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## GOOD STORY

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### Hurricane Sandy: Atlantic City Uses “Jitneys” to Transport Residents amidst Hurricane Sandy

*The LLIS.gov team identified several innovative Whole Community ideas and practices to support preparedness, response, and recovery following Hurricane Sandy.*

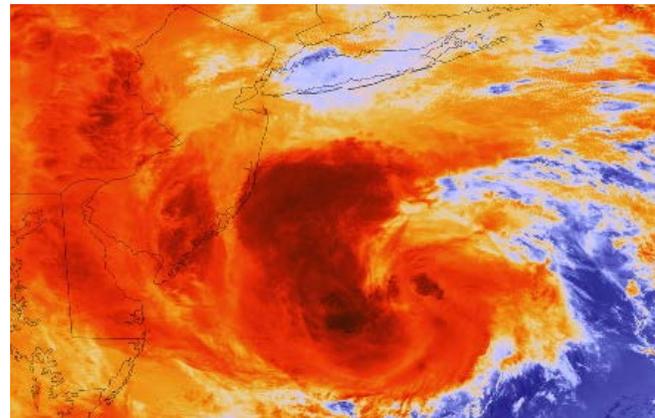
#### SUMMARY

Atlantic City, New Jersey, relied on its local “Jitney” minibuses to evacuate and provide essential resources to the most vulnerable residents prior to Hurricane Sandy making landfall. Since 1915, the jitneys have served as the city’s main form of public transportation, and they proved critical during evacuation operations.

#### DESCRIPTION

##### *Hurricane Sandy*

On Monday, October 29, 2012, Hurricane Sandy made landfall near Atlantic City, New Jersey, pushing a massive storm surge to shore and generating winds to up to 75 miles per hour. The National Hurricane Center downgraded Sandy to a post-tropical cyclone shortly after landfall. Sandy caused storm surge, record flooding, and wind damage. Nine days after the storm, a large nor’easter caused massive snowfall undermining response operations in the disaster-impacted areas.



**Hurricane Sandy Approaching New Jersey  
(Source: NOAA)**

As a result of these events, more than 8 million utility customers were left without power and hundreds of people were displaced along the East Coast from North Carolina to Maine. New York and New Jersey, two of the most populated states in the nation, were particularly impacted by the storm. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, “by one calculation, every incremental inch of storm surge in New York City displaced an additional 6,000 people.”

##### *New Jersey Operations Prior to Hurricane Sandy*

Prior to the storm, the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](http://www.noaa.gov) (NOAA) called Hurricane Sandy a “worst case scenario.” NOAA forecasted that Sandy’s sustained 60 to 80 mph winds, saturating rains, and high waves would coincide with full-moon-powered high tides producing a storm surge of up to 11 feet in some of the coastal areas.

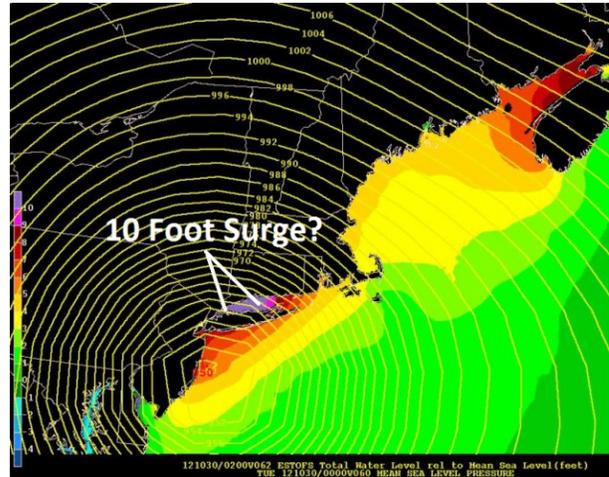
On October 27, 2013, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie declared a Weather State of Emergency and activated the State Emergency Operations Plan. At the time, Christie stated, "We have taken this action to assist communities which have taken extraordinary measures to ensure the safety of the public during this very serious and dangerous storm." In addition, on October 28, Governor Christie urged barrier island residents to not "be stupid, get out." Although most people used their personal vehicles to evacuate, some of Atlantic City's most vulnerable residents were unable to self-evacuate and were evacuated by the city in clean-fuel minibuses.

### **Atlantic City Jitney Association Operations**

In 2009, the [New Jersey Clean Cities coalition](#) received \$15 million in Recovery Act funding and purchased more than 270 compressed natural gas vehicles, including 190 jitneys for Atlantic City. The purchase of these minibuses allowed the [Atlantic City Jitney Association](#) to replace their entire aging fleet with a cleaner alternative.

The jitneys have been Atlantic City's main form of public transportation since 1915. These individually-owned 15-seat minibuses operate on four fixed routes throughout the city.

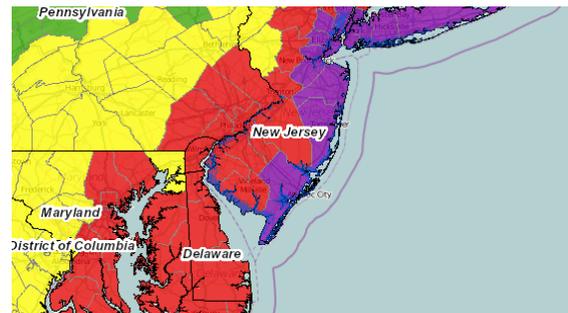
Atlantic City planners included these minibuses in the city's emergency evacuation plan. As Hurricane Sandy approached, the city employed these minibuses extensively to conduct evacuation operations. According to the Department of Energy, "thirty of the jitneys evacuated people who could not transport themselves, including elderly and disabled residents living along the Boardwalk, protecting them from catastrophic flooding and wind. Other jitneys transported clinic patients to medical treatments and helped those staying behind gather emergency goods such as food and water."



**NOAA Simulation Showing the Potential Storm Surge along the Jersey Shore**



**A Jitney Refueling at a Clean Energy Station following Hurricane Sandy**



**FEMA's Hurricane Sandy Impact Analysis Map**

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