

Evacuation of Disabled People

Fire drills should be undertaken at least annually, more frequently where there are staff / occupancy changes.

Six monthly fire drills are recommended.

A **sufficient number** of volunteer helpers should be **trained** in the use of **specialised equipment** for this purpose, e.g. 'evacuation chairs' or how to carry people down the stairs safely.

Purpose designed **evacuation lifts** are suitable for use by disabled persons **in the event of fire.**

However, where a **lift does not meet this criteria**, disabled persons should be **assisted** from upper floors **to a place of safety outside** by **trained personnel**, via the **protected stairways.**

It is normal practice where disabled people work on upper floors of buildings, to **provide a safe 'refuge' within a fire protected area.**

Such areas should be **clearly marked** and allow **sufficient space for wheelchair users to await assistance**, whilst maintaining **unhindered egress for the able-bodied.**

In order **to avoid congestion** on the staircase, **disabled persons** should be assisted or **guided out** of the premises by their helpers **after the main 'body' of occupants** has passed.

Without exception, disabled members of staff should take part in fire drills.