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### Mass Evacuation: Lifting Tolls During a Mandatory Evacuation

#### SUMMARY

A local- or state-ordered evacuation will require that tolls on major evacuation routes be lifted to facilitate the flow of traffic and avoid severe traffic jams. States should implement plans that will allow for the automatic lifting of tolls on evacuation routes following a local- or state-ordered evacuation.

#### DESCRIPTION

During the evacuation of certain areas in Florida prior to Hurricane Andrew in 1992, tolls were immediately lifted from the Florida Turnpike to alleviate traffic jams and facilitate rapid evacuation. Tolls on other major thoroughfares, however, were not lifted until much later. The Florida Department of Transportation received authorization to lift tolls on the Turnpike prior to Hurricane Andrew, but not for other major roads.

The Florida Governor's Disaster Planning and Response Review Committee Final Report on Hurricane Andrew recommended that the Florida Department of Transportation implement a rule for the automatic lifting of tolls on all major state roads when an evacuation order is issued by county or state officials. The report also recommended that the Florida Highway Patrol be given the authority to request that tolls be lifted at specific locations prior to a county or state declared evacuation if a severe traffic problem develops.

#### CITATION

- The Florida Governor's Disaster Planning and Response Review Committee. *Final Report: Hurricane Andrew*. January 1993.  
([LLIS.gov ID# 11064](#))  
(<http://floridadisaster.org/dem/files/lewisr.pdf>)

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