



Partnering Principles

Safe, Effective and Fair Partnering with the Motorcoach Industry During Natural Disasters

One of the most important services provided by a corporation is a civic service in times of national upheaval. The motorcoach industry has answered this call to service many times and, perhaps most dramatically, during hurricane evacuations of the U.S. gulf coast region helping to save lives and move people to safety. We will heed the call to service again. However we must ensure that this service is prescribed in as efficient and prudent a manner as possible respecting the capacity and limitation of the many small and large businesses that form this nation's motorcoach network. We have an obligation to our industry and our nation. In that spirit of mutual and beneficial cooperation, we put forward this list of **Principles for Safe, Effective and Fair Partnering with the Motorcoach Industry During Natural Disasters.**

- I. The companies involved are entering into contracts that disrupt their normal business operations. The government must assure proper payment in a timely manner to guarantee the continued viability of the business. To that end the contracting authority should be a government agency and not a third party broker.
- II. Fair compensation should be provided taking into account the hazardous conditions of the service, miles traveled, wait time, the number of drivers required and vehicles active in evacuation operations.
- III. Provisions must be made for driver and passenger security enroute and during loading and unloading by utilizing law enforcement personal as appropriate. Driver lodgings should be arranged before the arrival of operational equipment.
- IV. In activating and instituting operational activities there should be a clear and defined chain of command in place to dictate responsibilities and communications procedures to each motorcoach operator.
- V. There must be some provision for the insurance needs of the carrier. Consideration should be given to whether the government can sell or guarantee that disaster insurance is commercially available at reasonable pricing to protect the Motorcoach Industry.
- VI. Given the circumstances under which the motorcoach operators will be providing service, drivers and corporations where possible should be indemnified against injury or damage accept under circumstances of gross negligence.
- VII. In order to create an effective bus response we urge the government to contract only with motorcoach providers that meet all safety and operational standards as prescribed under FMCSA regulations.

VIII. To insure the effective and efficient evacuation of refugees there must be provisions for a ready supply of regular and ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel. There must also be in place designated parking, staging and fueling/maintenance areas.