

## Emergency Response and Evacuation Plan

The possibility of a fire or bomb threat at the UTA Campus is remote, but even the possibility of such an occurrence requires the implementation of a plan to ensure the orderly and safe evacuation of all endangered employees, students, visitors, and contractors.

The following guidelines will assist you in responding to certain emergency situations and evacuating to a safe location when necessary.

### Evacuation Routes

Whenever you enter a building, it is important to identify exit locations in case the fire alarm sounds. Also, be aware that during building renovations exits may change temporarily.

Obstacles impede evacuation. Storage of any items in the corridors, stairwells or other exit ways is prohibited. If you notice a blocked exit in your building or a building you are visiting, please report this to the Environmental Health & Safety Office (EH&S) at 817-272-2185.

- Locate the [evacuation route maps](#) for your floor/building.
- Review the evacuation routes and plan your path of exit.
- Follow the directions of emergency responders during an evacuation.

For additional information refer to the EH&S [Fire & Life Safety website](#).

### Evacuation Procedures for Individuals with Disabilities

Individuals who need special assistance in the event of a fire or other emergency requiring evacuation should inform their supervisor of any special needs they may have. There are many individuals who may not appear to have a disability who will also require special assistance. Permanent conditions such as arthritis or temporary conditions such as a sprained ankle or a broken leg can limit a person's ability to evacuate quickly and safely. Heart disease, emphysema, asthma, or pregnancy can reduce stamina to the point of needing assistance when moving down many flights of stairs.

Evacuation of people with disabilities who are otherwise ambulatory, such as vision or hearing impaired, should take place normally with other building occupants. They can benefit from an escort, if available and it is safe to do so.

The UTA Campus is equipped with evacuation chairs in specified buildings. The evacuation chair is a compact and easy to use device designed to evacuate mobility impaired persons down a stairwell. The UTA Police Department (UTAPD) and EH&S personnel are trained to operate evacuation chairs.

The evacuation chairs are available in specific locations and are ready for immediate use in an emergency. [Locations of evacuation chairs](#) on campus are listed on the EH&S website.

## **Procedures for Mobility Impaired Individuals**

1. If located on the ground floor, a mobility impaired individual should use the nearest safe and appropriate exit (ground level, wheelchair ramp etc.).
2. If located on the floor of a building linked by a bridge, the individual should move to the next building horizontally.
3. Elevators should not be used for emergency evacuation of a building.
4. Individuals who are not able to evacuate the building or move horizontally to a linked building should proceed to the nearest useable stairway, enter the stairwell, and remain on the landing.
5. If the stairwell becomes filled with smoke or unsafe, the individual should move back into the building and proceed to another usable stairway.
6. If no other stairway is available, the individual should find a room that is tenable and close the door.
7. The individual should telephone 817-272-3003 (UTAPD) to notify them of their location and wait for emergency personnel to assist.