# Accessible Evacuation

## Improving Fire Safety + Building Evacuation for People with Disabilities

### WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

**ILLEGIBLE BUILDINGS**
- Evacuation maps are often too high and too small

**ILLEGIBLE BUILDINGS**
- Inaccurate evacuation maps like the third floor map in Lawrence Hall, shows an accessible egress path that leads to steps

**CONFUSING CIRCULATION**
- Confusing circulation at the Jaqua Center

**INACCESSIBLE MEANS OF EGRESS**
- Fire exit that leads to steps on the ground floor of Lawrence Hall

**LACK OF CONSIDERATION**
- Lack of consideration during maintenance leaves egress pathways inaccessible

**ALL GLASS BUILDING**
- All glass building hides the location of doors at the Jaqua Center making exits invisible

**FUTURE OF THIS RESEARCH**
- Exploring the economic implications of these solutions and creating cost-benefit analyses

### INADEQUATE AREAS OF REFUGE

- Call boxes are often too high for people in wheelchairs to reach

- Stairwell exits become inaccessible because of storage use

- Stairwell conditions are often inhabitable

### INACCESSIBLE MEANS OF EGRESS

- All glass building hides the location of doors at the Jaqua Center making exits invisible

### SOLUTIONS OUTSIDE OF ARCHITECTURE

- Evacuation chair
- Fire extinguisher
- Intercom system

### CASE STUDY ANALYSIS

Comparing two buildings of the University of Oregon campus that are different based on the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>LAWRENCE HALL</th>
<th>JOHN E. JAQUA ACADEMIC CENTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Originally built</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renovated?</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Users</td>
<td>Students</td>
<td>Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Square Footage</td>
<td>154,142</td>
<td>15,557</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### INTERVIEWS

A small sample of interviews were made to get a glimpse of what the potential issues are with the accessibility of evacuation methods. All interviewees spend most of their time on campus at the University of Oregon, either as students or as employees. Two of the subjects have physical disabilities. Four subjects do not have visible disabilities; three spend most of their time in Lawrence Hall, one spends most of her time at the Jaqua Center.

** quotes

- * Evacuation means of egress should be modernized to accommodate a variety of impairments.

- * Improving fire safety and evacuation for people with disabilities is crucial for the safety and well-being of our community.

- * The needs of people with disabilities are often overlooked in urban design.

### POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

- A larger sample size of buildings analyzed can give a better idea of the breadth of this problem, as well as explore and determine strategies that work and those that do not work.

- A larger sample size of interviews. By exploring a wider range of disabilities, including invisible disabilities, more issues that need to be solved can be discovered, making the research more complex, but still a necessary step.

- Exploring the economic implications of these solutions and creating cost-benefit analyses.

### INCLUSIVE. SEAMLESS. BEAUTIFUL. SAFE.