

If your child has a service dog, you may want to consider the following....



Have you discussed with school, firefighters and emergency responders their preferences with regard to evacuation and handling of the service dog?



Is the designated school staff person willing to take responsibility for the service dog as well as your child?



What is the best way to assist the service dog if it becomes hesitant or disoriented?

NH RESOURCES

NH Department of Safety

Division of Fire Safety

(603) 271-3294

NH Bureau of Emergency

Medical Services

(888) 827-5367

NH EMS for Children Project

(603) 653-1131



NH Family Voices

A Family to Family Health
Information and Education Center

129 Pleasant St.

Concord, NH 03301

Phone: (800) 852-3345 X 4525

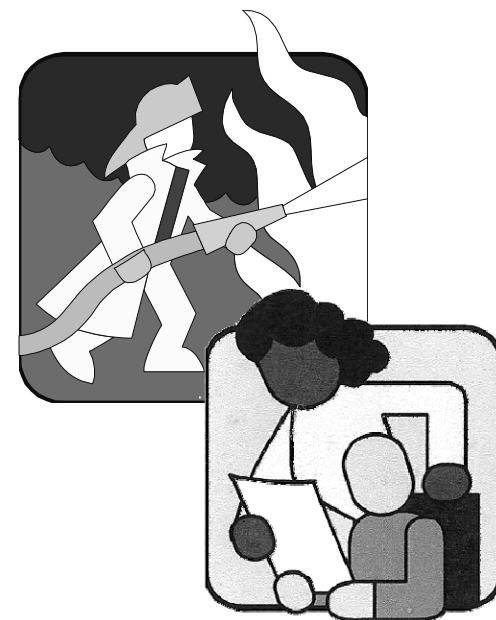
or (603) 271-4525

E-mail: nhfv@yahoo.com

Web: www.nhfv.org

This brochure was developed by NH Family Voices through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (1LECMS300014)

Emergency Evacuation Plans at School for Children with Physical Disabilities



NH Family Voices
In state: (800) 852-3345 X 4525
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www.nhfv.org

Emergency Evacuation Plans at School

Have you ever discussed with school staff and school administrators an emergency evacuation plan for your child with physical disabilities?

A physical disability may be due to permanent neuromotor dysfunction or a temporary disability such as an injury which compromises the child's ability to get around.

When preparing your child's 504 Plan or IEP give some thought and advance planning to the school's emergency evacuation plan.

Here are some tips to help.



Designate the school staff member (teacher, aide, specialist) who is trained in body mechanics (lifting, transferring) to be with your child at the time of the fire drill or alarm and to also be responsible for your child's evacuation. Ask for a back-up person to be designated who has also been trained in the event the primary person is not available.



The school person responsible for your child should escort him/her to the designated fire exit; first floor-nearest exit; second floor-top of nearest stairway.



The staff person should wait with the child until fire-fighter(s), emergency responders, or designated school staff member(s) arrive and assist with the evacuation.



The designated staff person(s) should evacuate either by assisting the child to descend stairs and exit the door using hands-on guidance, or by using the two person carry technique to bring him/her down the stairs and out of the building. Opportunity for staff to learn the two-person carry should be provided through in-service by the PT/OT staff during the year.



The administrator and second designated staff member should conduct a thorough sweep of the building, including bathrooms on all levels, to ascertain the location of your child or to directly supervise the evacuation.



In an actual emergency, the administrator will use his/her judgment to either direct firefighters or emergency responders to the location of your child or directly supervise the evacuation.



Speak with your local fire department and emergency responders about your child's physical disability and review the evacuation plan with them.



You may also want to include in your plan the availability of a covering fire blanket or having your child placed in a vehicle or moved into another building to avoid exposure to sun or cold.



The evacuation plan should be explained to your child by both you and the designated staff person so that your child knows what to expect.



If your child has a sensory processing problem, auditory hypersensitivity or startles easily, a warning that the alarm/fire bell is going to go off or being removed to the exit just prior to the drill may be appropriate the first few times.



Knowing your school's emergency plan and knowing how your school staff will respond to your child's needs will give everyone peace of mind. Visit the school on the day of a fire drill and see how your child's plan is being followed.