



GENERAL EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

The University on Northampton has a legal responsibility to ensure the safety of all staff, students and visitors whilst at on the campus. To achieve this the University has developed the Waterside academic buildings with the assumption that the majority of occupants will be able to hear a fire alarm, react appropriately and be capable of walking down 4 flights of stairs.

Should this not be the case the University has installed an evacuation lift in each academic building along with safe refuges, wide staircases with handrails, contrasting nosing on stairs, clear signage and good lighting levels.

The emergency exits are arranged with a safe refuge on upper floors adjacent to the stairs. Each refuge is a signed space measuring approximately 1.5m x 1m, located outside of the path of escape within the protected corridor and stair area. In accordance with fire safety standards, the refuges contain a two-way communication system for occupants to communicate to Security staff so that they can notify them of their need for assistance. These refuges have fresh air ventilation and are separated from the rest of the building by fire resisting structure. Occupants can choose to rest in a refuge while progressing out of the building or stay in a refuge, talk to Security and wait to be assisted to the final exit.

Wheelchairs, powered-wheelchairs, class 2 mobility scooters and boot scooters are permitted in the buildings but must be taken into the room the user is occupying and positioned so that it does not block the means of escape from the room. Parking these aids for any period of time in corridors and circulation areas is not permitted. Class 3 road going mobility scooters are not permitted in the buildings at any time for any reason.

Powered mobility aids must not be used in such a way as to cause nuisance to any other building user and particular care must be taken when maneuvering near people, stairs and doorways.

An adequate number of evacuation chairs have been provided where escape from refuges is reliant on stairs. Security staff have been trained in the use of these chairs and there will always be an adequate number of staff available to evacuate persons from refuges.

These arrangements constitute the GEEP for the Waterside academic buildings.

Should these arrangements not be sufficient to address the needs of an occupant, consideration must be given to completing a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP).

PEEPs for staff members are completed by the Safety, Health & Environment team (SHE).

PEEPs for students are completed by the Additional Student Support and Inclusion Services Team (ASSIST).