



Before the Emergency (FIRE)

- **Emergency Plan:** Develop a comprehensive emergency plan that includes specific provisions for individuals with disabilities. Involve disabled individuals and their caregivers in creating the plan to address their unique needs.
- **Communication:** Establish a clear communication plan, including methods such as text messages, visual signals, or communication boards for those with speech or hearing impairments. Ensure everyone knows how to call for help.
- **Alert Systems:** Install fire alarms and smoke detectors that are designed to accommodate individuals with hearing impairments. These alarms may include flashing lights and bed shakers.
- **Escape Routes:** Identify accessible escape routes from the building for disabled individuals. Ensure these routes are clear of obstructions and well-lit.
- **Designated Meeting Points:** Establish designated meeting points outside the building where everyone can gather after evacuating. Ensure that these meeting points are accessible for disabled individuals.
- **Emergency Supplies:** Prepare a portable emergency kit with essential items like medication, medical supplies, mobility aids, and important documents. Keep this kit in an easily accessible location.
- **Training:** Train caregivers, family members, and staff on how to assist disabled individuals during an

During the Emergency (Fire):

Sound the Alarm: When a fire is detected, activate the fire alarm system immediately to alert everyone in the building. Make sure everyone knows the sound of the alarm.

Call for Help: Dial emergency services (e.g., 911) and inform them of the location, the presence of disabled individuals, and any specific needs they may have.

Assist Disabled Individuals: Depending on the disability and the individual's mobility, provide assistance with evacuation. If the person uses a wheelchair or mobility device, transfer them into an evacuation chair or use the building's evacuation plan for non-ambulatory individuals.

Use Communication Methods: Use established communication methods to ensure everyone understands the situation and the evacuation plan. Be patient and clear in your instructions.

Check Doorways and Exits: Ensure that exit doors and pathways are clear of obstacles and debris. Do not use elevators during a fire evacuation.

Alert Others: If you encounter other building occupants, alert them to the fire and the evacuation process. Offer assistance to disabled individuals if needed.

Stay Low: In case of heavy smoke, stay close to the ground where the air is clearer, especially if you're assisting someone who has difficulty breathing.

Meet at Designated Point: After evacuating, gather at the designated meeting point outside the building and account for all individuals, including disabled ones.