

CTAA- ELA Project Update:

Project: Implementing Emergency Management and Preparedness

Due: February 7, 2020

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

As reported in my last update, I was in the process of interviewing other transit agencies within our state to find out what plans (if any) were in place at their facilities. The feedback that I have received so far has been very informative! When I notified Brookings Area Transit Authority, they brought the idea into light that our contracts with our current stakeholders should perhaps be revised to include that in the event of a local or National emergency, services may become altered.

When I met with River Cities Public Transit, I interviewed them to find out what procedures they had in place as far as Emergency Management. This agency has a very good safety training program in place. It is a much larger facility than ours, but they mentioned they have helped provide warming stations, they have barrowed buses to be used in emergency trainings and procedures. This helped give me some ideas to get in touch with our local police department, fire department, & EMS to perhaps let them know that our transit agency is here to help in any way.

I have attended another Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting in which is helpful in getting to know the people we would encounter in the event of a local or national emergency. Everyone plays an important part in these meetings. Currently they are discussing updating their triage tags so that the fire department, police department, EMS and hospitals are all using the same tags. This came to fruition after the recent mock tornado drill that was done in August. We learned that while all the triage tags are similar, it would be helpful to have all first responders and hospitals using the same tag.

Upon meeting with the Local Emergency Manager, he provided me a complete copy of the Emergency Plan for our county. Reading through it, I found roles that our agency could definitely provide. There was some very dated information pertaining to our agencies authorizing contacts in the event of an emergency. This being said, I am looking into writing and updated Memorandum of Understanding between our agency and the Emergency Manager.

Lastly, my goal was to arrange to set up some safety trainings with the fire chief; however, I have not gotten around to doing that just yet. I felt I needed to get a better understanding as to what other transit agencies had in place, which in return would point me in a better direction to the types of training our area should have in place.