



The University of Hong Kong

SAFETY MATTERS

Version 3/2012
December 12, 2012

To: All Wardens & Masters of Student Residential Halls
(See attached Distribution List)

Ref. Evacuation with a Disability or Pregnancy

The Safety Office has developed instructions and guidelines for the evacuation of persons with a disability or pregnancy in the event of a fire. Please refer to the attached Safety Matters which is last updated on 12.12.2012. It should be noted that disability includes those that are either permanent or transient in nature. The latter category may include those arisen from recent injuries to otherwise able persons.

Different extents of disability may pose various degrees of difficulties and problems in negotiating an escape travel through the staircase in an emergency. For students with a disability, could I seek your assistance to ensure that they are placed in a suitable location or modified accommodation so that they are not posed with any additional risk in the event of an emergency where evacuation is necessary.

Could I request your assistance to ascertain on a regular basis whether or not disability situation exists in your Hall and bring the prevalent arrangement to the attention of all Students/Tutors and Manager? If there is any doubt or uncertainty, please feel free to contact me at likp@hku.hk.

Thank you for your attention.

Mr. K.P. Li
Fire Safety Manager

Encl.

c.c. All Hall Managers (See c.c. Distribution List)*
Dr. Albert Chau – CEDARS



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Ref. Pregnant & Disabled Staff & Students Evacuation

Persons who have a foreseeable difficulty to negotiate their escape journey by staircase in an emergency may wish to take note of the possible alternative evacuation arrangement in the event of an emergency. Such persons include people with a permanent or transient disability or pregnancy.

Staircase landings of highrise buildings are designed and constructed to have a fire resistance period of at least an hour and can resist the action of fire and smoke for the said period. It is a safe place for temporary refuge with suitable prior arrangements.

People who are not able to negotiate the evacuation journey or who believe it will cause less risk by not evacuating should personally make a prior assessment of his/her situation and if necessary in consultation with the Fire Warden or the Safety Office. They must inform the Fire Warden of the floor of their decision to take temporary refuge at the staircase landing. This arrangement must be made with the agreement that a designated person will keep the Fire Officer of the Fire Brigade immediately informed on its arrival. The Fire Brigade will be able to initiate appropriate evacuation or rescue measures upon notification. This arrangement has been assessed by the staff of Fire Services Department for the buildings: Simon K.Y. Lee Hall, Swire Hall, Starr Hall, Residential Colleges on Lung Wah Street and Main Library. You can find the locations of the Emergency Refuge Point on the Fire Evacuation Plans of these buildings from the website of Safety Office. A direct discussion in advance with the Department Fire Warden is essential and proves to be useful.

Concerns or enquiries regarding evacuation can be addressed to me at likp@hku.hk.

Mr. K.P. Li
Fire Safety Manager

Distribution: List C & Intranet
c.c. All Fire Wardens