

## Moving a person up or down stairs

### Background

Moving a person up or down the stairs is a risky procedure. No one should be moved up or down stairs if they are violent or if you reasonably foresee that they might become violent during the manoeuvre. Always consider if there is an alternative procedure or an alternative route that avoids the use of stairs.

A person who has been asked to leave the premises should be informed that their invitation to remain on the premises has been revoked and are thereby trespassing. Inform them that if they don't leave the premises voluntarily they will be escorted off the premises and that if they resist that attempt it will be treated as aggravated trespass and the police will be called.

### Circumstances

It is envisaged that a person may be moved up or down stairs in two different circumstances:

1. if they are intoxicated or ill and require assistance
2. if they are non-compliant

### Risk assessment

In all cases you must conduct a dynamic risk assessment before considering any move with a person up or down stairs. A dynamic risk assessment is a mental assessment of risk which should be used when any delay would increase the risk of harm. A dynamic risk assessment can also be used as the initial step in formal risk assessment. A good definition of a dynamic risk assessment is:

*"The continuous process of identifying hazards, assessing risk, taking action to eliminate or reduce risk, monitoring and reviewing, in the rapidly changing circumstances of an operational incident."*

### The techniques

#### *(a) Intoxicated/ill persons*

Two members of staff should be used for this procedure. Where it is necessary to assist an intoxicated or ill person either up or down stairs you should, where possible, get them to take hold of the handrail (if there is one). Provide constant reassurance during the ascent or descent. You should consider positioning yourself, where possible, on the downside of the person to help prevent them falling down the stairs.

#### *(b) Non-compliant persons*

This manoeuvre requires a minimum of three members of staff. Two members of staff secure an arm on their respective sides and the third member of staff acts as supervisor/anchor. The supervisor/anchor must position himself on the downside of the person to help prevent them falling down the stairs and also to provide stability to the team. The team and the person move sideways. If the stairs have a handrail, the supervisor/anchor should take hold of it. The team should ensure that the

person being removed faces inwards towards the centre of the stairs so that if there is a wall the person's back is to the wall.

**For the purposes of training, the stairs must consist of a minimum of THREE stairs**