Polls

• Have you experienced a natural disaster at your transit agency? (yes or no)

• What types of disasters have you most frequently had to deal with? (select all that apply)
  – Fire
  – Flood
  – Snow
  – Hurricane or Tornado
  – Earthquake or Mudslide
Panelists

• **Mark Wall**, General Manager, Lake Transit Authority, Lower Lake, CA

• **Kelly Scalf**, CEO/General Manager, Okanogan County Transit Authority, Omak, WA

• **Don Chartock**, Project Delivery Manager, Public Transportation Division, Washington State DOT

• **Jamie Ainsworth**, Public Transit Assistant Director, Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development
When the Smoke Clears...
Lessons from the Lake County Fires

Mark Wall, GM
Lake Transit Authority
Challenged Population

- Population: 64,030
- Poverty Level: 24%
- Total Persons with Disabilities: 19.6%
  - Ambulatory Disability: 10.6%
  - Cognitive Disability: 7.4%
- Senior Population:
  - 2010 Census: 17.8%
  - 2020 Forecast: 24%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Structures</th>
<th>Homes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rocky</td>
<td>7/29/2015</td>
<td>69,636</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerusalem</td>
<td>8/9/2015</td>
<td>25,118</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley</td>
<td>9/12/2015</td>
<td>76,067</td>
<td>1,955</td>
<td>1,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clayton</td>
<td>8/13/2016</td>
<td>3,929</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2015-16 Lake County Fires**
VALLEY FIRE FROM SPACE
The Valley Fire burned brightly last night, even through a fairly thick cloud layer. Meanwhile, the Butte Fire’s rate of advance slowed. NASA’s VIIRS satellite - 9/13/2015.
Disaster Services
• FEMA has primary authority.
• When a disaster affects public transit, an FTA–FEMA Memo of Agreement gives primary authority to FTA when Congress authorizes ER funding.
• State DOT with FTA approval may be able to allocate additional 5311 funds if available.
• FTA Emergency Relief Manual
- Emergency Transit Operations
  - Emergency evacuations
  - Valley Fire Ride Assistance Program
  - Special shuttle services
- Vehicle lease as needed.
- Free fares
- Supplemental rate/wage increase
Guiding Principles

- Support those who are displaced.
  - Employee assistance and wage increase
  - Special services for shelters, etc.
  - Assign a field representative.
- Be a responsive, reliable community institution that people rely upon.
  - Restore services quickly
- Communicate – website, social media, news releases, field representative.
Outcomes

- Ridership increased 11%
- Enhanced community partnerships
- Improved community transit awareness and support.
- Improved employee morale
- Both the County and Lake Transit are better prepared for future emergencies.
Okanogan County, Washington
Wildfires and Floods
Cities and Rivers of Okanogan
Methow River Valley
Okanogan River Valley
Central Washington Landscape

Wildfires are a normal part of Central and Eastern Washington. Wildfires are started accidently, or naturally (by lightning and wind).
Rolling Hills of Farm Land
Pine Forests
July-September 2014
Carlton Complex Fire
August 2015 Fires in Okanogan County
Safe Cities on August 17th
TranGO Resources
Keep Staff Safe
Support Staff

- MAIN OFFICE PHONE: **(509) 557-6177**
- OFFICE FAX: (509) 315-2548
- BREN T TIMM
  - Personal Cell: (509)
  - Work Cell: (509)
- MELANIE CARROLL
  - (509)
- MIKE FOTH
  - (509)
- RAY SHAPLEY
  - (509)
- BRAD SONNEMAN
  - EXTRA OFFICE CELL
  - (509)
- KELLY SCALF
  - Personal Cell (509)
  - Work Cell (509)
  - Tonasket Home (509)
  - Spokane (509)
Share Responsibility
August 18, 2015

Evacuation of Tonasket

• Call from Dispatch at Emergency Management.
• We were prepared to provide service, but our vehicles were too far from the location needed.
The Aftermath

In October 2015, our Board passed a resolution approving an inter-local agreement with Okanogan County Emergency Management.
Current Issues
Hillside Erosion
Threats on the Hillside
What Have We Changed?

The original service plan suggested all of the vehicles, drivers and routes located in Omak.

Instead, we have vehicles and drivers out-stationed in Tonasket, Twisp, Pateros (due to road washout), and Okanogan.
Preparing to Respond

• We are still working with Emergency Management on a final inter-local agreement.
• Emergency Management has been very helpful in notifying us when issues have occurred that might impact our services.
• We will continue to work with our partners and recognize that the best laid plans need flexibility.
• Citizens are worn down from continuing crisis and slow recovery. It helps to listen and be kind.
Contact Information

Kelly Scalf
CEO/General Manager
TranGO – Transit for Greater Okanogan
509-557-6177 (p)
kscafl@okanogantransit.com
Fire and Flood Webinar
Washington State

Don Chartock, Project Delivery Manager
April 26, 2016
Disasters in WA

- SR 530 (Oso Landslide)
- Howard Hanson Dam (nearly)
- Chehalis River Flood
- Seasonal Fires
- Earthquakes
Emergency Operations

Priority Focus

• Safety first!
• Clear the affected highways, bridges, railroads, light rail and commuter rail, airports and/or ferries to get people and freight moving

WSDOT and Public Transportation Division Can Provide Information

• Tell the public where roads are closed and potential alternatives
• Know who at local transit providers are the right ones to contact
Grants

SR 530 (Oso Landslide)
• Made emergency funding available to local transit and tribes to provide service during reconstruction
Grants

Transportation for Emergency/Disaster Response

• Regional Alliance for Resilient and Equitable Transportation (RARET)
  – Emergency Managers
  – Transportation Providers
  – Human Service Organizations

• Increase the life-sustaining transportation services available to vulnerable populations in the event of a major emergency.

• Increase the preparedness and ability of special needs transportation providers to assist in evacuation and/or access to life-sustaining services.

• Create an inventory of public, private, and non-profit transportation resources and fleets.
Training

Emergency and Crisis Management Planning
• Describes how to carry out recovery operations in emergencies and other natural disasters.
• Review operating in a unified command environment and gain an understanding of self-sufficiency requirements.

Dispatch Training
• Increase ability to build positive relationships with 911 and emergency responders.
• Handling the unexpected with calm, poise, and appropriate responses that will bring help and build positive professional relationships.

Cascadia Rising Earthquake Drill
• Exercises and training at Camp Murray for the next big earthquake
Peer to Peer

• Contract with Community Transportation Association of the Northwest (CTANW)
  – Representatives from CTANW presented to county emergency management groups.
  – Promoting awareness of the needs of people who can’t provide transportation for themselves.
Planning

Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plans
• Every regional plan needs a “crosswalk” to the county’s emergency management plan

Individual emergency plans, based on the needs that our partners bring to WSDOT
Lessons Learned

• Everyone has competing demands on that same asset
• Emergency Management is about triage
• MOUs need to be in place before the event
• Train staff and make improvements from practice scenarios before the emergency happens
Contact

Don Chartock
Project Delivery Manager
WSDOT Public Transportation Division
360.705.7928
ChartoD@wsdot.wa.gov
www.wsdot.wa.gov/transit
Public Transportation Flood Recovery
Public Transportation

DOTD’s Office of Planning
March 2016 Flood

- Primarily North and Southeast Louisiana
- 30 parishes declared disaster areas
- 6 transit systems assisted with local evacuations
- 1 Public Transit program impacted with loss
  - Washington Public Transit facility and 6 buses
August 2016

- Primarily South Louisiana
- 20 parishes declared disaster areas
- 8 transit systems assisted with local evacuations
- 2 Public Transit program impacted with loss
  - Livingston Public Transit – Facility and 10 buses
  - Tangipahoa – 1 bus
Louisiana Flood, August 2016
Flood Affected Area and Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acadia Parish</td>
<td>19,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ascension Parish</td>
<td>43,309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assumption Parish</td>
<td>1,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameron Parish</td>
<td>1,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Baton Rouge Parish</td>
<td>165,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Feliciana Parish</td>
<td>998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evangeline Parish</td>
<td>687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iberia Parish</td>
<td>13,092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iberville Parish</td>
<td>17,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson Parish</td>
<td>2,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson Davis Parish</td>
<td>716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lafayette Parish</td>
<td>68,982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lafourche Parish</td>
<td>896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livingston Parish</td>
<td>51,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orleans Parish</td>
<td>1,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pointe Couppe Parish</td>
<td>8,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Charles Parish</td>
<td>1,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Helena Parish</td>
<td>1,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. James Parish</td>
<td>431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John the Baptist Parish</td>
<td>2,121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Landry Parish</td>
<td>8,998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Martin Parish</td>
<td>30,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary Parish</td>
<td>7,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Tammany Parish</td>
<td>4,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangipahoa Parish</td>
<td>22,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrebonne Parish</td>
<td>2,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermilion Parish</td>
<td>53,347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Parish</td>
<td>688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Baton Rouge Parish</td>
<td>10,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Carroll Parish</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>507,495</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results obtained using Dartmouth Flood Observatory flood zone raster and US Census 2010 Summary File 1.

Map created & geoprocessing completed in QGIS. Summary statistics calculated in LibreOffice. Imagery from ESRI.

Citations:
http://floodobservatory.colorado.edu/Events/2016USA4388/2016USA4388.html

Experimental product based on uncertain data and unvalidated method. Results have not been verified. This product is provided without warranties or guarantees.
Preparation – State DOTD

- DOTD has Emergency Support Function (ESF-1) responsibilities
- Assist during evacuations and while displaced
- DOTD has existing emergency service contracts with bus vendors for temporary transport to and from affected areas.
- DOTD and Public Transit had contract language to cover a commandeering situation
- State risk management prepared to assume responsibility while in emergency operations.
Preparation – DOTD Public Transit

• Contractual expectation with all transit programs to work with local office of emergency preparedness coordinators and have agreements in place for what services can be provided.

• Typical agreement with 5311 and 5310 providers includes advance evacuation of elderly, disabled and caregivers, due to the ADA fleet availability.
Emergency Operations – State DOTD

• August flood resulted in DOTD commandeering 5311 and 5310 vehicles for post flood transit needs
• Partnership with National Guard.
• State risk management assumed responsibility while in emergency operations.
• Hotard provided post flood transit for displaced residents for employment needs
Lessons

• Reiterate to FEMA what plans are in place.
• Communicate better where transit facilities operate and how local shelters work with local transit.
• State / Feds do not oversee and let local transit serve local needs.
Questions

Type your question in the Questions box or click the Raise Hand icon to ask a question via your phone or mic & speakers.
Thank you!

National RTAP
888-589-6821
info@nationalrtap.org
nationalrtap.org
facebook.com/nationalrtap

Recording will be posted at nationalrtap.org/webinars; transcripts can be requested.

Robin Phillips, Executive Director
rphillips@nationalrtap.org
Liz Taylor, Senior Project Manager
etaylor@nationalrtap.org

3rd National RTAP Technical Assistance Conference
October 29-November 1, 2017
Omaha, Nebraska
nationalrtap.org/conference2017