

Fire Evacuation plan with Disability

Ambulatory Mobility Disabilities

This subcategory includes people who can walk but with difficulty or who have a disability that affects gait. It also includes people who do not have full use of their arms or hands or who lack coordination. People who use crutches, canes, walkers, braces, artificial limbs, or orthopedic shoes are included in this category. Activities that may be difficult for people with mobility disabilities include walking, climbing steps or slopes, standing for extended periods of time, reaching, and fine finger manipulation.

Generally speaking, if a person cannot physically negotiate, use, or operate some part or element of a standard building egress system, like stairs or the door locks or latches, then that person has a mobility impairment that affects his or her ability to evacuate in an emergency unless alternatives are provided.

Circulation Path

A ***circulation path*** is a continuous and unobstructed way of travel from any point in a building or structure to a public way.

The components of a circulation path include but are not limited to rooms, corridors, doors, stairs, smokeproof enclosures, horizontal exits, ramps, exit passageways, escalators, moving walkways, fire escape stairs, fire escape ladders, slide escapes, alternating tread devices, areas of refuge, and elevators.

A circulation path is considered a ***usable circulation path*** if it meets one of the following criteria:

- ◆ A person with disabilities is able to travel unassisted through the circulation path to a public way.
- ◆ A person with disabilities is able to travel unassisted through that portion of the circulation path necessary to reach an area of refuge. (See 7.2.12 of NFPA 101®, *Life Safety Code*®, for more information.)

An ***area of refuge*** serves as a temporary haven from the effects of a fire or other emergency. The person with disabilities must have the ability to travel from the area of refuge to the public way, although such travel might depend on the assistance of others. If elevation differences are involved, an elevator or other evacuation device might be used, or the person might be moved by other people using a cradle carry, a swing (seat) carry, or an in-chair carry or by a stair descent device. (See 7.2.12 of NFPA 101®, *Life Safety Code*®, for more information.)

Who Will Provide the Assistance?

Anyone in the Office or Building

People with mobility impairments who are able to go up and down stairs easily but have trouble operating door locks, latches, and other devices due to impairments of their hands or arms can be assisted by anyone. A viable plan to address this situation may be for the person with the disability to

be aware that he or she will need to ask someone for assistance with a particular door or a particular device. It is important to remember that not everyone in a building is familiar with all the various circulations paths everywhere in the building and that they may have to use an unfamiliar one in the event of an emergency.

Specific Person(s) in the Office or Building

- ◆ Friend or co-worker
 - ❖ Relative
 - ❖ Supervisor
 - ❖ Building staff
 - ❖ Floor safety warden
- ◆ First responders
 - ❖ Floor safety warden
 - ❖ Fire fighter
 - ❖ Police officer
 - ❖ Emergency medical services: emergency medical technicians (EMTs), ambulance personnel