

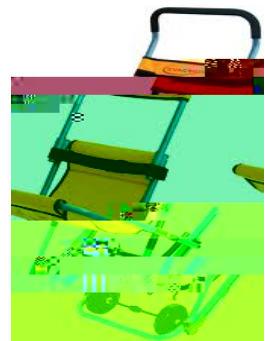


This Safety Note explains the general principles that underpin the provision and use of "Evacuation Chairs" for mobility impaired people as part of the fire evacuation procedures in University buildings.

A Disabled Evacuation Chair is a specially designed folding chair that can be used to transport a disabled person down a building fire evacuation staircase. A typical chair is shown here.

If a need arises for escape up an evacuation staircase e.g. from a basement area, an evacuation chair may be modified with carrying handles to allow this to happen. Any chair modified as described may need as many as four people to undertake an evacuation up a staircase.

Note: evacuation chairs are NOT suitable for use on circular stairs or on some external escape stairs.



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type of assistance required by the disabled person.

It is important to consult with the disabled person and explain the purpose of the refuge areas, evacuation chairs and the evacuation procedure. The Fire Wardens, evacuation chair operatives and any other

Some wheelchair users will have life support or essential equipment linked directly between themselves and the chair. This can usually be removed for short time periods then re-connected. However the chair and any equipment fitted to it may need to be carried downstairs, p

The chairs require an annual inspection by a competent person. The annual inspections will be arranged by Health and Safety Services and carried out by the University's chair supplier, the Escape Mobility Company. In addition building management should carry out regular visual checks on the chairs to ensure that they are available for use and undamaged. Any defects should be notified to Health and Safety Services.

University buildings have been adapted to facilitate access for disabled people. If any difficulties are experienced in accessing or exiting a building or in developing an