# Areas of Refuge

An **"Area of Refuge"** is a term used to define where a person can safely be stationed in the building if they are unable to evacuate using the Exit Stairs. At Brock University the Areas of Refuge are any designated Exit Stair within the building.

Exit stairs are designed and constructed fire separations from the remainder of the floor area, in addition the landings are designed to accommodate wheel chairs (in some cases can accommodate more) and waiting persons who cannot descend the stairs without impeding the evacuation of the rest of the occupants.

Once inside the Exit Stair there is a higher level of protection from smoke and fire and are therefore the safest place and operationally an ideal place to remain. It should be understood that rescue by fire fighters is not inevitable, nor is evacuating via the elevator a certainty. If it is a true emergency, the fire department will retrieve all those persons waiting in/at the Areas of Refuge.

It is critical that either a co-worker, Emergency Warden or Buddy advise Campus Security Services and or the Fire Department of the persons waiting in the Area of refuge and or the persons contact the 24x7 emergency number **(905-688-5550 ext: 3200)** and advise them of their location and nature of impairment.

***For more information contact:***
Rick Fraser, Emergency Preparedness & Life Safety Officer
Human Resources and Environment, Health & Safety
Telephone: 905-688-5550 ext. 3284
Email: rfraser2@brocku.ca