Emergency Information

HIGHWAY ADVISORY RADIO

The District of Columbia has a Highway Advisory Radio (HAR) station (1650 AM) to provide motorists with information regarding incidents and or emergencies in the DC area.

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

In the event of a serious emergency, the District of Columbia may activate the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The EAS permits local government officials to broadcast timely information and instructions in case of possible or actual local emergencies. The primary radio stations (FM/AM) to listen to in the District include the following:

WTOP 1500 AM, 820 AM, 107.7 FM
WMAL 630 AM
WGMS 103.5 FM
WJZW 105.9 FM
WKYS 93.9 FM
WHFS 99.1 FM
WPGC 95.5 FM

VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGNS

In the event of an emergency, variable message signs will be posted on key routes throughout the city to provide information to motorists on road conditions and any other critical information.

BIKE TRAILS

In the event of an evacuation, the following bike trails can be used by cyclists and or pedestrians.

1. Rock Creek Park Trail
2. C&O Canal Tow Path Trail
3. Capital Crescent Trail
4. Suitland Parkway Trail
5. Custis Trail (I-66)
6. Mt. Vernon Trail (via 14th Street Bridge)

Information on bicycle commuting and trails
www.waba.org and www.bikewashington.org and www.commuterconnections.org

Key Telephone Numbers

Police, Fire or Medical Emergencies	911
D.C. Emergency Management Agency (24 hour)	(202) 727-6161
Police Non-Emergencies	311
MPD Command Center (24/7 line for reporting suspicious activities)	(202) 727-9099
Mayor's City-Wide Call Center	(202) 727-1000
Joint Terrorism Task Force (24/hr line for reporting suspicious activity)	(202) 278-2000
WASA - (Water and Sewer Authority Emergency Number)	(202) 612-3400
Washington Gas (Natural Gas Emergency Number)	(703) 750-1400
PEPCO - (Life-threatening emergencies)	(202) 872-3432
Department of Homeland Security	1-800-BE-READY

For More Information And Questions

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

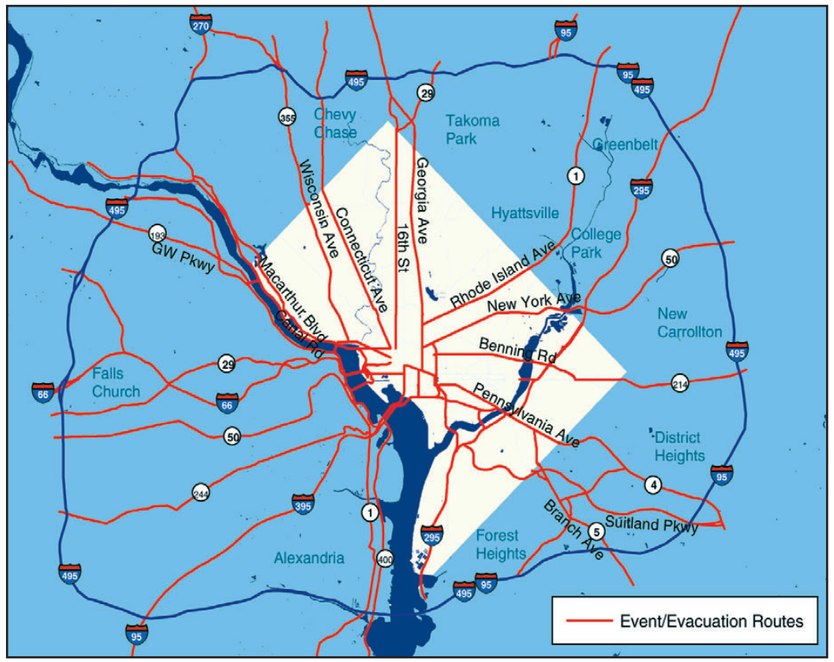
For more information on the District's Emergency Evacuation/Event Plan, visit the District Department of Transportation's website at
http://www.ddot.dc.gov

Other websites and telephone numbers to remember are:

District of Columbia Emergency Management Agency (DCEMA)
http://www.dcema.dc.gov

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)
http://www.wmata.com

Mayor's City-Wide Call Center
(202) 727-1000



Unless otherwise determined (listen for the message!), motorists north of Pennsylvania Avenue will be directed north, east and west on evacuation routes while motorists south of Pennsylvania Avenue will be directed south, east and west on evacuation routes.

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DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Tips During An Emergency Incident

The Government of the District of Columbia,
Anthony A. Williams, Mayor

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DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

March, 2004

Dear Friend,

Many aspects of our lives were changed by the events of 9/11, including the transportation system in the District and the national capital area. Working with our Federal, Virginia and Maryland partners, the District of Columbia Department of Transportation has taken a number of steps to prepare for emergencies that would affect how residents, visitors and businesses move around the region.

This *Transportation Tips During an Emergency Brochure* provides general advice in determining whether and how you should evacuate, produce a family emergency plan, deal with pets and communicate with your children's school system.

If evacuation is necessary, DDOT has identified principal "E Routes" to evacuate the District. These routes can also help drivers get into and out of our city during major non-emergency events, such as July 4th. Additionally, signage on these routes will assist visitors and others who travel our roads every day and may not be familiar with our roads. The guide also contains tips on the various means to obtain information during an emergency.

We hope that you find this information helpful to you and your family in preparing for emergencies as well as moving about our city and our region every day. We invite you to visit our website for updates to this information, helpful links, and services such as our traffic cameras (www.ddot.dc.gov).

Dan Tangherlini
Director
District of Columbia
Department of Transportation

General Tips

- During an incident, stay where you are unless directed by authorities to evacuate. Staying in your location is usually the most prudent course of action unless you are in immediate danger.
- Do not assume that you should evacuate. If evacuation is appropriate, listen for the message indicating direction to proceed and signs to follow. Information will be provided to the public through the media. Your best initial action is to "shelter in place" and stay attentive to media broadcasts.
- Plan to walk or use transit. Metrobus and Metrorail will be operated to maximize evacuation.
- If you leave your vehicle, make sure it is secure and not parked on an Emergency Evacuation Route.
- If you have a car, it is best to try to keep at least 1/2 tank of gas in it at all times.

Create a Family Emergency Plan

- Discuss with your family how you will respond to an emergency.
- Pick a friend or relative that all family members can call if separated (consider an out-of-state point of contact as it may be easier to call out of state during an emergency than in the local area).
- **Prepare an emergency Go Kit** (the kit should have a 3-day supply of *food*, *water*, *medical items*, *first aid supplies*, a *flashlight*, *radio batteries*, etc.)
- Become familiar with the District's *Family Preparedness Guide* which is available through the Emergency Management Agency, and online at http://dcema.dc.gov

Know the Plans of Your School System

- If you have a child in school, you need to understand fully the school's plans to protect your child in the event of an emergency.
- If you are told to evacuate, your children may have already been taken to a safe place by the time you reach their school. Find out if this will happen and where they will go.
- Consider partnering with other parents in your children's classes to develop joint emergency plans and shared pickups.

Plan for Pets

- You, the pet owner, are responsible for your pets during a disaster.
- If possible, plan to take pets with you if you must evacuate.
- If you and your family are separated in an evacuation, where would you meet? Will this meeting place accept your pets?

Evacuation Route Information

- Twenty-Five (25) streets radiating from downtown Washington, DC are identified as emergency event/evacuation routes. The routes extend to the Capital Beltway (I-495) and beyond.
- Outbound signs direct motorists to I-495 in Maryland and Virginia. Inbound signs show images of monuments (see below). Evacuation routes are also identified by street name signs, which include the red and white District flag. (3 red stars located above 2 red bars)
- Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, between Rock Creek Park and the US Capitol is the dividing line for egress routes if directions are given to evacuate the DC Central Business District.
- None of the evacuation routes cross and no vehicles will be permitted to cross the Pennsylvania Avenue dividing line during an emergency evacuation.
- Traffic signals (lights) will be timed to move traffic away from the event/incident area across jurisdictions.
- Critical intersections on the emergency evacuation routes within Washington, DC will be staffed by uniformed law enforcement officers to expedite vehicle and pedestrian traffic.
- All of the evacuation routes radiate out of the city and feed into the beltway (I-495 loop), allowing motorists to access all points north, south, east and west.
- Evacuation routes may be used as ingress routes to bring people into DC should the evacuation of a jurisdiction in the Washington Metropolitan Region become necessary. Event conditions in an evacuation may also require identified evacuation routes to become dedicated ingress routes.