



Brown & Wetherill Building Emergency Plan

Date Adopted: March 2008

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Prepared By: Paul Bower

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Quick Reference Summary

Building Deputy Name: Ned Gangwer

Phone # 45211

Evacuation Emergency Assembly Areas (**fire alarm**): [See section 1.5 and map] .

Shelter in Place recommendation for a **tornado warning**: [See section 1.6 under Tornado, Building Specific, and your GROUP S-I-P PLAN]

Shelter in Place recommendation for an active threat such as a shooting: If one cannot get away, shelter in a room that is securable preferably without windows.

Use the "Get Ready...Get Set...Go" chart to provide options based on situational awareness. Available as [Word document](#) or [PDF file](#).

Shelter in Place recommendation for a **major hazardous materials release**: shelter in nearest building or classroom, shutting any open doors and windows.

NOTE: In-depth information, procedures, and considerations are detailed on the following pages. This summary provides the evacuation and shelter locations for various incidents. Take responsibility for your own safety by reviewing the BEP for all buildings you typically occupy. Please contact your Building Deputy and/or BEP-Developer if you have any questions.

Get Ready...Get Set...Go

[Shelter in Place Considerations for Life Threatening Incidents](#)



This information is designed to encourage building occupants to develop an individual plan based on potential life threatening incidents such as a shooting on campus. Actions should be based on situational awareness. React to Purdue ALERT information as well as what you see and hear in your general area. See EP website for more info
https://www.purdue.edu/emergency_preparedness/

<p>Get Ready... be prepared.</p> <p><i>An active threat incident has occurred on the West Lafayette campus; incident location is not near me.</i></p>	<p>General Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow information sources: Campus status page, Twitter @PurdueEmergency, text and email alerts. Review your BEP (located on EP website) Notify others of incident. Review internal procedures; be ready to implement. Plan next steps if incident impacts my area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should I get out? Where will I shelter if needed? 	<p>Specific actions based on your location:</p>
<p>Get Set...stay alert; be prepared to implement your plan.</p> <p><i>An active threat incident has occurred on the West Lafayette campus; incident location is near me but not in my building.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement all Get Ready actions. If the threat is ongoing or you feel your safety is in jeopardy, implement your department or building specific actions. Be ready to get out/escape or shelter in safe area based on situational awareness. 	
<p>Go...stay calm and activate your plan.</p> <p><i>An active threat incident has occurred on the West Lafayette campus; incident location is in my building or I feel my safety is in jeopardy (location of perpetrator is unknown).</i></p>	<p>Based on situational awareness, immediately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decide if you can escape; if possible get out of the building to a safe location. If you can't escape, then shelter in a lockable area and/or a room that you can secure or barricade. As an absolute last resort, consider taking action if your safety is in jeopardy. 	

Section 1: User Items

Emergency Contact Information:

Building Manager or Deputy	
Name	Ned Gangwer
Phone Number	765-494-5211 cell 765-490-5633
Email Address	gangwern@purdue.edu
Office/Room Number	WTHR 140
Facility Manager	
Name	Rob Barr

Phone Number	765-494-7645 cell 765-366-0599
Email Address	rlbarr@purdue.edu
Office/Room Number	BRWN LB144

Safety Manager	
Name	Paul Bower
Phone Number	765-494-5472
Email Address	pbower@purdue.edu
Office/Room Number	WTHR 173A

Other contacts	
Name	Alex Wei, faculty safety rep
Phone Number	765-494-5257
Email Address	alexwei@purdue.edu
Office/Room Number	BRWN 4103D

Non-emergency Contact Numbers:

- [Purdue Fire Department](#): (PUFD) 494-6919
- [Purdue Police Department](#): (PUPD) 494-8221
- [Radiological and Environmental Management](#): 494-6371
- [Physical Facilities Services](#): 494-9999
- [Emergency Preparedness Office](#): 494-0446

Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)

Many departments have purchased AED (s) and placed them in locations throughout their building. If your facility has an AED (s), please fill out the following table:

AED Location	Contact Person	Contact Person's Phone #
In Hallway next to BRWN 2100	Suzy Gustafson	(765) 494- 5221

For any questions about AED's or to report a purchase of one, please contact the Purdue Fire Department at 765-494-6919.

****[Building Deputy Quarterly AED Inspection & Checklist Report Click here](#)****

Response to Alarms:**REMEMBER, WHEN YOU HEAR:**

- ALL HAZARDS OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS **immediately** seek shelter (**Shelter-In-Place**) in a safe location within closest facility
- FIRE ALARMS **immediately** **evacuate** the building and move to a safe location

In both cases, you should seek additional clarifying information by all possible means - Purdue Homepage, TV, radio, email, etc.

Emergency Evacuation**General Evacuation Procedures--If you hear the fire alarm or are instructed to leave the building:**

- You must immediately obey evacuation alarms and orders. Tell others to evacuate.
- No one may remain inside a building when an evacuation is in progress.
- Classes in session must cease and immediately evacuate the building.
- If involved with hazardous research or doing a dangerous procedure, immediately shut down operations that could create additional hazards if left unattended. Evacuate as soon as possible.

- When you evacuate, take keys, coat, purse and any other critical personal items with you to the Evacuation/Emergency Assembly Area (EAA). **REMEMBER, IN CASE OF A FIRE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOT DELAY EVACUATION.**
- Close doors as rooms are vacated.
- Assist those who need help, but do not put yourself at risk attempting to rescue trapped or injured victims.
- Note location of trapped and injured victims and notify emergency responders.
- Walk calmly but quickly to the nearest emergency exit.
- Use stairways only. Do not use elevators.
- Keep to the right side of corridors and stairwells as you exit.
- Remain in EAA until roll is taken and instructions are given.
- Do not reenter the building until authorized fire or police department personnel give the "All Clear" instruction.

Building Specific Evacuation Procedures

Evacuation procedures must take into account any specific building and occupant needs. Add maps, exit routes, other steps, actions, or precautions specific to your building or work area.

Each research group and work group is to develop its own evacuation procedures, i.e. BSEP and post. Area floor plans can be obtained from the Safety Committee or the Building Deputy for this purpose.

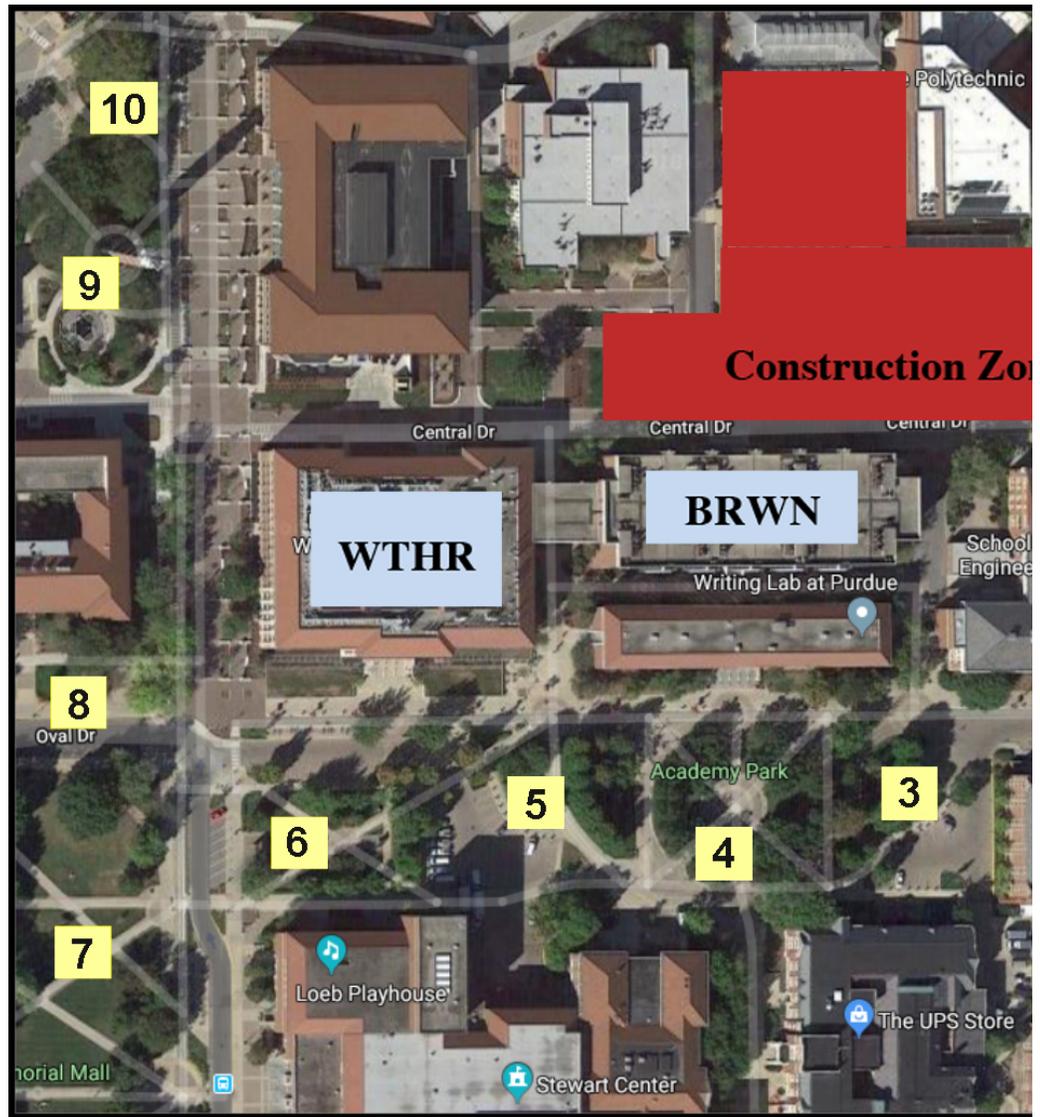
NOTE: If your group devises other plans than shown in this plan, please communicate them to the Safety Committee so that they can be listed in the official plan. The worth of the plan is in it being known to all, especially emergency responders.

Evacuation/Emergency Assembly Area (EAA) Location (after you have evacuated your building)

Determine an Evacuation/Emergency Assembly Area (EAA -- roll call/head count area) away from the building and in a location that will not interfere with emergency personnel. Do your best to implement personnel accounting procedures. However, it is understood that many facilities (especially academic buildings) have incoming and outgoing students, faculty, staff, and visitors which makes a "headcount" very difficult to conduct. **The Building Deputy or representative should provide first responder personnel as much information as you know. Provide this information to Incident Command, Command 14 (PUFD command vehicle), or the nearest public safety official as soon as possible.**

- **Primary location (should be outside, in an area away from the building):**

EMERGENCY ASSEMBLY AREAS (EAA's)



If you are, at the time of the evacuation alarm, in the location given in the left column below, go to the EAA indicated at the right.

If you are teaching, stay with your class, or as many of them as possible. If you were near the site of something notable (explosion, fire, etc.), please stay at the EAA so that you can be found to answer questions.

Your location	EAA
BRWN 1st	#1
BRWN 2nd	#2
BRWN 3rd	#5
BRWN 4th & 5th	#3
BRWN B	#4
WTHR 200 class	#7
WTHR 1st & 2nd	#8
WTHR 3	#6
WTHR 4th & 5th	#10
WTHR B	#9

The more information that is available about the status of personnel who might have been injured or trapped, the better. Emergency responders will risk their lives looking for someone who is thought to be trapped. If that person is in fact not trapped but safely out of the building, that's a very important piece of information.

• **Secondary location (should be inside a nearby building in case of inclement weather):**

All Emergency Assembly Area's (EAA) from WTHR, which includes #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, should meet in Stewart Center (STEW).

All Emergency Assembly Area's (EAA) from BRWN, which includes #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, should meet in the Purdue Memorial Union (PMU).

Detailed Emergency Shelter in Place Procedures

Shelter in place means seeking immediate shelter inside a building or University residence. This course of action may need to be taken during a tornado, active threat (such as a shooting), release of hazardous materials in the outside air, or a civil disturbance. When you hear the sirens immediately go inside a building to a safe location and use all communication means available to find out more details about the emergency. Remain in place until police, fire, or other emergency

response personnel provide additional guidance or tell you it is safe to leave.

Types: You may be required to Shelter In Place for events such as:

- Tornado warning or other severe weather events.
- Hazardous materials release.
- Active threat, such as a shooter.
- As directed by police personnel for any other situation that requires you to find protection within a building.

When to Shelter in Place: You must immediately seek shelter in the nearest facility or building (preferably in a room with no windows) when:

- You hear the All Hazards Outdoor Emergency Warning Sirens.
- When directed by police or fire department personnel.

General Procedures: Purdue ALERT, the University's emergency warning notification system, will be used to notify the Purdue community of a "shelter in place" situation.

If you are "sheltering" due to a **tornado warning**, immediately go to a safe location in your building.

- Proceed to the basement of any building that has a basement or sub-walk. Position yourself in the safest portion of the area away from glass. Be prepared to kneel facing a wall and cover your head.
- In high-rise (four stories or more) buildings, vacate the top floor and move to a lower floor or to the basement. Position yourself in an interior corridor away from glass. Be prepared to kneel facing the wall and cover your head.
- If time permits, occupants of wood-frame or brick buildings with wood floors should leave the building and go directly to a more substantial concrete building, preferably with a basement.
- Any occupant who encounters a student or visitor should direct them to take appropriate actions.
- Any occupant that encounters a physically disabled individual should assist them if possible, or note the person's location and communicate it to emergency responders.
- Try and obtain additional clarifying information by all possible means (e.g. Purdue Campus Emergency Status page www.purdue.edu/ea, TV, radio, email, etc.)

If you are "sheltering" due to an **active threat, building intruder or a civil disturbance** on campus, immediately go to a safe location in your building.

- If possible, take refuge in a room that can be locked.
- If possible, close and lock the building's or room's door(s). If unable to lock the door secure it by any means possible.
- Hide under a desk, in a closet, or in the corner.
- After getting to a safe location and without jeopardizing your safety, try and obtain additional clarifying information by all possible means (e.g. Purdue Emergency Status page www.purdue.edu/ea, TV, radio, email, etc.)
- Report any suspicious activity if you can do so without jeopardizing your safety. Call or text 911 if possible.

If you are "sheltering" due to a **hazardous materials (HAZMAT)** accidental release of toxic chemicals the air quality may be threatened and sheltering in place keeps you inside an area offering more protection. For a HAZMAT situation you should, if possible, take the following actions:

- Close all windows and doors.
- Move to the shelter in place location.
- Do not go outside or attempt to drive unless you are specifically instructed to evacuate.
- Do not use elevators as they may pump air into or out of the building.
- Any occupant who encounters a student or visitor should direct them to take appropriate actions.
- Any occupant that encounters a physically disabled individual should assist them if possible.
- Try and obtain additional clarifying information by all possible means (e.g. Purdue Emergency Status page www.purdue.edu/ea, TV, radio, email, etc.)

Building Specific Shelter in Place Procedures and Locations:

Shelter in place procedures must take into account any specific building and occupant needs. **Recommend you describe your shelter in place locations and procedures for a tornado warning, life threatening incident such as a shooting, and a major hazardous materials release.** Describe your building specific shelter in place procedures here:

Shelter in Place Location:

Tornadoes and high winds – get away from windows by seeking shelter in hallways, stairwells and other such windowless areas such as bathrooms. If possible seek shelter in lowest area of the building such as a basement.

⇒ NOTE: People located in WTHR 1st floor lecture rooms are to remain in those rooms during a Shelter-in-place. These rooms include WTHR 104, 160, 172 and 200. These rooms are all interior rooms with no windows, and are located on a low-level floor (1st floor).

Individual groups of both buildings (Brown and Wetherill) must develop exit route procedures which will allow the safest means of egress from their room/lab area.

The procedures are to be displayed and understood by all members of the group. In the event that either building is to be evacuated, i.e. the fire alarm sounds or instructed to do so by emergency personnel, all staff members are required to leave the building and seek shelter beyond a 200' perimeter of both buildings.

If you are directed to shelter in place, but you are unaware of the specific reason, proceed to the lowest level of the building but continue to seek additional information by all possible means to determine the type of incident. Once you have determined the type of emergency, follow the below chart:

EMERGENCY	SHELTER IN PLACE OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION
Weather-Related - Tornado Warning	Basement corridors, basement offices, basement restrooms Or the lowest level of the building (stay away from windows and doors)
Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Release	Remain or find an unaffected office or work area and close windows and doors.
Active threat, such as a shooting	Seek a safe location, preferable a room without windows that can be locked or secured by barriers.

All-Clear Procedures

1. Do not re-enter the building until the all-clear announcement is given by a Purdue Police or Fire Officer.
2. The All Hazards Outdoor Warning Sirens will **not** be used to send an all clear signal. Seek additional information by all means possible to include Purdue ALERT, Purdue Campus Emergency Status webpage (www.purdue.edu/ea), TV and radio channels.

Class suspension or Campus closure

The President of the University, or in his or her absence, the Executive Vice President for Business and Finance, Treasurer and/or the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, will make a decision to declare class suspension or campus closure. Additional information will be forwarded to the campus community by the Marketing and Media Office.

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Section 2: Information for Emergency Responder

2.1 Building Description

Describe the building (e.g., number of floors and major uses of building) here.

There are 5 main above-grade floors and one basement level in each building. The buildings are connected on floors 2, 3, 4, and Basement, and function (nearly) as one. There are chemical research labs on all floors of WTHR and on BRWN B, 3, 4, 5. BRWN 1 and 2 are only teaching labs. Most floors have some classrooms, and most have offices and computer rooms.

2.2 Building Departments

Department	Safety Coordinator	Phone	Building	Room
Chemistry	Paul Bower	45472	WTHR	173A
Biology	Russell Logsdon	63416	LILY	1-234
Physical Facilities	Rob Barr	47645	BRWN	LB144
Building Services	Paul Otero (evening shift)	47119	BRWN	1185

2.3 Building Critical Operations

Critical operations are any potentially hazardous operations located in your facility that requires preplanning for evacuation and/or shelter in place events. In this section, include information about critical operations that require special care during an emergency. Be sure to check with each department before completing this section. This information must be

readily available to first responders to assist them in their emergency response efforts.

Employees may need to notify Purdue Fire about the following critical operations:

Operation	Room	Department	Responsible Person	Phone
NMR Facility	B124	Chemistry	John Harwood, Director	45287
NMR Facility	BRWN 4100, LB124, WTHR 365, 367, 369	Chemistry	Jerry Hirschinger	45288
Instrument Shop	BRWN 4151	Chemistry	Mike Everly	45232
Prep Lab	BRWN 2151	Chemistry	Jeanne Meyer	45282

2.4 Building Alarm(s)

In addition to building fire alarm systems, many campus buildings have specialized alarms that building occupants may need to be aware of. These could include; freezer temperature alarms, HVAC flow alarms, doors / access alarms. Also, certain classrooms on campus may have an Alertus Emergency Beacon installed.

Please list these alarms below:

BRWN and WTHR both have an evacuation alarm system ("fire alarms") as well as various alarms on chemical hoods, biosafety cabinets, elevators, smoke and temperature detectors, NMRs, incubators, -80 freezers, and controlled environment rooms. No generalizations can be made about the sound of these other alarms. Recognition of the evacuation alarm is required of all building occupants and all who supervise or teach classes. For all other alarms, move away from the alarming area and call 911 to report and request assistance.

2.5 Building Safety Committee

If your building has a safety committee, please list the committee members and positions (chair, vice-chair, other officers, members, etc.)

Barr, Rob	Zone I	47645	BRWN	LB144
Gangwer, Ned	Chemistry	45211	WTHR	140
Browning, Mark	Biology	48107	BRWN	3107A
Meyer, Jeanne	Chemistry	45282	BRWN	2151
Otero, Paul	Building Services	47119	BRWN	1185
Bower, Paul	Chemistry	45472	WTHR	5131B
Wei, Alex	Chemistry	45257	BRWN	4103D

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Section 3: BEP Responsibilities and Requirements

3.1 Department Head or Designated Representative

- Appoint the building deputy or designated representative to develop, coordinate, and distribute the BEP to building residents.
- Approve the plan prior to inclusion in the online BEP list on the Campus Emergency Preparedness and Planning Office BEP webpage.
- Ensure all people in their department are aware of the BEP and its content including exit routes and location of their Evacuation/Emergency Assembly area (EAA).

3.2 Building Deputy or an individual designated by the department head to prepare the BEP (BEP Developer)

- Prepare, coordinate, and distribute the BEP to building occupants.
- Ensure the BEP is readily available and used during emergency incidents.

- Review the **BEP** to ensure information and procedures are current.
- List all **Critical Operations** in the BEP for first responder reference and use.
- Assist in the development of internal emergency notification procedures ensuring building occupants are notified of the emergency.
- Assist in building evacuation.
- Report to Emergency Assembly Area (EAA) -- Provide any incident information to Incident Command, Command 14 (PUFD command vehicle), or the nearest public safety official as soon as possible.
- Collect and provide essential information to emergency response personnel (e.g. location of incident, persons in building, special hazards, etc.).
- Develop additional building specific information that makes the BEP more effective (e.g. specific procedures for any assigned individual that requests additional assistance, evacuation maps, emergency assembly area, etc.).
- Include in the BEP any additional information as directed by the department head or the individual responsible for the building.

3.3 Building Occupants

- Evacuate immediately upon Fire Alarm activation. Purdue policy requires immediate evacuation when any fire alarm sounds within a building. All faculty, staff, students and any other individuals within the building must promptly evacuate the building using the nearest designated exit routes.
- Shut down electrical and other equipment, especially any that involves flame, explosive vapors, or hazardous materials.
- Follow instructions relevant to public safety issued by the building deputy, or fire and police personnel.
- Know the evacuation routes and location(s).
- Upon evacuation, proceed directly to their designated Evacuation/Emergency Assemble Area (EAA) and follow guidance provided by the building deputy (or designated safety representative) and emergency responders.
- Do not re-enter building until authorized to do so by fire or police department officials.
- All building occupants must be familiar with the BEP. **Read it carefully.** If you have any questions, consult your building deputy, department safety coordinator or safety committee representative. Keep the following tips in mind as you read through the document. *Be familiar with:*
 - *The Purdue Emergency Warning Notification System—Purdue ALERT.*
 - *When and how to evacuate the building.*
 - *Know your evacuation routes, exit points, and location to report for roll call after evacuating the building.*
 - *When and where to shelter in place within the building.*
 - *Locations of emergency materials that may be needed in an emergency such as emergency telephones and fire pull alarms.*
 - *Proper procedures for notifying emergency responders about an emergency in the building or work area ([Call or Text 911 for emergency notification](#))*
 - *Additional building specific procedures and requirements.*

3.4 Training

- Training is an integral part of the safety and preparedness program for your building. It is the responsibility of each department head and supervisor to ensure all building occupants are trained or made aware of the Building Emergency Plan for the building(s) they occupy.
- Building Deputies or BEP Developers are highly encouraged to practice evacuation and shelter in place to validate procedures and to ensure building occupants understanding. The exercise should be based on a simulated emergency event that highlights building shelter in place or evacuation procedures. Any lessons learned that require changes to the BEP should be incorporated into the BEP. Contact the Campus Emergency Preparedness and Planning Office for assistance in preparing an appropriate practice drill for your building.

3.5 BEP Requirements

- The BEP must be provided to all new employees as part of their departmental training. All employees should review their BEP frequently to ensure information and procedures are current. The Campus Emergency Preparedness and Planning Office will also review the BEP prior to publishing it to the BEP website.
- Contact the Director, Campus Emergency Preparedness and Planning at (765) 494-0446 for assistance as needed.

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Section 4: Evacuation Guidelines for People Requesting Additional Assistance

General Policy (reference Appendix B for specific information that may be useful in developing your specific policy/procedures for your building):

1. Check on people with additional needs during an evacuation. A "buddy system," where people with additional needs arrange for volunteers (co-workers) to alert and assist them in an emergency is recommended.

2. **Only** attempt an emergency evacuation if you have had emergency assistance training **or** the person is in immediate danger and cannot wait for emergency services personnel.
3. **Always ask** someone requiring additional assistance how you can help **before** attempting any emergency evacuation assistance. Ask how he or she can best be assisted or moved, and whether there are any special considerations or items that need to come with the person.
4. An individual interested in additional assistance may fill out the "**Voluntary Registry for Persons Requesting Additional Assistance**" form located in Appendix C. Purdue Fire Department personnel will assist the individual in developing a personalized response plan for possible emergency incidents. Once all information has been entered on the form it should be hand carried to the Purdue Fire Department or sent by campus mail/U.S. Postal Service.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Acronyms and Term Definitions

Acronyms

AED: Automated External Defibrillator

BD: Building Deputy

BEP: Building Emergency Plan

EAA: Emergency/Evacuation Assembly Area

EPG: Emergency Procedures Guide

PUFD: Purdue University Fire Department

PUPD: Purdue University Police Department

REM: Radiological and Environmental Management

Term Definitions

Automated External Defibrillator or AED is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the potentially life threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia in a patient, and is able to treat them through defibrillation, the application of electrical therapy which stops the arrhythmia, allowing the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm.

All Hazards Outdoor Emergency Warning Sirens: Tippecanoe County Emergency Management Agency controls activation of the siren system. (Purdue police department has access/can activate the seven sirens located on campus.) Sirens are part of the warning notification system for any major shelter in place event such as tornado warning, building intruder, active shooter, civil disturbance, hazardous material release or as deemed necessary by police personnel.

Building Deputy: The building deputy is a University employee who has a defined role in each campus building. In an emergency, the building deputy should report to the Incident Command location to provide building information to emergency responders. The "all clear" information will typically be communicated to the building deputy when it is safe to return to the building so that the occupants can be notified.

Building Emergency Plan: The plan is a document that consists of emergency procedures, activities for preparing for emergencies, and roles and responsibilities of building occupants.

Critical Operations: Any potentially hazardous operations located in your facility that requires preplanning for evacuation and/or shelter in place events. Additionally, this information must be readily available to first responders to assist them in their emergency response efforts.

Emergency/Evacuation Assembly Area (EAA): A pre-designated safe location near a building where building occupants assemble and report to the Roll Taker(s) after evacuating their building.

Emergency Responder(s): Person(s) who provide assistance in an emergency (or potential emergency) situation in a building. They are not building occupants and may be from Purdue University police department, Purdue fire department, REM, Physical Facilities, etc. In critical situations, they may take charge of the building and have full authority over activities in and around the building.

Roll Taker: A building occupant assigned to take roll at the emergency assembly area (EAA) after a building evacuation.

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Appendix B: Voluntary registry for persons requesting additional assistance

[Download form in pdf format](#)

In the event of an emergency that may require the evacuation of a campus building, the following procedures are recommended:

- If you are able to be evacuated, please do so at that time. Remember to use the stairs if able. Never use the elevator during a fire alarm.
- If not - shelter-in-place in an area with no immediate hazards and call or text 911. Advise the police dispatcher of your location. Even if the caller is unable to speak, the dispatcher will then automatically surmise that the caller may be in trouble and will respond accordingly.
- If you are unable to call 911, advise others around you of your location and have them inform emergency personnel of your location.
- If you are in no immediate danger, remain where you are and wait for emergency personnel to arrive.
- If you are in immediate danger, move to an area where you can shelter-in-place (recommended areas would be a room with an outside window or a room with a sprinkler system if available.)
- You are also encouraged to carry a sounding device like a small whistle, flashlight and cell phone to alert emergency personnel of your location.
- It is best to have arrangements pre-planned for evacuation assistance. Arrangements can be made to reasonably assure that assistance is provided to anyone who requires it. Having a plan and practicing it may save your life. Contact the Purdue Fire Department for arrangements or questions at (765) 494-6919.

For further assistance in your personal emergency preparedness activities, please contact the Purdue University Campus Emergency Preparedness and Planning Office at (765) 494-0446 or visit our website at: www.purdue.edu/ehps/emergency_preparedness/

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Appendix C: INSTRUCTIONS FOR PERSONNEL ASSISTING THOSE NEEDING ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

The following guidelines are general and may not apply in every circumstance.

- Occupants should be invited to volunteer ahead of time to assist people with disabilities in an emergency. If a volunteer is not available, designate someone to assist who is willing to accept the responsibility.
- Two or more trained volunteers, if available, should conduct the evacuation.
- ALWAYS **ASK** people with disabilities how you can help **before** attempting any emergency evacuation assistance. Ask how they can best be assisted or moved, and if there are any special considerations or items that need to come with them.
- Try to avoid evacuating people who use wheelchairs while they are still in their wheelchairs. This is standard practice to ensure the safety of people with disabilities and volunteers. Wheelchairs will be evacuated later if possible.
- Proper lifting techniques (e.g. bending the knees, keeping the back straight, holding the person close before lifting, and using leg muscles to lift) should be used to avoid injury to rescuer's backs. Certain lifts may need to be modified, depending on the disabilities of the people. Volunteers can obtain more emergency evacuation information regarding lifting techniques from the Office of Institutional Equity.

Tips to remember when interacting with people with specific disabilities

Blindness or Visual Impairment

- Provide verbal instructions to advise of the safest route or direction using simple directions, estimated distances, and directional terms.
- DO NOT grasp a visually impaired person's arm. Ask if he or she would like to hold onto your arm as you exit, especially if there is debris or a crowd.
- Give other verbal instructions or information (i.e. elevators cannot be used).

Deafness or Hearing Impairment

- Get the attention of a person with a hearing impairment by establishing eye contact. If the person's back is toward you, tap him/her on the shoulder to get his/her attention. Clearly state the problem. Gestures and pointing are helpful, but be prepared to write a brief statement if the person does not seem to understand.
- Offer visual instructions to advise of safest route or direction by pointing toward exits or evacuation maps.

Mobility Impairment

- It may be necessary to help clear the exit route of debris (if possible).
- If people with mobility impairments cannot exit, they should move to a safer area, e.g.
 - Most enclosed stairwells.
 - An office with the door shut which is a good distance from the hazard (and away from falling debris in the case of earthquake). Call 911 or notify police or fire personnel immediately about any people remaining in the building and their locations.
- Police or fire personnel will decide whether people are safe where they are, and will evacuate them as necessary. The Fire Department may determine that it is safe to override the rule against using elevators.
- If people are in immediate danger and cannot be moved to a safer area to wait for assistance, it may be necessary to evacuate them using an evacuation chair or a carry technique.

Summary

Prepare occupants in your building ahead of time for emergency evacuations. Know your building occupants. Train staff, faculty, and students to be aware of the needs of people with disabilities and to know how to offer assistance. Hold evacuation and shelter in place drills in which occupants participate, and evaluate drills to identify areas that need improvement. Plans must cover regular working hours, after hours, and weekends. Everyone needs to take responsibility for preparing for emergencies. People with disabilities should consider what they would do and whether they need to take additional steps to prepare. For additional emergency preparedness information, see www.purdue.edu/ehps/emergency_preparedness.

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