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**CAPE COD EMERGENCY TRAFFIC PLAN 2011**

FRAMINGHAM, MA - The Cape Cod Emergency Traffic Plan (CCETP) has been developed to facilitate the egress of a high volume of traffic from Cape Cod in the event of a hurricane or other potential high hazards, particularly during peak tourist season. The plan’s main goals are to ensure the safety of the community in the event of destructive weather or other hazards requiring the orderly but rapid movement of motorists off Cape Cod and the Islands of Nantucket and Martha’s Vineyard; and prepare for the temporary sheltering of displaced persons resulting from the evacuation of potential flood areas and motorists unable to exit the Cape due to the closure of the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges.

“Like any plan, the Cape Cod Emergency Traffic Plan will only work with the full cooperation of the Public,” stated Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Director Kurt Schwartz. “To ensure the continued safety of individuals and their families, it is imperative that citizens carefully follow the life-saving instructions of their local and state officials, in a timely, responsible manner.”

It is important to emphasize that this is *not* an evacuation plan. Although there are a number of locations on the Cape that would evacuate from low-lying, flood prone areas to higher ground, many of these individuals would access local shelters and not necessarily leave the Cape. During the summer season however, (particularly the holiday weekends) most tourists will probably attempt to leave the Cape if a serious hurricane is predicted. The Plan is a tool that can be used to assist expediting traffic flow regardless of the hazard and should be looked upon in all-hazard scenarios.

On Labor Day weekend of 1996, Hurricane Edouard precipitated the declaration of a State of Emergency. Within hours, in the absence of any proactive traffic mitigation effort, traffic was backed up on Rte 6W from the Sagamore Bridge to the Orleans Rotary, a six to eight hour backup stretching for nearly 40 miles. It is this exodus of a potentially huge amount of vehicles in a few short hours that the CCETP has been designed to eliminate.

Phase I of the CCETP is based upon the need to eliminate the causes of congestion and keep

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traffic flowing in the area of the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges and the main arteries leading up to them, Routes 6 & 28. This will be accomplished primarily by the application of four traffic pattern alterations that:

- 1) Prohibit off-Cape access to Routes 6 & 28 at the base of both bridges;
- 2) Control access to certain exits for the Scenic Highway, Sandwich Road and along Route 6 to limit traffic attempting to merge into the main stream of off-Cape traffic;
- 3) Create flexibility in the opening and closing of exits by the Massachusetts State Police (MSP) in order to expedite off-Cape traffic flow across the Sagamore and Bourne Bridges;
- 4) Detour traffic to alternate roadways in order to reduce congestion.

Off-Cape Traffic heading west on Route 6W to Route 3 can proceed over the Sagamore Bridge flyover and continue on Route 3N at exit 1B.

Off-Cape Traffic heading west on Route 6W traveling to the Bourne Bridge to access routes 25/195/495 will have multiple options:

- a) Traffic can detour off Route 6W at Exit 2 in Sandwich, travel South on Route 130, enter the MA Military Reservation (MMR) at the Convoy Gate and follow the detour through Otis AFB and Camp Edwards to Route 28N at the Otis Rotary. Traffic then travels north to the Bourne Bridge and Routes 25/195/495; or
- b) Traffic can choose to disregard the detour on Rte 6W at Exit 2 above, and follow Route 6W to Route 3N where they can detour at Exit 7 in Plymouth and take Route 44W to the Route 44 rotary in Middleboro and access Route 495. Traffic can travel Route 495 North to access Routes 24, 95 and other points north; or Route 495 South to access Routes 25, 195 or other points south.
- c) As an option, the MSP will monitor traffic flow and may open or close detours as necessary. This includes the option of opening the Route 6 exit ramp (Scenic Highway) between exits 1A and 1B after the Sagamore Bridge. That exit will open or close as directed by the MSP in order to minimize congestion.

Local traffic traveling on Route 6W can utilize Exit 1A after the Sagamore Bridge for local traffic only. There will be no access to Rte 28/25 via Scenic Highway.

Off-Cape Traffic heading north on Route 28 to Routes 25/195/495 can travel over the Bourne Bridge and continue to those routes. The Cape-side Bourne Bridge Rotary will be blocked to prevent cross-rotary traffic. The Plan allows only north-south access to and from the Bridge via Route 28, and local traffic only via Trowbridge and Sandwich Roads.

Off-Cape traffic heading north on Route 28 which needs to get to the Sagamore Bridge to go North of Route 3 should either access Route 151 in Falmouth to Rte. 28 to Rte. 130 to Route 6 or traffic can cross the Bourne Bridge, follow Route 25N, to Route 495N and take detour at Exit 5 (Route 18/44) and follow Route 44E to Route 3 north or south.

Local traffic traveling on Route 28N can use Waterhouse Rd. to access shelters at Bourne Middle School and Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical High School.

Local traffic traveling on Route 28N can cross the Bourne Bridge and use Exit 2 on Rte. 25W to access local shelters and local destinations in Buzzards Bay and Wareham. Exit 3 (Rte. 6) on Rte. 25W will be closed and the Scenic Highway will not be accessible from the Mainland-side Bourne Rotary in Buzzards Bay, in order to eliminate cross rotary traffic.

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Phase II of the CCETP provides for temporary shelters on the MA Military Reservation at Camp Edwards to provide motorists with a safe haven when the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges have been closed. Phase II is activated when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers advises that wind gusts are at 70 mph in the vicinity of the bridges.

- 1) Both bridges must now be closed to *all traffic*.
- 2) Rte 6W will be closed at Exit 2 in Sandwich, and Rte 28N will be closed at the Otis Rotary.
- 3) All traffic between those points and the bridges will be allowed to cross. The bridges will be closed when this residual traffic has passed.
- 4) Any motorists still on the road will then have the option of going to designated emergency parking areas in the MMR and being shuttled to shelter on the MMR, or seeking their own shelter elsewhere, until the storm passes.
- 5). Once the storm has passed and it is deemed safe by officials, the Bridges will be reopened and motorists will be notified that it is safe to travel.

The CCETP has been developed by the MA State Police and MA Emergency Management Agency in cooperation with numerous agencies: Mass DOT, MA Army National Guard, MA Air National Guard, U.S. Coast Guard, MA Military Reservation, US Army Corps of Engineers, American Red Cross, State of MA Animal Response Team, Cape Cod Medical Reserve Corps, Barnstable County Incident Management Team, Barnstable County Regional Emergency Planning Committee, Barnstable County Sheriff's Office, Bourne and Sandwich Police Departments, Local Emergency Managers and Public Safety Officials from across the Cape, the Steamship Authority, the National Weather Service, the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, Cape Cod CERT, WQRC, and many others.

A copy of the *Cape Cod Emergency Traffic Plan – Public Version* is available on the MEMA website at [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema).

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is the state agency responsible for coordinating federal, state, local, voluntary and private resources during emergencies and disasters in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MEMA provides leadership to: develop plans for effective response to all hazards, disasters or threats; train emergency personnel to protect the public; provide information to the citizenry; and assist individuals, families, businesses and communities to mitigate against, prepare for, and respond to and recover from emergencies, both natural and man made. For additional information about MEMA and Hurricane Preparedness, go to [www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema). Follow MEMA updates on *Facebook* and *Twitter*.

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