



FIRE EVACUATION GUIDE FOR THE MOBILITY IMPAIRED

How to prepare for an emergency and how
an evacuation chair can help

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FIGHT THE FLAMES OF FEAR

When there's a fire, a fast and efficient evacuation can be absolutely crucial. The stakes are especially high if you or someone you care for has a mobility impairment, as extra assistance is needed.

Our evacuation guide is here to help you. As a non-ambulatory person, there are many unique challenges that can arise during an emergency. From the type of evacuation you may need to undertake during an emergency, to what you need to have packed in a go bag and how your mobility equipment works. Our guide factors in your impairments and caters for primarily wheelchair users, or those that require assistance from a crutch, scooter or cane to get from A to B. This guide is also suitable for anyone who may need help evacuating down the stairs during a fire emergency, or may have to provide assistance to someone who is impaired.

We've filled this guide with tips to suit your mobility needs, from helping you create an effective evacuation plan, to packing a bag of important belongings and learning how to use your evacuation aid. We're here to provide you with all the information you'll need to safely leave during any fire emergency.



SAFELY BEAT THE HEAT

Here are 6 tips to follow as you and your caregiver or assistant compile your fire evacuation plan.

Identify suitable exit routes for your impairments.

Whether it's an office, public space or your home, identify the most suitable exit routes and fire escapes. Anticipate how you will escape the area safely and what challenges you might face, such as flights of stairs or narrow hallways. Factor in what equipment you might need to use to navigate these spaces with your impairment, like a stretcher or evacuation chair. Your ideal route should present the fewest challenges for your carriers, while still providing a safe exit.

Identify the most appropriate evacuation option for your impairment.

Identify the fire location, via sight, smell or noise of the flames before evacuating. After assessing the fire's location, there are several evacuation options you can undertake depending on your building and how close to danger you are. The [WHO has 4 levels of evacuation](#) that you can choose to follow. These include horizontal removal, which involves escaping from the danger by moving to different wings of the building. Vertical evacuation, which requires the traversing of stairs to allow for safe evacuation. Staying in place instead of evacuating, if the danger is not imminent, or finding a safer place of refuge to wait for the EMTs.

[To learn more in further detail, read our blog post that unpacks the 4 levels of evacuation.](#)

Keep a list of contact numbers with your evacuation aid.

Store important contact information in your evacuation go bag. When you are safely evacuated out of harm's way, ask for the contact list and have someone contact the relevant numbers. This list can include the authorities and any caregivers or medical professionals that you may need to contact as a priority to ensure your continuous care.

Pinpoint a safe meeting location away from the danger.

Most buildings have a designated location to meet that is away from imminent danger. However, this location may not always be accessible to those with mobility impairments. For example, the site might cover rough terrain, or climbing stairs. If this is the case, decide on a more appropriate location that you and your carriers will be able to safely relocate to.

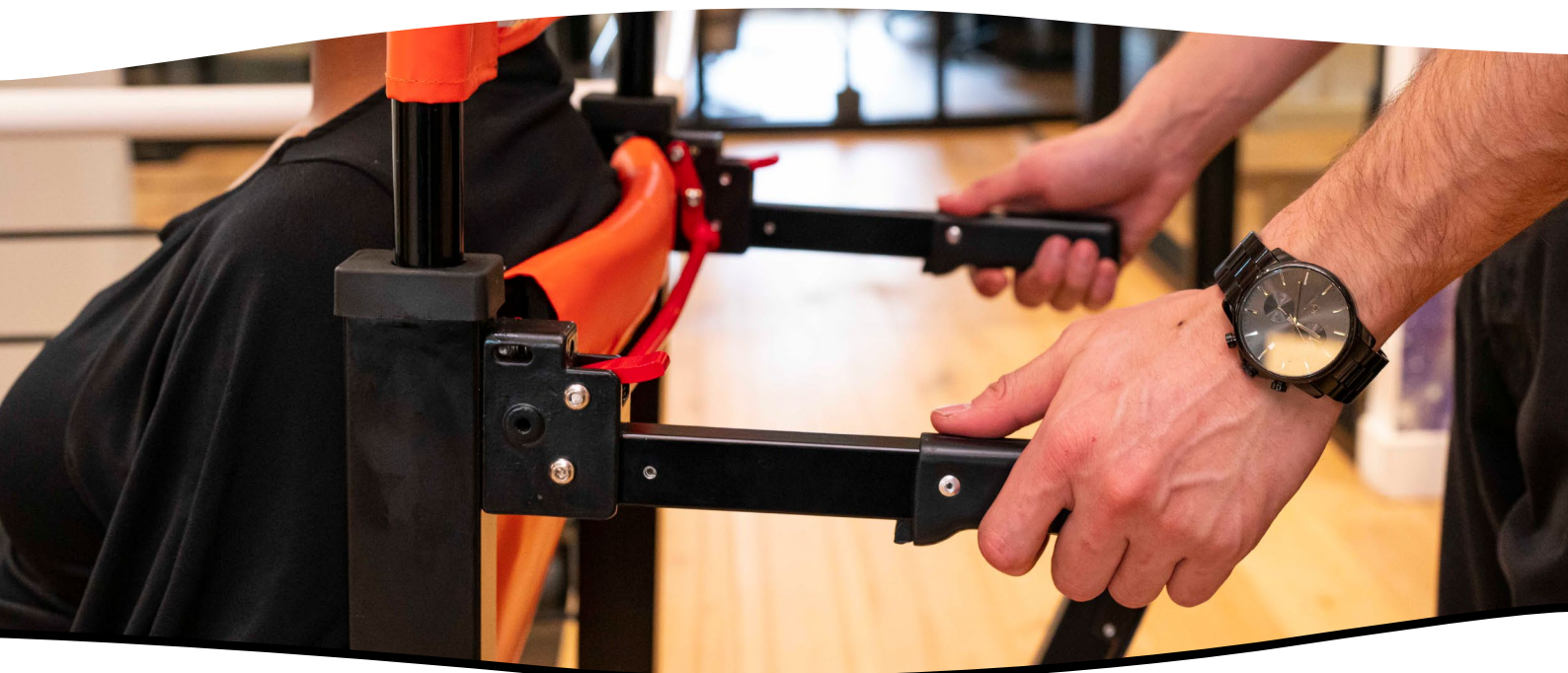
With assistance, compile a go bag.

With a caregiver, compile emergency items in a durable bag that they can grab and carry for you should the need arise. The bag needs to contain supplies to last the next several days. This includes any medication or documents, clothes or toiletries you may need. You'll find a handy checklist to help you in the next chapter!

Practice your evacuation plan with your caregivers.

To identify faults in your evacuation plan, practice it with those who are in your household or office. This will give caregivers time to learn how to use your evacuation aid and safely move you into it. They can also learn appropriate evacuation routes and will know in advance how many people are needed to use the mobility equipment. This also allows you to time your evacuation procedure and see how efficient it is to guide you out of harm's way. When it comes to emergencies, practice makes perfect!

Keep in mind that these are starting points; you should personalize your plan to suit your impairment issues.



PREPARE YOUR FIRE EVACUATION KIT

With the help of a caregiver, set up a durable bag that can carry essential items. Keeping a go-to bag stocked with the below items will make an emergency evacuation quicker for you and your caregiver, and a lot less stressful. Your go kit should be kept somewhere that's easy-to-find for the caregivers or emergency professionals who might be assisting you during an evacuation. We suggest keeping it near your evacuation aid, so your carer or EMT can get them both at the same time.

Please note that the below list is only a start. Research widely and include items that are suitable for your impairment before finalizing the contents of your bag. Remember to periodically check expiration dates and refresh the contents of the bag!

Action Item	Check!
Map with the safest evacuation routes to use. Make sure these are clearly marked for low light conditions, accessible given your impairments, and/or equipped with any emergency mobility aids you may need along the way.	
First aid kit, with burn bandages	
Instructions for operating your mobility or evacuation aid. Make sure you and your carer have read these instructions and completed a practice test. We've included a step-by-step guide to using our EZ Evacuation Chair in the next chapter.	
Change of clothing	
7 day supply of prescription medication	
Spare keys for cars and home	
Toiletries and sanitation supplies	
Copies of important personal documents. This may include a medication list, proof of address, passports, birth certificate, and insurance policies.	
Cash and credit card	
Cellphone, with charger	
If you have a pet, include their pet supplies, such as their harness, lead, medication, pet passport, proof of vaccination and bed.	
Additional spare batteries or charging cables, for hearing aids or other devices.	
In case of a wildfire, include:	
Battery-powered or hand-crank radio	
Flashlight, fully charged, or with new batteries	
3 day supply of non-perishable food and water	
Whistle or bell	

HOW TO EVACUATE SAFELY WITH THE HELP OF ASSISTANTS AND YOUR MOBILITY AID

As a part of your evacuation plan, you would have discovered the most suitable evacuation aid for your building and impairment. If you have to traverse stairs an evacuation chair is best suited to get you to safety.

This step-by-step guide makes use of our evacuation chair, which requires two carriers or assistants to be able to safely use the equipment. These two carriers can be family, caregivers, first responders, building staff or safety supervisors. It is up to your carriers to establish the safest route from your evacuation plan, that will guide you out of harm's way.

STEP 1

Alert your carriers to follow your prepared emergency evacuation plan. To start, they should collect your evacuation aid and pre-packed evacuation kit. You or an assistant should identify the source of the fire to recognize the safest evacuation route to follow.



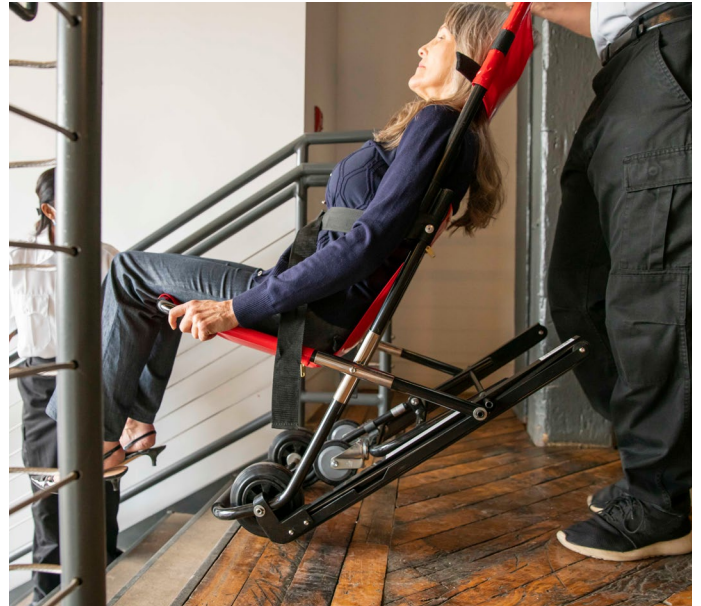
STEP 2

Evacuation chairs play a crucial role in emergencies. Get a caregiver or first responder to set up your stair chair. While there are many evacuation aids, we recommend chairs because they're quick and easy to deploy, and safe to use without specialist training.



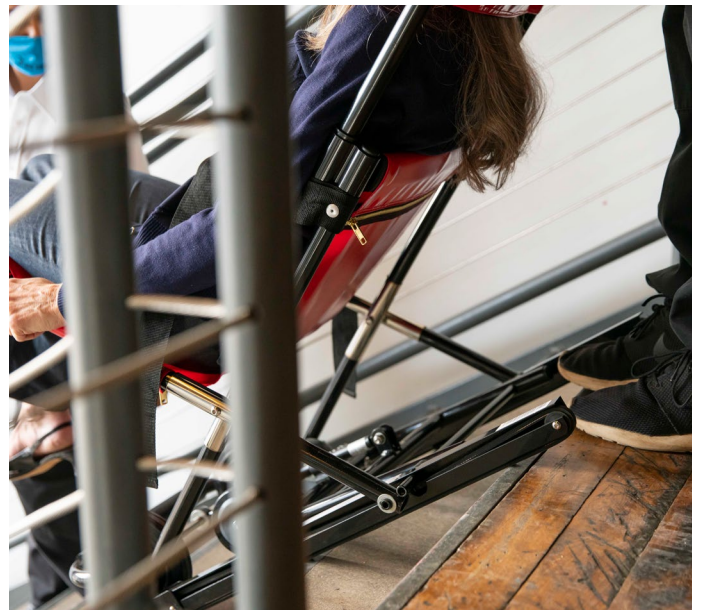
STEP 3

Once the chair is set up, your carrier should activate the foot brake. Allow assistants or EMTs to move you from your home mobility aid and place you into the chair and secure the safety straps. With a carrier behind the chair and one ahead, they are ready to start descending the stairs!



STEP 4

To start your descent, your assistants or EMTs must pause the anti-slip rubberized track system at the base of the flight of stairs. They can then lift the footbrake and use the steering handles to turn the chair when necessary.



STEP 5

As evacuation chairs are lightweight and portable, they allow for fast evacuation out of harm's way. Your carriers can head straight out the door from the bottom of the stairs and towards your safe, designated meeting location.



CHOOSING THE RIGHT EVACUATION CHAIR

Evacuation chairs are useful mobility aids that cater for a range of impairments. Whether someone has a mobility-related or visual impairment — or they're simply struggling to breathe — an evacuation chair will ensure they have a safe way out.

However, there are so many chairs on the market that it can be hard to choose one. We suggest finding a chair that best suits your range of impairments and specifications.

Asking yourself the below questions can help you understand your specific chair requirements.

- **What is the maximum weight limit?**
- **How often will it be used?**
- **How much are you willing to spend?**
- **Will you store it at home or take it with you on travels?**
- **What is the size of your staircases and passageways?**
- **How many operators will be needed?**
- **Do carriers need training to operate it?**

With so many evacuation chairs on the market, it's tough to spot the differences and identify which is right for you. Here's what you need to know.

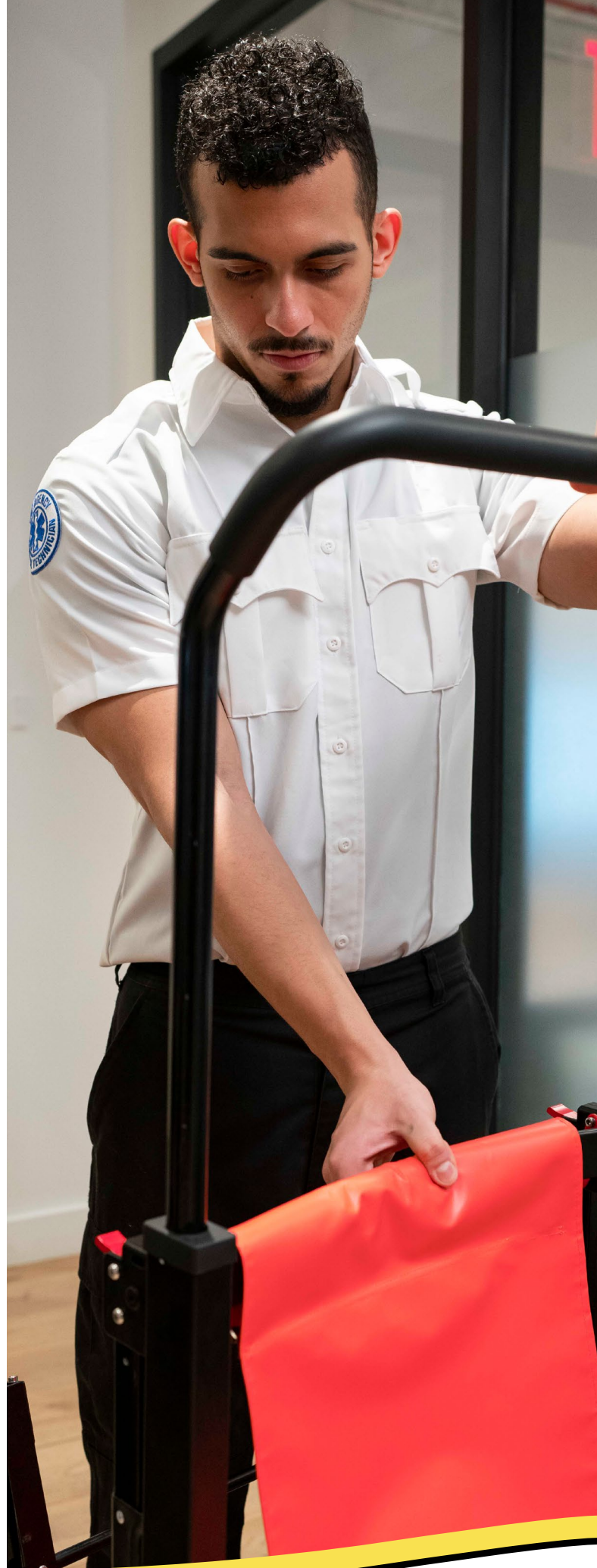


YOUR GUIDE TO MOBILE STAIRLIFT EVACUATION CHAIRS

We developed our evacuation chairs with emergencies in mind. These lightweight, portable chairs are designed for quick deployment and are easy for caregivers and first responders to use when assisting someone with mobility impairment.

We have two evacuation chairs on the market. Both feature an aluminum frame, durable material, safety restraints and can be folded up easily when not in use. Not only do our chairs provide safety during an evacuation, they can be used by anyone without additional training.

Mobile Stairlifts Evacuation Chairs are FDA approved and come with a money-back guarantee. There's a lifetime warranty on the chairs frame for any damage caused by manufacturing defects, and a 6-month policy on replacement parts. Now that's quality you can trust!



THE MOBILE STAIRLIFT EZ EVACUATION CHAIR AT A GLANCE

1 Easy to clean and can be wiped down after use

2 Intended for personal and professional use

3 Foldable, portable, and easy to store

4 Weighs just 39 lbs and carries up to 400 lbs

5 Track system with durable anti-slip rubber grip for smooth descent

6 Sturdy and secure aluminum frame

7 Ankle restraints, safety belt and headrest straps for added safety





At Mobile Stairlift, we're driven to support people with mobility impairments, helping them to live a life of freedom and flexibility. And that's never more important than in an emergency.

During a crisis, you want a reliable mobility aid that allows for fast evacuation. That's why we designed our easy-to-use evacuation aids to take the stress out of the situation. We also provide flexible financing options, allowing you to gain access to your evacuation chair before an emergency arises.

Visit our website to learn more about our Evacuation Chairs and the Mobile Stairlift quality promise.



FDA approved



7 day
money back



Repayment



BROUGHT TO YOU BY MOBILE STAIRLIFT, YOUR PARTNER IN MOBILITY FREEDOM

We'd love to hear from you and are happy to answer any questions on our evacuation chairs or portable stair lifts.

GET IN TOUCH!

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