

## *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.

ONLY the Schmon Tower and Thistle Complex are equipped with Firefighter Phones, these phones are located outside the EXIT STAIRS (Area of Refuge) on every level.

- ❖ In the event of a fire, these phones would be utilized by the responding fire department to coordinate responses.
- ❖ That said these phones CAN be used by anyone during an alarm to report dangerous conditions, Persons Requiring Assistance who have taken a position at the Area of Refuge can use them to communicate with responders at the fire alarm panel, etc.
- ❖ Direct connect to the Lobby Fire Panel
- ❖ Break Glass and life receiver off of cradle
- ❖ Approximately 10 – 20 second delay to connect (will hear what sounds like a “busy” signal)
- ❖ Line can handle up to 6 phones at one time from different locations



ALL other Areas of Refuge NOT fitted with the Red Firefighter phones is fitted with a yellow Emergency Phone; these are 2-way voice communication call box that is a direct connect to Campus Security Services, 24x7:



Please access the University [Emergency & Life Safety webpage](#) or additional safety related information.

***For more information contact:***

Campus Security Services  
T: 905-688-5550 ext. 4300  
E: [security@brocku.ca](mailto:security@brocku.ca)  
Twitter: @Brocklifesafety

OR

Health, Safety & Wellness  
T: 905-688-5550 ext. 7233  
E: [besafe@brocku.ca](mailto:besafe@brocku.ca)