

**NORTH WEST CHILDRENS
SUPPORT GROUP**



FIRE SAFETY POLICY

This policy must be read in conjunction with the following NWCSG Policies:-Moving and Handling Policy, Health and Safety Policy

Approved 26/5/2012

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FIRE SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

The NWCSG recognises that it has a responsibility to plan effectively for the safe evacuation of children and helpers in the event of a fire.

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 states that the person(s) responsible for a building must provide a fire safety risk assessment that includes an emergency evacuation plan for all people likely to be on the premises, including disabled people, and details of how that plan will be implemented.

Under the current fire safety legislation anyone who has control of premises or anyone who has a degree of control over certain areas may be a “responsible person “. (1) NWCSG holiday leaders will therefore prepare a fire evacuation plan for each of the holiday venues including Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans as required.

An evacuation plan must NOT rely upon the intervention of the Fire and Rescue Service to make it work.

Escape plans for disabled people should be prepared with the view that what is required is for ‘the real thing’. The level of effort required of a disabled person may not be acceptable for a practice or false alarm or in everyday activities. The procedures put in place should take account of this and allow for simulation in the case of fire drills or other emergency evacuation practices.

Lifts must not be used in the event of a fire. For those able to walk evacuation from upstairs will be down the closest staircase. For wheelchair users the preferred method of escape is horizontally to another fire compartment or to outside the building. If this option is not available it may be necessary to carry a child downstairs after the main flow of people has evacuated using one of the following methods.

Evacuation chair

This looks like a deckchair with skis and wheels underneath. When placed on the stairway it slides down the stair. There are wheels at the back that facilitate movement on the flat, but they are not suitable for long distances. An evacuation chair is operated by one or two people and requires training and practice to use. It is not always possible for wheelchair users to transfer into an evacuation chair or to maintain a sitting position once seated in one.

Carry-down in the child’s own wheelchair

It is possible to move a person down a stairway in a number of ways using their own chair as an aid. Carry-down by two, three or four people can be done by holding the wheelchair at one of the fixed points situated in each corner of the

wheelchair. The team then lifts the wheelchair and moves up or down the stairway. An important issue to consider when planning means of escape for people who require carry-down by four people is that the width of the stairs will need to be sufficient for all of the team to move freely and safely.

Children who use electrically powered wheelchairs will not be able to take their chair with them, due to its weight and size. This will mean that some other method of carrying them down the stairs will be required.

The NWCSG will provide training for all helpers to enable them to carry out a safe evacuation when necessary.

References

1:- Fire Safety Risk Assessment -Means of Escape for Disabled People (supplementary guide) HM Govt March 2007