin/vp_admin/risk_management/ehso/