



# THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

## Office of Disaster Recovery and Emergency Preparedness

### Persons Requiring Assistance

During an emergency event and where there is a requirement to evacuate a floor or building on campus, it is critical to identify “persons requiring assistance” (PRA). During an emergency, some people may become concerned about their ability to be safe, due to health conditions or physical limitations which may impede the evacuation process. It is important that these persons are identified and can rely on a point of contact to provide assurance and ensure that during an emergency event, that their safety needs will be met and until such a time that emergency personnel can assist in their safe evacuation, where required.

Some instances of Persons Requiring Assistance include:

- Individuals requiring the use of a wheelchair, walker, crutches, cane or other mobility assisting device.
- Individuals with temporary conditions and are under recovery, such as; post-surgery, breaks and/or sprains.
- Persons with Vision and/or hearing impairment
- Those whom are pregnant
- Individuals with breathing related health concerns (asthma, etc.)
- Individuals with not readily identifiable or apparent health concerns (arthritis, etc.)
- Individuals whom have any limitation which would limit their ability to descend stairs or be a part of an evacuation process.

Although it is important to identify in advance persons whom may have difficulty with an evacuation process, you may not have this known to you until an actual emergency/evacuation event is occurring.

It is imperative that all persons, regardless of their disability and/or limitation, be afforded all necessary measures to ensure their protection and safety in situations of risk.

A list of persons whom have not been evacuated from their area of work as a result of requiring assistance (building, floor and area of refuge) shall be provided immediately upon evacuation to Campus Security and/or Emergency Personnel.



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### Protect In Place

For those individuals that require special assistance or whom are not readily able to evacuate the building or area, the University of Winnipeg has determined safe areas (refuge) in the designated work space or general area, which will serve as Protect in Place (PIP) locations.

- Relocate to an evacuation stairwell, marked by a red EXIT sign.
- In most cases, signage which specifically indicates that an area is PRA / PIP designated will be posted on each floor of campus buildings. These areas will typically be stairwells, however not in all circumstances.
- Advise Campus Security and Fire Personnel of the PIP location, identifying the stairwell number or a nearby room number.
- Wait NEAR the enclosed exit stairwell if there is NO smoke or other immediate threats to your safety. Most fire alarm activations are brief, allowing occupants to return within a few minutes.
- If smoke, fire, or other threat is imminent, move into the stairwell.
- After the flow of evacuees has passed below your floor level, enter the stairwell with assistant(s) and wait on the stair landing. Make sure that the door is securely closed.
- Wait for assistance. First responders will be assigned to assist you if an evacuation is necessary.