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We'd love to hear it!

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Ok, I have to evacuate, but how far do I need to go?

*By Allan B. Fraser, CBI, CPCA,
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This is the third in the ten part series on personal disaster planning.

In the last two issues we've talked about the first two parts in preparing for an evacuation, the types of incidents that might cause us to have to evacuate and the typical warning times that you'll likely have before the incident.

There are two definitions of evacuate that really fit what we're talking about, the second being much more descriptive,

: to leave (a dangerous place)

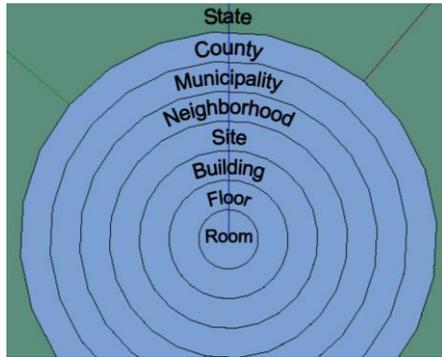
: to withdraw from a place in an organized way especially for protection

NFPA's *Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide for People with Disabilities* deals with the events, notification and your personal evacuation plan to get out of the building that you're in.

Let's look at the graphic of the "Incident Area Model" below. The distance you need to go to be safe will vary greatly depending on the incident. A waste basket fire may mean that you only have to leave the room, but a hurricane like Katrina or Sandy may mean that you'll need to travel tens or hundreds of miles to get to a safe place.

Once you're out, you may need to get to some temporary shelter. It might be close like with neighbors, friends, family or a rented place like a hotel or other facility, but it could be much further. NFPA's *Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide for People with Disabilities* only covers the first three rings of the "Incident

Area Model". What about the other five rings?



Incident Area Model

If you only need to get out of your building, the "Guide" will work well to help you develop and practice your plan. However, if the incident necessitates that you move further out into rings 3 through 7, your plan needs to be much more robust as the incident involves a larger and larger area. Planning ahead of time is crucial.

Let's think about a wildland fire for a moment. There have been some very large wildland fires in the western United States over the past few years. Not only have they burned large areas, but they have been unpredictable in the paths they've taken and have changed direction often. So you not only need to know how far you have to go, but also in what direction do you need to go "to leave a dangerous place for your protection?"

What about a flood? Again, hurricanes Katrina and Sandy not only caused damage from strong winds, but are examples of the impact that subsequent flooding can have over very large areas that are relatively flat.

Even in areas that are far from the ocean or those at high elevations flooding can be dangerous. Vermont has had numerous flash floods from torrential rains that have caused flooding and major damage in narrow river valleys destroying homes and bridges. In some cases the only viable evacuation route was to go up to higher elevations and also limiting the number potential shelters.

So how far would you personally have to go for each of the incidents that you might be affected by?

Each incident will likely require a different plan even though they all start at the same place. It's never too early to start building your plan! Some plans, by necessity, will be much more complex than others. You don't want to wait to evacuate!!

In the next issue I'll talk about planning for where you'll stay

once you get to a safe location. Equally important is how long you'll need to stay there before you can get back into your home. We'll discuss that in the next issue.

Part Four of the ten-part series will be in the next issue, March, 2017.



[32nd Annual CSUN Conference on Technology & People with Disabilities](#)

February 27th to March 4th 2017 -San Diego, CA

By: Allan B. Fraser, CBI, CPCA, Senior Building Code Specialist

The simple fact is that, for people with disabilities, being prepared for fire and life safety emergencies is even more important than it is for the rest of the population because it is much harder for them to access safety

information and to navigate the built environment during emergencies. The 32nd Annual CSUN (California State University at Northridge) Conference on Technology and People with Disabilities will be held at the San Diego Manchester Grand Hyatt hotel. It will be another wonderful opportunity for NFPA to continue to reach out to this community. The conference draws more than 4,500 persons annually who attend sessions, visit the exhibit halls, and participate in affiliate meetings and informal gatherings.

The conference strives to present a best-practices approach for the education of students, professionals and consumers involved with the many aspects of technology and disability. Your experience, gained through practical applications and/or research, is vital to the promotion of effective assistive technology practices on a widespread basis.

This will be the ninth year that I'll attend the CSUN Conference as NFPA's representative, and each year I've seen the Conference grow in scope, the number of attendees, the content, and in its influence as the largest event of its type in the world.



Last year, there were 388 general sessions and workshops which is up almost 10% from the prior year. There were over 5,000 participants from all 50 states, numerous territories, and more than 35 foreign countries. There were 124 exhibitors, up 3% from the prior year. I'm sure the 2017 Conference will continue this growth.

Be sure to regularly check the conference website at: <http://www.csun.edu/cod/conference/2017/sessions/> for updates on session, events and all the latest information on the conference. NFPA's mission, work, and activities in the disability community will be displayed at Booth 914 again this year as well as presenting an educational session entitled "Ten Questions You Must Ask and Answer to Successfully Evacuate!" on Friday, March 3, 2017 at 2:20pm in Hillcrest CD on the 3rd level of the Seaport Tower.



A successful ADA National Network Learning Session thru the Pacific ADA Center, held a webinar on NFPA's 2nd edition of the *Emergency Evacuation Planning for People with Disabilities* on October 27th, 2016.



I was honored to be invited to be the presenter for this webinar. In addition to my duties staffing

seven technical code committees, I staff's NFPA's *Disability Access Review and Advisory Committee* and I represent NFPA on a number of committees of other standards developers.

General advice about major disasters says each of us will very likely need to take care of ourselves for the first 24 to 72 hours. The former chair of the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) *Disability Access and Review and Advisory Committee* said "Every one of us should be prepared to take some responsibility for our own safety regardless of our circumstances."

To that end, the NFPA created the *Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide for People with Disabilities* in 2007 and released the second edition June 1st, 2016. It provides assistance to people with disabilities, their employers, building owners and managers, and others as they develop emergency evacuation plans that integrate the needs of people with disabilities. This guidance can be used in all buildings, whether old or new.

The ADA National Learning Session on the "Guide" reviewed the 2nd edition's major topics and updated materials.

Learning objectives were to identify the specific functions that are part of a process of evacuating a building and how to build a successful plan for each individual from the various locations they might frequently occupy.



NFPA's New Technical Committee on *Building Fire & Life Safety Directors* Conducts Its First Face-to-Face Meeting

Established in April of 2015 the *Technical Committee on Building Fire & Life Safety*

Directors held its first face-to-face meeting at NFPA Headquarters November 8-10, 2016 after holding a number of webinars.

emergencies within occupied structures having an occupant load of greater than 500, except for industrial occupancies.

Applications for membership can be completed online at:

- **Building Fire & Life Safety Directors (BLF-AAA):** [Submit online application](#)

This committee is charged with the development of multiple national standards related to facility emergency action plans and the professional qualifications for facilities safety directors. This committee, its scope and the documents that it will develop should be of great interest to the disability community as both its professional qualifications document and all its emergency actions plans will incorporate provisions for people with disabilities from the beginning.

At its November 8-10, 2016 meeting, the committee developed chapters on definitions, reference documents, administration and "job performance requirements" (JPR's) by which facilities safety directors will be measured and tested for certification. They developed seven (7) duties for the position under which are contained some twenty-nine (29) tasks. Their draft document will be sent to NFPA's *Professional Qualifications Correlating Committee* in early December and then to NFPA's *Standards Council* to be placed in cycle and posted to receive public inputs. Watch for further news in the coming months.



By definition, a collection is a group of objects or works to be seen, studied, or kept together. The purpose of this column is to provide you with links to news items, stories, and general information that you may not be aware of but that may help you reduce the burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of your own life or that of family and friends.

The committee's scope has two parts:

First, "This committee shall have primary responsibility for documents related to the duties, requirements, and competencies required of Facility Safety Directors.

The Committee currently has eighteen (18) principal members and three (3) alternates. This is a very large and important project and we'd like to see a full committee of thirty (30) members and thirty (30) alternates including people to represent the various disability communities.

Second, "This committee shall also have primary responsibility for the establishment of minimum requirements for emergency action plans addressing all-hazard

- [Grim mystery after five die in fire at adult-care facility in Temecula](#)
- [Why developmentally disabled victims couldn't escape Temecula fire remains a mystery](#)
- [Deaths of 3 mentally disabled brothers in fire](#)
- [investigated as triple homicide](#)
- [81-Year-Old Woman Dies in House Fire](#)
- [Elderly man dies in Chatham fire](#)
- [3rd Person Dies As Result Of Fire At Home For Disabled](#)
- [Disabled Iredell man burned in welding fire dies](#)

NFPA Coming Events

December 2016

- Dec. 2** [NFPA 101 and NFPA 80 Fire Door Inspection for Health Care Facilities 1-Day Classroom Training](#), Quincy, MA
- Dec. 2** [Automatic Sprinkler Systems \(2016\) Plans Review 1-Day Classroom Training](#), Warren, NJ
- Dec. 12-16** NFPA Classroom Training Week, Anaheim, CA
- [NFPA 70](#), National Electrical Code (NEC) (2014) Essentials 3-day Classroom Training
 - [NFPA 101](#), Life Safety Code (2012) Essentials for Health Care Occupancies 3-day Classroom Training
 - [NFPA 70E](#), Electrical Safety in the Workplace (2015) 2-day Classroom Training
 - [NFPA 72](#), National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code (2016) 3-day Classroom Training
 - [NFPA 101](#), Life Safety Code (2015) Essentials 3-Day Classroom Training
 - [NFPA 13](#), Installation of Sprinkler Systems (2016) 3-day Classroom Training
 - [NFPA 99](#), Health Care Facilities Code (2012) 2-Day Classroom Training
 - [Certified Fire Protection Specialist Primer](#) 2-day Classroom Training
 - [Certified Fire Inspector I](#), 4-Day Classroom Training

Dec. 12-16 NFPA Classroom Training Week, Orlando, FL

- [NFPA 70](#), National Electrical Code (NEC) (2014) Essentials 3-day Classroom Training
- [NFPA 101](#), Life Safety Code (2012) Essentials for Health Care Occupancies 3-day Classroom Training
- [NFPA 70E](#), Electrical Safety in the Workplace (2015) 2-day Classroom Training
- [NFPA 72](#), National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code (2016) 3-day Classroom Training
- [NFPA 101](#), Life Safety Code (2015) Essentials 3-Day Classroom Training
- [NFPA 13](#), Installation of Sprinkler Systems (2016) 3-day Classroom Training
- [NFPA 99](#), Health Care Facilities Code (2012) 2-Day Classroom Training
- [NFPA 25](#), Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems (2017) 1-Day Classroom Training
- [Certified Fire Protection Specialist Primer](#) 2-day Classroom Training

January 2017

Jan. 8-12 Jubail Industrial College Hosts NFPA Training in Saudi Arabia, NFPA 13 - 2016 edition, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems Training and Exam. [Get more information.](#)

Future NFPA Conference & Expo dates

- **June 4-7, 2017**, [Boston Convention and Exhibition Center](#), Boston, MA
- **June 4-7, 2018**, [Mandalay Bay Convention Center](#), Las Vegas, NV

[See NFPA's complete online calendar.](#)



Do you have a story to tell or information to share?

Our readers are people with disabilities, and their relatives, caregivers, and friends.

Our goals are to:

- Provide specialized information about fire and life safety for people with disabilities directly to those with disabilities and to those who help them in order to reduce or eliminate death and injury from fire and other emergencies.
- Provide a forum for the collection and dissemination of information for people with disabilities in support of DARAC's mission.
- Provide personal stories about events, ideas, or solutions from our readers that can guide others in similar circumstances.

Content for future editions will include:

- NFPA-related news
- DARAC news
- NFPA codes- and standards-related information
- Fire safety tips
- Emergency evacuation information
- Articles relating to the safety of people with disabilities from:

- NFPA staff
- DARAC members
- Other national advocates
- General news
- Our readers
- News from other standards-developing organizations' news
 - [U.S. Access Board](#)
 - [ANSI/ICC A117, Standard for Accessible Buildings and Facilities](#)
 - [RESNA](#)
 - [U.S. Department of Justice](#)
 - Other

We'd love to hear your stories and opinions! If you'd like to contribute an article or information consistent with the outline above, please e-mail them to Allan B. Fraser, senior building code specialist and e-ACCESS coordinator, at afraser@nfpa.org.

Did You Miss an Issue?



No problem! [You can read the back issues of e-ACCESS by clicking here.](#)

December, 2016

Sign up for NFPA's free e-ACCESS newsletter @ www.nfpa.org/e-access.

NEWSLETTER