

# Fire Prevention Procedures for Individuals with Disabilities

Fire is a serious threat to all of us. Injury from flames is an even more frightening possibility for those who are physically disabled, because mobility may be restricted: no access to routes of escape nor ability to seek help.

## What should we be aware of?

1. Learn about fire safety
2. Plan ahead for emergencies
3. Be aware of physical capabilities and limitations.

## How can we plan ahead?

- Discuss emergency measures with your supervisor.
- Ask that a "buddy" be designated to assist you in the event of an emergency.
- Make sure that the Fire Department is notified of your special needs in case fire breaks out.
- Familiarize yourself with the building's alarm system, available exits and evacuation procedures.
- For the hearing impaired, a visual alarm (flashing light, for example) should be installed in the work area.
- For the visually impaired, a siren or high pitched sound may be necessary to signal emergencies.

## What should we do or have, if there is an emergency?

If you think you could be trapped, preplanning *now* is important.

1. **Do not panic!**
2. Make sure windows open easily!
3. Have a flashlight, phone, or whistle handy at all times!
4. Know the fire exits!
5. Know your searcher and make sure to relay specific needs to the searcher!
6. Have a blanket handy so that you can be dragged from the scene if necessary!
7. Most important, make sure you have a buddy!
8. If you are hearing impaired, make sure that a "flashing visual alarm and smoke detector are installed in your line of vision, as mandated by the New York City Building Code.

## Personal Fire Safety

If your clothes should catch fire.....

- Drop to the floor and
- Roll to put flames out

If you cannot do this, keep a blanket nearby to smother the flames.

**ASK FOR AN IMMEDIATE REVIEW OF THE FIRE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES IN YOUR WORK LOCATION**

