



# LET'S TALK FIRE SAFETY

Valdosta Fire Department

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## Fire Safety for People with Disabilities

### Disability Facts

More than 43 million Americans have a disability.

Each year there are approximately 700 home fires involving people with physical disabilities.

There are approximately 1,700 home fires involving people with mental disabilities yearly.

Kitchens and cooking areas are the primary areas where these fires start.

Disabilities can be temporary or permanent and considerations should be made for both.

### Safety Tips

- It is safer for persons with disabilities to have their bedrooms located on the ground floor of homes and apartment buildings.

- Smoke alarms with a vibrating pad or flashing lights are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Smoke alarms with a strobe light outside the home to catch the attention of neighbors,



and emergency call systems for summoning help, are also available.

- Plan your escape around your capabilities.
- Be sure to know two ways out of every room.

### Always Remember

- Never isolate yourself. Speak with neighbors, friends and building managers about your disabilities and your home escape plan.
- Children and older adults with disabilities will require special assistance in the event of an emergency.
- Keep pathways free and clear of items that could cause tripping hazards or get in the way of wheelchair access.
- Practicing and Planning ahead can save your life.

### National Fire Protection Association

<http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/people-at-risk/people-with-disabilities>

**FEMA** <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/disabilities.html>

### Solve the Fire Wuzzles

WUZZLES are word puzzles consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, sayings, etc.

For example, the solution to NOON GOOD is "Good afternoon" and LINE READ LINE is "Read between the lines."



Intentional Fire

Answers to the last wuzzles are fire stop & you can count on VFD.

### Fire Safety Quiz

- Children with disabilities are less likely to attend school than non-disabled children.
  - True
  - False
- There are approximately \_\_\_\_ fires each year involving people with disabilities both mental and physical.
  - 1,000
  - 25,000
  - 800
  - 2,400

Answers 1. A. & 2. D.

## "Being disabled does not mean Un-abled, just Different Abled." - Mr. Noel Helm

People living with disabilities should make sure that they have a fire escape plan not only for their homes, but for all places frequented by them such as work, school, church, etc.

It's a good idea to let emergency responders know if someone in the home is disabled and what their disability is so that they are better equipped to handle the situation.

Have a fire safety question you would like for the Fire Department to answer? Please contact Tangela Rowe at 229-333-1835 or you can send an email to [valdostafire@valdostacity.com](mailto:valdostafire@valdostacity.com)



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