

Employer Emergency Evacuation Plans should include consideration of traffic impacts if there is an immediate evacuation for an entire business park or region. How can employees and residents safely evacuate? How quickly can it occur if highways are at maximum capacity and onramps at a standstill? Advance preparation including transportation and commuter planning is a necessary component for a safe, organized evacuation and continuity plan.

Fewer cars with empty seats lessens traffic and improves efficiency. Encouraging commute options other than driving alone can be a great way to ensure roadways are not clogged in the unfortunate event of a mass evacuation. Being prepared in advance could make the difference between the havoc wreaked by unpassable corridors and a safer, more organized approach.

Pre-planning for Emergency Transportation Options

1. Update EMS Guide

Include a transportation section with phone numbers and important resources. Include your onsite Employee Transportation Coordinator as a resource for support staff with emergency transportation plans.

2. Host Commuter Events

Improve employee awareness of all commute options. Host GoTriangle Employer Services staff at regular commuter events or special presentations to discuss realistic options based on employees' schedules, commute routes and preferences. During a crisis, familiarity with commuter choices are only an extension of their regular routine. Find the Employer Services consultant for your area at gotriangle.org/my-location.

3. Facilitate Rideshare Matching in Advance

Hold an event or campaign encouraging employees to register at Share the Ride NC (strnc.org) to coordinate emergency carpools, vanpools or shuttles to facilitate faster evacuation. Consider creating a free, customized site for your company through GoTriangle Employer Services.

4. Training & Commuter Drills

Communicate evacuation protocols including transportation resources to all employees. Include transportation in emergency preparedness training for all employees so they are aware of commute options and develop a personal plan for emergency transportation. Conducting regular drills to practice the process, including meeting points, vehicle access and emergency routes can prevent confusion during a crisis situation. Simulations of gas shortages can be created by practicing drills to commute into work without driving alone, potentially increasing identification and use of alternatives to driving alone.

5. Display Evacuation Information

Post signage indicating evacuation routes, meeting points for carpools, transit or vanpools in visible, easily accessible locations to avoid confusion during an emergency.

6. Communication During and After

Establish emergency hotlines and communication distribution methods internally for sharing information during an emergency and providing guidance after. Provide employees direction for finding information updates: preferred media outlets, social media handles, SMS alerts, websites or other locations to find updated information of emergency situations.

TDM Options for Emergency Transportation Response

• Emergency Carpooling & Rideshare Matching

Register in advance at Share the Ride NC (www.strnc.org)

- Create "emergency situation" rideshare match lists with contacts, phone numbers and a sample plan that includes a carpool meeting point.
- Find matches with others who live and work near each other in advance by registering at strnc.org.
- Fill cars to capacity to reduce vehicle congestion on roadways.
- Encourage or practice trial runs, similar to fire or tornado drills, so groups are familiar with the routine.

- **Telework & Flexible Scheduling**

Before a disaster, identify who currently does and who can work remotely in an emergency.

- Establish guidelines for quickly activating emergency telework programming and flexible work schedules.
- Locate alternative worksites for use during the emergency or lack of worksite access.
- Identify an emergency work plan with redundancy to enable working remotely even if access to network connections fail.

- **Transit**

During gas shortages or high prices, avoid long lines and save money.

- GoPass is great for encouraging daily commuting and allows access to transit fare free.
- In the event entrances, exits or access roads are impassible, consider options such as employer shuttle service for emergencies – to shuttle employees between accessible transit stops or home. Establish drivers, alternate drivers, schedule, costs and address legal and liability issues in advance.
- Review plans as options expand: new bus routes, light rail, commuter rail and bus rapid transit.

Emergency Management Resources

Being ready to respond appropriately is critical to the success of any emergency response. Community resilience is possible when people consider what can happen and are equipped to increase their preparedness.

BE INFORMED, MAKE A PLAN, BUILD A KIT, AND GET INVOLVED. LEARN HOW WITH THESE RESOURCES

Regional Planning

- Durham County Government Emergency Management: AlertDurham.com
- Raleigh/Wake County Emergency Management: ReadyWake.com
- Orange County Government Emergency Management: Through DCHCMPO at dchcmppo.org
- Triangle J Council of Governments: Executive Director Lee Worsley, [919.558.9395](tel:919.558.9395) or lworsley@tjcog.org

FEMA and America's Preparation Toolkit

fema.gov & ready.gov/prepare includes information like a sample Emergency Plan to complete, mentoring plan, preparation brochure, social media posts, communications, how to prepare, fact sheets and customizable materials.

GoTriangle Employer Services

Utilize free commuter consultants to review this information, provide commuter assistance, and develop mobility options for your worksite. Services include Share the Ride NC Rideshare matching database & free Emergency Ride Home. gotriangle.org/employer-services

Transit Services

Information for traveling the region with connections by bus. gotriangle.org or [919.485.RIDE \(7433\)](tel:919.485.RIDE) for Triangle area transit service information.

For more information or assistance developing the transportation component of your Emergency Preparedness Plan, contact Stephanie Loyka at sloyka@gotriangle.org or [919.485.7463](tel:919.485.7463).