# HOW TO ASSIST PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES DURING AN EVACUATION:

## TO ALERT VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS

- > Announce the type of emergency
- > Offer your arm for guidance
- > Tell person where you are going, obstacles you encounter
- ➤ When you reach safety, ask if further help is needed

### TO ALERT PEOPLE WITH HEARING LIMITATIONS

- > Turn lights on/off to gain person's attention, or
- > Indicate directions with gestures, or
- > Write a note with evacuation directions

### TO EVACUATE PEOPLE USING CRUTCHES, CANES OR WALKERS

- > Evacuate these individuals as injured persons
- ➤ Assist and accompany to evacuation site if possible, or
- Use a sturdy chair (or one with wheels) to move person, or
- **▶** Help carry individual to safety

### TO EVACUATE WHEELCHAIR USERS

- > Non-ambulatory persons' needs and preferences vary
  - Individuals at ground floor locations may exit without help
  - Others have minimal ability to move-lifting may be dangerous
  - Some non-ambulatory persons have respiratory complications
  - Remove them from smoke and vapors immediately
- ➤ Wheelchair users with electrical respirators get priority assistance
  - Most wheelchairs are too heavy to take down stairs
  - Consult with person to determine best carry options
  - Reunite person with the chair as soon as it is safe to do so