Area of Rescue Assistance Standards

Sections 4.1.3 (9) and 4.3.11 of the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) require that a safe waiting area, or Area of Rescue Assistance (ARA), be provided at or near inaccessible exits for people who cannot climb stairs to remain until rescue personnel can assist them in evacuating the building. Listed here are the standards Associates shall follow to provide ARA in its buildings:

For Existing Construction

ARA will be provided depending on a building’s existing conditions. However, there will be cases where full compliance with regulations is physically unattainable, e.g. ARA wheelchair floor space clearance. Also, there will be cases where it is not feasible to provide any sort of ARA.

For New Construction

ARA will be provided. These areas will be part of the stairwells, rather than in the corridors (recessed alcoves) to minimize initial and life-cycle costs and to establish a common and expected location for ARA by rescue personnel.

In addition, new structures will be furnished with fire suppression systems (sprinkled) per University’s standards.

Tech Sheet Supplement

ARA shall be designed to comply with ADAAG as published in the Area of Rescue Assistance Tech Sheet Series Supplement.

END