

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY

For Student with Disabilities



TALKING TO LANDLORDS ABOUT FIRE SAFETY

- Does every room have an accessible smoke alarm? Accessible alarms may include but are not limited to those with Verbal alerts, strobe lights, Vibration notifications synced to pillow or bed shakers that are activated by alarms, devices that emit a mixed, low-pitched sound etc.
- What is the power supply to the detector? (hardwire | battery | both)?
- Who provides the battery replacements? Who should students with disabilities contact if assistance is needed with repairing an alarm or replacing its battery?
- Does the off-campus housing have sprinklers and fire extinguishers? Is someone available to provide an accessible overview of precisely where extinguishers, alarms and sprinkler systems are positioned? This EM access tour can be useful for students with a wide range of disabilities.
- What is your disciplinary policy toward tenants who cause false alarms or fail to evacuate during an alarm? What measures are in place to ensure that students with disabilities who experience difficulty with self evacuation aren't unfairly penalized?
- Do the rooms have enough outlets with enough power to feed energy needs? Are there any available backup power sources? Will these sources automatically activate should primary power sources go down? Manual activation may cause significant delays if designated staff are off site during a power outage. Will the back up power sources be sufficient to support the energy needs of students who are electricity dependent?
- How often are inclusive evacuation drills conducted? Is there an accessible escape plan in place? Are areas of refuge protected by firewalls, possess access to a secure communication line etc.? Is there a designated accessible meeting place outside your building? Do emergency exits lead to inaccessible paths of travel (i.e. stairs, gravel lot, steep hills/inclines)?
- Can the exit doors be opened from the inside - without a key? Have any students expressed difficulty with physically utilizing the door?
- Are maintenance staff aware of the safety hazards caused by having discarded tools/equipment, exposed electrical wiring and uncovered face-level fixtures/pipes in areas that could injure students with various disabilities (i.e. students with visual disabilities etc.)?
- What accessible fire safety training does your building staff receive? Are they prepared to assist students with various disabilities? Have diverse students with disabilities been asked to provide feedback to staff on safety methods?



Fire Safety Outreach provided by:

**The Center for Campus Fire Safety and the National Disabilities Rights
Network myccfs.org | ndrn.org**

**Questions about disability inclusive emergency/fire safety strategies? Contact
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email at Justine.Shorter@ndrn.org or via phone at 202-880-2435.**