

## Evacuation

Students with evacuation concerns are required to self-identify needs for an accommodation during an emergency evacuation. Students should note that in most instances self-identifying as an individual with a disability is voluntary and often the disability and impact of the disability is kept confidential. The American's with Disabilities Act requires the University to keep all medical information confidential. However, University Police and safety personnel may be informed, when appropriate, if the disability might require emergency personnel be notified of more specific disability related information for the need of planning emergency evacuations procedures, which includes locating and assisting in the evacuation of a self-identified students with a disability. Students should be aware that assistance in evacuation is vastly different than personal need care in a non-emergency situation. The University of Akron (UA) does not provide services related to personal care assistance and it is the responsibility of the student to provide for the cost and coordination of personal care assistance while attending and/or in residence at the University.

- The student is responsible for requesting evacuation accommodations in their STARS profile each semester in which they may require evacuation assistance.
- It is the student's responsibility to carry their cell phone to call 911 in an emergency so they can notify emergency responders to their exact location.
- The student should understand that if they cannot get outside, the expectation is that they navigate to the building's closest enclosed stairwell and call 911, share their exact location and wait for help.
- In the best interest of the student, it is their responsibility to have a self-identified evacuation plan. This may include:
  - Wearing a medical ID bracelet
  - Identifying an evacuation point (i.e., stairwell)
- It is the student's responsibility to complete the [evacuation survey](#) each semester that they request evacuation accommodations.
- The student should be aware that due to having an evacuation accommodation, their name, student ID, class schedule, and residence hall room number (if living on campus) will be shared with the University Police and Department of Health and Safety each semester in which they request evacuation accommodations through the Office of Accessibility.
- The student should understand that due to the effects of their disability, they may need emergency personnel assistance, and will work directly with their treating practitioner to identify if they need to employ a Personal Care Attendant in the event of an emergency evacuation.
- If a student employs a Personal Care Attendant (PCA) who is with them at the time of an evacuation situation, the PCA will help navigate them to the nearest stairwell or identified evacuation place.
  - The student should be aware that personal care can only be provided to them by their self-employed PCA, and that University staff and students are not permitted to provide personal care to the student.

- In the event of an emergency, University of Akron staff and emergency personnel will do their best to evacuate the service animal with the student that is being evacuated.

The University of Akron and/or emergency responders are not responsible for the removal of the Emotional Support Animals (ESA) in emergency situations. During a disaster which would lead to an evacuation of a Residence Life and Housing building, ESA will accompany their owners to the designated safe area. It is recommended for the owner to have a kennel or crate and a disaster kit including food and water for the ESA.

**For questions and concerns about evacuation, please contact:**

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