



Fire Drill and Emergency Evacuation Procedures for Students with Visual Impairments

For students who are blind and visually impaired during a fire drill or emergency evacuation, school personnel announce the nature of the drill or emergency, the evacuation route, and assign a member of the staff to escort students to safety.

Students who use mobility canes or guide dogs are escorted using specialized guiding techniques for vision impairment that are reviewed regularly with students and staff at sites where visually impaired students attend. During a fire drill or in an emergency, students take their cane or guide dog with them, grasp the arm of a guide firmly above the elbow, or above the wrist for young children, and walk with the guide in the lead for the entire fire drill or evacuation route. Students are guided away from obstacles and are provided with guided assistance at steps, stairs, curbs, and street crossings.

Students with visual impairments who travel without a cane or guide dog are escorted in accordance with the fire drill and emergency evacuations procedures for their school.

Guides communicate as necessary to assure safe evacuation, and remain with students until the fire drill or emergency is over and students return to class, or are dismissed for home.