

CTAA- ELA Project Element: Define issue.

Due: 8/2/2019

By: Stephany Weed- People's Transit- Huron, SD.

I have chosen Emergency Management and Preparedness for my project. Ever since I first started in transit 3 years ago, I noticed that nothing was in place if there was an ever an emergency. This concerned me because I knew several agencies had Public Transit listed as their evacuation plan, yet, we really had no communication, training or preparation as to how to go about it.

Upon attending a few transit courses issued by Small Urban and Rural Transit Center (SURTC) and a Training Coordinator, Rob Lynch at NDSU, I received a more in-depth look at how to go about achieving my project in Emergency Management and Preparedness.

My first steps were to get in touch with the office of the Beadle County Emergency Management Director, along with the Mayor, Police, Sherriff's Office Fire, EMS and Township Board. Other plans will involve possibly getting in contact with the South Dakota National Guard, South Dakota Department of Health, County Commission and perhaps even the Governor's Office.

I started with getting in contact with the Mayor, because he is the Liaison on our People's Transit Board and I knew him well. He sat down with me and filled me in on the wants and needs in our town, as well as some of the challenges. He was very insightful and really intrigued of my participation and interest in the ELA Program, and even more so that I have chosen to get involved further within our community with Emergency Management.

As of this week, the Mayor has helped get me in contact with the Emergency Management Director, Taylor Jans. I asked Taylor if I could join the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). He explained that they meet quarterly, and he would include me in the next meeting in October. Additionally, two agencies in town are having a mock tornado drill (August 13, 2019) that my agency will be able to participate in. I am very excited to be a part of this drill!

This project is important to me because in the event there is ever an emergency, having a plan in place to get people to and from safely and effectively will be the number one priority. It will help us to be prepared and lessen the impact of chaos in such a critical time of need, as well as form a tighter bond with everyone involved within our community.