

CTAA- ELA Project Update:

Project: Implementing Emergency Management and Preparedness

Due: December 6, 2019

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

I am pleased to report I am making good headway in my goal of implementing Emergency Management and Preparedness at my transit agency. I first needed to find out who our Emergency Manager was in my community. To do this, I contacted our Mayor, who is also a City Liaison on our board. After getting in touch with the Emergency Manager, Taylor Jans, I explained that I really wanted my agency to be more involved in the community and that as a local public transit agency, we are a great resource to have in a time of need such as a natural disaster. I asked how to get on the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and he invited me on the spot! He explained that the committee met quarterly.

Taylor gave me some detailed information that he had, relating to Beadle County's operations in times of an emergency. Resources included first responders, law enforcement, fire department, EMT's and the hospital. What I found interesting was that in the event of an evacuation, public school bus transportation department and my transit agency were listed. The information was quite dated and their point of contact for my agency was no longer employed with my agency.

Taylor invited me to attend a mock tornado drill as an onlooker to observe and see how transit could be involved. For this, I contacted the Fire Chief, Ron Hines. Ron was overseeing his crew through this drill and helped explain the processes the Fire Department and Ambulance. Also there was the Risk Coordinator for Huron Regional Medical Center, Jeakobe Redden. It was very interesting, and made me aware that everyone definitely needs to know their role in the event of an emergency.

I have taken all this information I have learned so far and I am in the process of familiarizing myself in transits role in the event of an emergency. I have realized that regular training will be necessary and as it stands, we do not have any safety training in place. For this, I have asked our Fire Chief if he would help assist in some training exercises. My plan is to also delegate a Safety Captain within our Agency as well.

I am also in the process of interviewing other transit agencies within our state to find out what trainings they have at their facilities, as well as, what emergency procedures they have in place. This information will help me construct and update our current policies, contracts with stakeholders and help provide information to help familiarize my colleagues in the event of an emergency.

