

People at Risk

The risk assessment must pay particular attention to people who may be particularly at risk in a fire situation. They could include:



People undergoing medical procedures.



People with mental illnesses or impairments.



People with 'hidden' physical impairments such as a heart condition or epilepsy.



People who are on their own, particularly if they are confused or don't know what to do.



Those who are affected by medication - for example if people are sedated they will require more members of staff to support them.



Those who are unfamiliar with the building, such as visiting medical staff or general visitors.



People who may panic or react badly to fire, to the fire alarms, or to the sudden activity.



People who are unable to escape unaided, such as those with a mobility impairment or a different physical disability which may restrict escape. This also includes babies and children and frail and elderly people who may simply need assistance to escape quickly.



Those who are hard of hearing and may not hear the alarms.

There should be some other way of alerting them to the danger, such as a visual fire alarm or vibrating device. Blind people and those with reduced vision will need assistance to escape quickly, particularly if their normal route is blocked.



Risks are increased if people are asleep and aren't aware of the alarms. Remember, the level of understanding of elderly or mentally ill people during an emergency might make them resist assistance, because they are scared or confused. It may take time to calm them enough to evacuate them.