

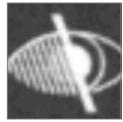
### DISABILITA' & EMERGENZA

Le prospettive di Italia e Francia

Lourdes, 2 ottobre 2008











# TRAINING ACTIVITIES ABOUT RESCUE OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: THE EXPERIENCE OF FIRE FIGHTER IN ITALY

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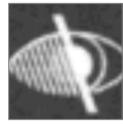
Ministry of Interiors - Italy

Department for Fire and Rescue Services and civil Defence
(www.vigilfuoco.it)











Why do we need a new approach to fire safety?











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How many of them in Italy?





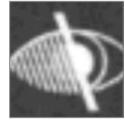
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Aged people











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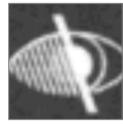
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Persons who don't perceive their exposition to risk











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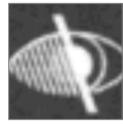
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Fire safety rules are normally tailored on people classified as "normal" (which do not exist!)









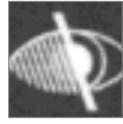


European treaties (Amsterdam, Madrid, ecc.) require to avoid discrimination











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UN General Assembly (13/12/2006).

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

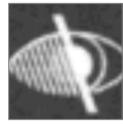
Article 11- Situations of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies



# People with special needs ... in emergency









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A person who is not classified as "disabled" under normal environmental conditions, once involved in a disaster may not be able to cope with it in a suitable way, responding in such a way that may be categorized as a "temporary disability".



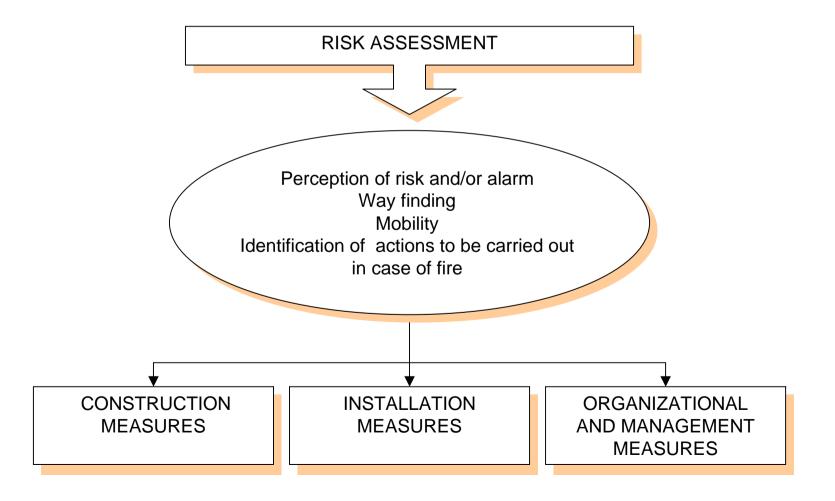
# CIRCOLAR LETTER n. 4/02 "Guidelines to assess fire safety in workplaces where disabled workers are employed"

**Scope**. [...] These guidelines are based on the following general criteria:

- to provide for the involvement of disabled people in the different planning stages (for example when workers with disabilities are already employed);
- to consider the specific difficulties for people who do not belong to the staff:
- to implement adequate safety standards for all kinds of people, with no discrimination among the workers;
- to plan safety measures for disabled workers to be included in an integrated scheme to increase safety levels for all workers.



# CIRCOLAR LETTER n. 4/02 "Guidelines to assess fire safety in workplaces where disabled workers are employed"



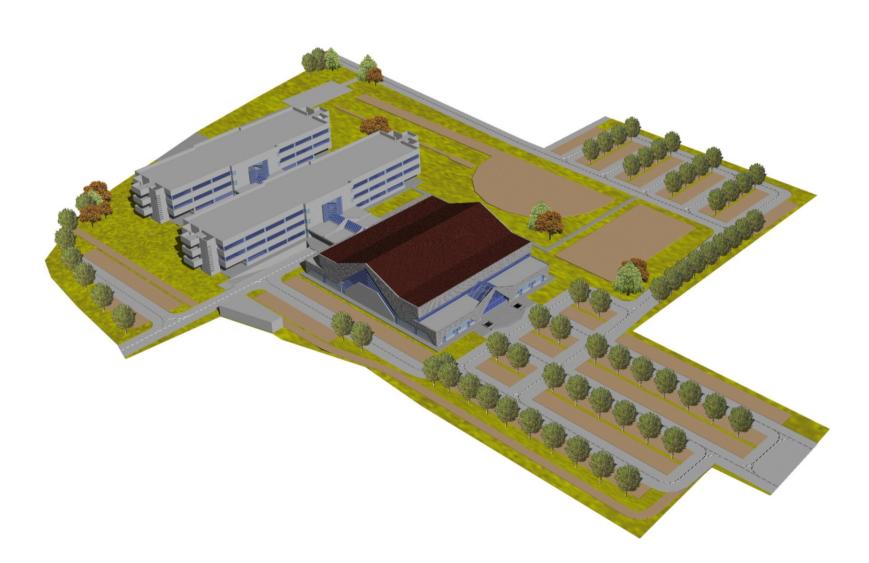


# **FIRE SAFETY CHECK-LIST**

- Perception of the alarm
- \* Way finding during the evacuation
- Mobility in inner spaces
- **\*** Mobility in outer spaces

| N°  | DOMANDA   | VERIFICA |    |    | POSSIBILE SOLUZIONE   | FONTI   |                            |
|-----|---|----------|----|----|---|---|----------------------------|
| A.1 | Se la valutazione del rischio ha<br>evidenziato la necessità di installare un<br>sistema di segnalazione sonoro di<br>allarme, questo è stato installato?   | SI       | NO | NP | Installare un sistema di segnalazione<br>sonoro di allarme compatibile con il<br>tipo di edificio e di attività al suo<br>interno.  | D.M. 10/3/98<br>All. IV                             | l'allarme                  |
| A.2 | Il sistema di segnalazione sonoro di<br>allarme risulta udibile in ogni<br>ambiente?  |          | NO | NP | Adeguare o sostituire il sistema in<br>modo che il livello sonoro del segnale,<br>sia nettamente superiore al livello di<br>fondo.  |   | A. Percezione dell'allarme |
| A.3 | Il sistema di segnalazione sonoro di<br>allarme risulta inequivocabilmente<br>riconoscibile?  |          | NO | NP | Definire un codice sonoro riconoscibile in caso di emergenza.   | D.M. 10/3/98<br>All. IV<br>D.Lgs 493/96<br>All. VII | A. Per                     |
| A.4 | Negli ambienti o situazioni in cui il solo<br>allarme acustico non è sufficiente esiste<br>un sistema ottico di segnalazione ad<br>integrazione dei quello sonoro?  | SI       | NO | NP | morning the provention of definitions   | D.M. 10/3/98<br>All. IV<br>D.Lgs. 493/96<br>All. VI |                            |
| A.5 | Qualora siano presenti lavoratori con<br>limitazioni delle capacità uditive o<br>visive, eventualmente anche a causa<br>dell'uso di mezzi di protezione<br>individuale, sono presenti adeguate<br>misure in grado di compensare tale<br>situazione? |          | NO | NP | Dotare la postazione/i del lavoratore/i interessato/i di un dispositivo a vibrazione con frequenza coerente con i codici utilizzati dagli altri sistemi (acustici ed ottici). | D.M. 10/3/98<br>All. I<br>All. IV                   |                            |
| A.6 | Sono previste condizioni in grado di<br>compensare le eventuali carenze<br>riscontrate, in attesa di una loro<br>risoluzione?   |          | NO | NP | Definire le misure necessarie, anche di<br>tipo gestionale, per compensare le<br>eventuali carenze riscontrate, in attesa<br>di una loro risoluzione.                         | D.Lgs. 626/94<br>Art. 4                             |                            |























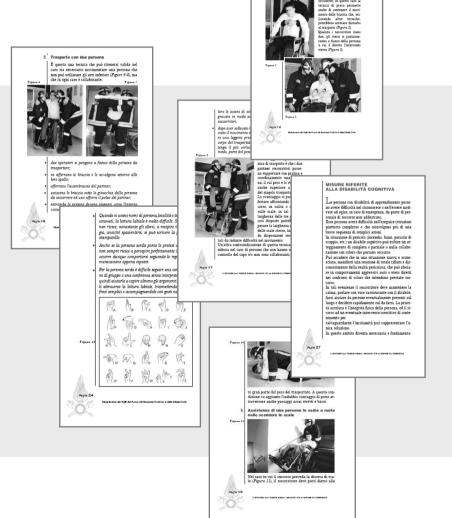






# RESCUING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES







# **CRITICITY**

Architectural barriers present in the building (stairs, steps, narrow passages, perceptive barriers, etc.)

The lack of appropriate information for rescuers and evacuation operators, regarding the disabled person's ability

Environment barriers following a disaster, which hinder or eliminate the possibility of reaching a safe place unaided or make people stranded and isolated

# **ANSWERS**

- Correct planning of changes the building
- Appropriate procedures and specific training of personnel concerned
- Pre-plannig possible response to emergencies
- Information and preparednes of public and local authorities
- Survey of number of people with special needs and their location



In order to provide assistance to a disabled person, a rescuer has to understand what the needs of the victim are according to the nature of his/her disability.

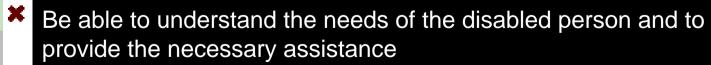
The rescuer has to be able to first communicate a reassuring message which specifies the basic actions required to leave safely and rapidly the site.





In order to undertake any action to ensure the performance required and at the same time to safeguard his/her physical integrity, the rescuer has to:

- Identify each disabled person's capabilities and all cooperation possibilities left
- Be able to place his/her hands in the right parts of the body so to ensure the safe transfer of the disabled
- Adopt a correct position to protect his/her back
- Avoid techniques which may damage victim's health







It is always advisable to try to involve the disabled person in rescue operations required to move him/her, encouraging him/her to provide an active co-operation within the limits of his/her abilities.

# The target is twofold:

- To urge the person with disabilities to overcome his/her own physical limits, communicating confidence in the safe resolution of the crisis and promoting an active participation in all operations.
- To facilitate the work of the rescuer through a co-operative approach, avoiding excessive and sometimes fruitless efforts.





















































(by Gaspare Alberto Morabito)









(by Gaspare Alberto Morabito)















### **MEASURES CONCERNING SENSORIAL DISABILITIES**

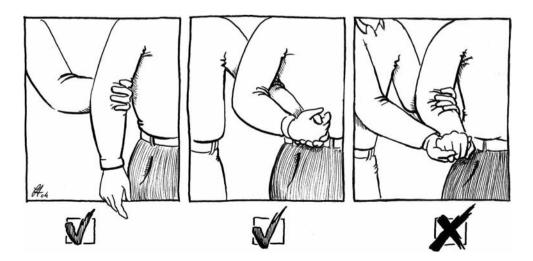
- During an emergency the available sensory abilities should not be hindered, because the survival of the individual depends on them.
- Devices designed for signalling the occurrence of an emergency must be "coherent" with the "abilities" of people.
- Indications in Braille language and writings with enlarged letters shall be present in any building in order to compensate the inability to perceive or process visual safety indicators.
- The most effective way to increase survival possibilities in an emergency is to teach people some easy self-help techniques, integrated with other fire safety technologies.





## **BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE**









## **HEARING DISABILITIES**











#### **MENTAL DISABILITIES**

- In an emergency people with impaired mental abilities may experience problems in being motivated to react by not sufficiently trained rescuers or in recognising them as rescuers.
- ★ They may face problems in carrying out complex instructions which involve more than one sequence of simple actions.
- In a dangerous situation (fire, smoke, etc.) a mentally impaired person may show rescuers complete/partial/or no co-operation at all.
- Under never experienced circumstances the person may show a reaction of total rejection of reality, which may lead to aggressive behaviours towards him/herself or rescuers.





### **MENTAL DISABILITIES**

- In such circumstances rescuer shall keep calm, speak to the person with a reassuring voice, ask for the help of people present on site and take a rapid decision on the procedure to follow.
- Top priority is the physical integrity of the person but sometimes a coercive action may be the only solution left for rescuing the disabled person.







- **Pregnancy**, especially when advanced, under particular conditions can result as a temporary disability.
- **Breathing problems**, resulting from existing pathologies or from situational stress, fatigue, exposure to small amounts of smoke and other combustion products.
- In case of people with **heart problems**, assistance can be limited to an offer of help or support, because their strength may be reduced and they may need frequent moments of rest.

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### **COORDINATION WITH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES**

- While drawing an emergency plan, it is essential to co-ordinate it with bodies charged with rescue services in order to ensure effective procedures (usually the Fire Service, emergency number 115; or the National Hea Ith Service, emergency number 118).
- **\*** The early involvement of these services can contribute in enhancing the quality level of rescue.





#### PLANNING A POSSIBLE RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES

An emergency plan must provide at least the following aspects:

- To ensure that all people (with or without disabilities) can reach a previously identified "safe" meeting point and wait for the arrival of rescuers; (the meeting point can be either inside or outside a building)
- **X** To define the evacuation technique.
- To carry out emergency plan drills with local authorities and all involved people.
  - To teach the concept of safety and self-help techniques to local population because safety is a community goal and everybody must contribute in its achievement.









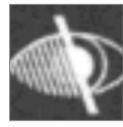
















# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!