



Access & Awareness Project 2005-
2008
A&A Information Sheet 21
ALARMS

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF
DEVON**

helping communities help themselves

It is essential to alert people with visual and/or hearing impairments to emergency alarms.

- Emergency alarm systems must include visual and audible capacity; in addition, vibrating pager systems can be used to supplement, particularly in sleeping accommodation; strobe lighting alarm systems are not generally recommended as they can induce seizures in some people.
- Use of emergency alarms must be backed up by a suitable evacuation strategy for all occupants (staff and visitors) taking into account of all disabilities – see 'Means of Escape'.
- Alarms (audio and visual) in the accessible toilet should be fitted with a red pull cord, fitted close to the toilet and it should reach down to the floor (i.e. not tied up!).

