

## RELATED TERMS

- Hurricane Preparedness
- Hurricane Katrina
- Higher Education
- Mass Evacuation



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# LESSON LEARNED

## School Evacuations: Sending an Employee ahead of Evacuees to Gather Timely Information on the Evacuation Route

### SUMMARY

School administrators should consider sending an employee ahead of the main evacuation party to gather timely information on the evacuation route. This enables school administrators to modify the route due to traffic or other factors.

### DESCRIPTION

Hurricane Katrina made its second landfall as a Category 3 hurricane on the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005. The storm killed over 1,300 people and caused catastrophic damage in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Loyola University, a private 4-year university located in New Orleans, Louisiana, successfully evacuated all of its students, faculty members, and staff members. The final 144 students and 5 university employees evacuated to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 10 university vans the day before the hurricane struck.

Loyola University had a pre-planned evacuation route to Baton Rouge. However, university administrators sent 1 university employee 2 hours ahead of the expected evacuation time in order to investigate whether the pre-planned route was still feasible. This employee provided the remaining evacuees with timely information via radio and cell phone on traffic conditions, street closings, and contraflow lanes. Based upon this information, the 10 university vans used an alternate route and arrived safely in Baton Rouge.

School administrators should consider sending an employee ahead of the main evacuation party to gather timely information on the evacuation route. This enables school administrators to modify the route due to traffic or other factors.

### CITATIONS

Department of Homeland Security. *Campus Public Safety Preparedness for Catastrophic Events: Lessons Learned from Hurricanes and Explosives*. Jun 2006.

[https://www.llis.dhs.gov/member/secure/detail.cfm?content\\_id=22147](https://www.llis.dhs.gov/member/secure/detail.cfm?content_id=22147)

Reed, Robert. Director of Residential Life, Loyola University New Orleans. Interview with *Lessons Learned Information Sharing*, 31 Jul 2007.

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