

WHEELCHAIRS: SAFETY & MAINTENANCE

Description of Issue and Importance

People depend on their wheelchairs. It has to “look good, smell good, work well and fit well”. A wheelchair that doesn’t “work well” can lead to loss of independence, injury, and illness.

Recommended Action and Prevention Strategy

- Routinely check wheelchair for safety with immediate repair if wheel locks, footrests or other parts are taped, cracked, broken, rusted, out of adjustment or missing.
- Follow wheelchair manual which explains that wheelchair maintenance is a requirement, not just a suggestion. If you do not have access to the wheelchair manual, ask your supervisor to make a copy available to you.
- “Inspect and maintain this chair strictly per the maintenance chart. If you fail to heed these warnings your chair may fail and cause severe injury to the rider or others” ~ wheelchair user manual quotation.
- Know who to call or what to do in case wheelchair malfunction(s) are identified.

Related Resources

Wheelchairs series Reminders: “Seating & Mobility Evaluation”, “Cleaning”, “Staff Training”

Outreach Resource Materials: “Manual Wheelchair Maintenance and Safety Checklist”, “Tilt in Space Wheelchair Maintenance and Safety Checklist”, “Power Wheelchair Maintenance and Safety Checklist” www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/4066.htm

Outreach Services

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For related reminders and resources, please visit DDRSOutreach.IN.gov.



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