

# DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Ambulatory:** An individual who has the ability to move from place to place, without assistance, to an area of refuge/safety.

**Area of Refuge:** Area where persons unable to evacuate can remain temporarily to await instructions or assistance during emergency evacuation.

**Area of Safety:** A location remote or separated from the effects of a fire, so that such effects no longer pose a threat.

**Assembly Area:** A location that has been identified as a meeting area in the event of an emergency.

**Complete Evacuation:** Evacuation of all staff and residents to a selected assembly point outdoors.

**Defend-in-Place:** A strategic process where victims are protected from fire without relocation. *Example:* Non-ambulatory residents may defend-in-place due to their inability to safely evacuate to an area of refuge or safety.

**Evacuation Drill:** An exercise performed to train and evaluate staff and occupants in their effectiveness to follow emergency evacuation procedures.

**Fire Barrier:** A rated wall or partition that is installed from the floor to the underside of a floor, or the roof above to subdivide a floor area designed to limit the spread of fire and smoke. The wall/partition has a fire resistance rating and may or may not be designed to prevent movement of smoke. Fire barriers are **not** fire walls.

**Fire Rated Assembly:** A window, door or wall that is constructed and tested in a manner to resist the passage of fire and smoke for a specified period of time, i.e., a 2-hour fire rated door or wall, automatic closing doors, etc.

**Horizontal Evacuation:** A way of passage from one building area to an area of refuge, on/or adjacent to the same level, or a way of passage through or around a fire barrier to an area of refuge, on/or adjacent to the same level in the same building that provides a level of protection from fire and smoke.

**Non-Ambulatory:** NOT able to move from place to place.

**Resident Accountability Form:** Signed verification form stating residents have read and understand the facility's evacuation and emergency guide. Forms should be kept on file by the facility's responsible agent or owner.

**Staged Evacuation:** A systematic approach where occupants are evacuated away from the fire's area of origin and moved as necessary according to the fire plan. If deemed necessary, a full evacuation leading to an area of safety outside of the building may occur.