

Person Requiring Assistance (PRA)

It is the Employer's responsibility to ensure that persons requiring assistance (P.R.A) to evacuate are provided information on plans in place to ensure their safety during emergency situations. Persons Requiring Assistance also has a responsibility to indicate if alternative measures and shall discuss an Individualized Emergency Plan with their Supervisor. Monitors may be assigned to assist with evacuation (see Monitors responsibilities section below).

People who may require assistance may fall into one of the following five groups¹:

- **Mobility**
 - Mobility limitations may make it difficult for a person to use stairs or move quickly over long distances. These can include reliance on mobility devices such as a wheelchair, scooter, walker, crutches or a walking cane.
 - In addition, people with a heart condition or various respiratory difficulties can experience certain levels of mobility limitations.
- **Vision**
 - Vision loss can include a broad range of conditions ranging from complete blindness to partial of low vision that cannot be corrected with lenses or surgery.
 - A person's ability to read signs or move through unfamiliar environments during an emergency may be challenged, creating a feeling of being lost and/or being dependent on others for guidance.
- **Hearing**
 - A person can be deaf, deafened or hard of hearing. The distinction between these terms is based on the individual's language and means of communicating rather than the degree of hearing loss.
 - In an emergency, the method in which emergency warnings are issued becomes critical to how a person with hearing loss is able to respond and follow instructions to safety.
- **Non-Visible Disabilities**
 - Non-visible disabilities can include communication, cognitive, sensory, mental health, learning or intellectual disabilities in which an individual's ability to respond to an emergency is restricted.

Persons Requiring Assistance (PRA) should be identified prior to emergencies; PRA's should make a point of advising the Dept. Chairs / Division Head and each facilitator, demonstrator, instructor, etc. at the on-set of each new term of their limitations and assistance that they MAY require in the event of an evacuation. Dept. Chairs / Division Head should ensure that their personnel discuss methods of evacuating persons requiring assistance, or what action to take in the event that a person is unable to evacuate.

¹ Emergency Preparedness Guide for People with Disabilities / Special Needs – Emergency Management Ontario, 2007.

Although much of the planning and execution during evacuations is done by the Employer and the University, it is highly recommended that PRA's perform their own pre-planning at the start of each term. These steps may consist of:

Research the rooms you are scheduled to take classes in, be aware of:

- The room layout
- Accessible Exit(s)
- Seating in relation to the exits
- Posted plans with maps
- The closest Area of Refuge (exit stair)

Solicit the help of one or more individuals to be a "Monitor" in your work area(s) or each room you are scheduled to attend to assist in the event of an evacuation; advise the room Facilitator of your presence and any assistance that MAY be required in the event of an evacuation.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like further information concerning procedures and steps to be taken contact the [Manager, Emergency Management & Life Safety](#)

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

For more information contact:

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