



Disabled Viewing Platform – Generic Evacuation Plan

Introduction:

St Mirren Football Club have constructed a disabled viewing platform at the north end of the Main (East) Stand Sections M1 and M2. This platform accommodates 10 wheelchairs plus associated carers.



As much as possible the aim of this plan is to enable disabled people independent evacuation, not all disabled people will require assisted evacuation.

Platform Users:

Persons using the platform with wheelchairs will have differing levels of mobility. It is therefore essential that on each occasion the platform is used club staff assess the abilities of wheelchair bound platform users in conjunction with the users and their carers to formulate an action plan for the evacuation of each individual. This individual action plan is known as a PEEP.

Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans or Personal Emergency Egress Plans (PEEP):

The following principles will guide the preparation and implementation of a PEEP. The same rules of courtesy and respect will apply to disabled and non-disabled people alike. Disabled people will not be treated as a “health and safety” problem to be resolved. See the person not the disability; needs and preferences vary widely between individuals

Disabled people will be meaningfully involved at all stages in the development and review of their PEEP

Questionnaires:

To assist in the above process, the formulation of a PEEP, every member of the Disabled Supporters Association has been sent a questionnaire which should assist in assessing the mobility of individual wheelchair bound platform users. Copies of these questionnaires are held within stadium control for staff use.

Evacuation Routes:

There are four evacuation routes from the platform:

Route 1: Is via the South Stadium Stairs adjacent to the platform. Users access this route directly from the platform south and then turn to the right. **The Muster point for this route is the platform itself.**

Route 2: Is via the North Staircase situated a short distance from the platform accessed by turning left through the Supporters Bar. **The muster point for this route is at the top of the North Stair well.**

Route 3: Is via the Central Staircase situated south of the platform and accessed through the Supporters bar, turning right, and associated corridor. **The muster point for this route is at the waiting area at the top of the Central Stair above the stadium foyer.**

Route 4: Is via the South Staircase situated south of the platform and accessed through the Supporters bar – Central Corridor – Hospitality Suite to South staircase. As the evacuation route furthest away from the platform it is doubtful this route would be adopted however it cannot be discounted. **The muster point for this route is at the call point in the corridor opposite stadium control.**

Evacuation Methodology:

The staff member in charge of the platform on match day will confirm and note the details of persons present and assess/confirm their PEEP needs. He will make each individual aware of this assessment and give them a safety briefing including the actions to be adopted by each individual in an evacuation situation. The instruction given to each individual on the platform will be that in an evacuation situation they will be required to muster at:

The top of the North Stair well (Muster for Evacuation Route 2)

There are four evacuation routes from the platform:

Evacuation route 1: the South Stadium Stairs adjacent to the platform will be adopted as the favoured evacuation route for wheel chair users who have the most problems with stairs. Users access this route directly from the platform south and then turn to the right. **The refuge area for this route is the platform itself (Muster for Evacuation Route 1).**



Evacuation route 2: the North Staircase to facilitate evacuation an evacuation chair * is located at the top of the North stairs. The top of the stairs is a refuge area as is the middle landing**

The top of the Central Stair above the stadium foyer (Muster for Evacuation Route 2)

Evacuation route 3: the Central Staircase will be adopted as the evacuation route for more ambulant individuals who can manage to negotiate stairs. The area at the top of the stairs above the foyer is a refuge area **

The call point in the corridor opposite stadium control (Muster for Evacuation Route 3)

Evacuation Route 4: Is the fall back should either of the other routes be unavailable. The area outside the control room is a refuge area **

A written list of persons on the platform together with the results of PEEP assessments and associated evacuation arrangements (See Appendix A) will be made available to stadium control for the information of the Duty Safety Officer.

As with all evacuation/evacuation plans in a “live” incident the plan to be adopted will be conditional on exactly what areas of the stadium are in use. For example if there was an incident that precluded use of the stadium foyer then all platform users would need to be evacuated by other routes (See Evacuation Routes above).

Supervision and Staffing:

The steward supervisor in charge of Hospitality also has responsibility for the entire upper floor of the main stand. This person will be in overall charge of evacuation from the platform.

He/she will liaise with the Head Stewards and the steward supervising the platform pre match and formulate the course of action to be taken in the event of an evacuation. Each stairway being used requires a staff member to supervise an ongoing evacuation. Evacuation chairs will ONLY be used by staff that have been trained and certified in their use. Given the demands such an evacuation may place on staff and numbers the steward supervisor in charge of Hospitality will liaise with the Head Steward Pre match on overall staffing needs and will ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to attend and assist in the event of an evacuation. There can be no exact number allocated to this task as it will vary depending on the needs of the evacuees. It is therefore essential that a robust set of arrangements are in place whereby staff know their roles and responsibilities in the event of an evacuation even if it is e.g. Report to Supervisor A and carry out tasks he/she allots to you.

Training:

Staff will be trained and certified in the use of escape chairs. Regular training will be held on all aspects of evacuation involving ALL stewards and match day staff. The results of this training will be recorded.

***Evacuation Chairs:** An evacuation chair looks like a deckchair with wheels rotated by a rubber drive belt underneath and is manoeuvred by one or two people. When placed on the stairway it moves down the stair. The wheels at the back facilitate movement on the flat, but these chairs are not suitable for long distances. Disabled people may not feel confident using these chairs and it is not always possible for wheelchair users to transfer into an evacuation chair or to maintain a sitting position once seated in one. **Therefore, evacuation chairs should not be considered as the automatic solution to the evacuation requirements of disabled people.** The provision of evacuation chairs at this club is accompanied by a full system of evacuation for disabled people with operators that are trained and familiar with the equipment.

****An area of refuge** is a location in a building designed to hold occupants during a **fire** or other emergency, when evacuation may not be safe or possible. Occupants can wait there until rescued or relieved by firefighters. This can apply to the following: any persons who cannot access a safe escape route.

For further information please contact:

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