

Rhode Island Department of Transportation



In view of recent hurricanes, Rhode Island was keenly aware of the need to revise and update its hurricane evacuation plans. The RI Department of Transportation retained Fortress’ Albert Samano to assist with this task. Using the RI Statewide Travel Demand Model, Mr. Samano evaluated evacuation routes under multiple scenarios and recommended implementation guidelines to improve evacuation times.

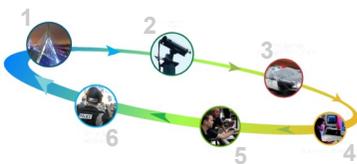
Hurricane Evacuation Planning

STATUS: Completed
LOCATION: Rhode Island

Mr. Samano performed a detailed evacuation route **assessment**, identifying and using five scenarios based on the time of day of the evacuation. Populations considered for evacuation included residents, seasonal residents, hotel guests, campers, and day trippers. Mr. Samano factored into the model how each population group would react in each scenario, the number of shelters required, and consideration of secondary evacuations, so as to take into account the voluntary evacuation of people outside the designated evacuation zones. Mr. Samano further identified the mobility impaired populations as well as those with *potential* mobility challenges.



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- ✓ 1. Threat & Vulnerability Assessments
- ✓ 2. Mitigation Planning
- ✓ 3. Emergency Management Planning
- 4. Standard Operating Procedures
- 5. Training
- 6. Drills & Exercises

As part of the analysis, Mr. Samano reviewed existing **plans** and identified areas in the system that could delay evacuation and worked with RIDOT to identify implementation guidelines to improve evacuation times. These guidelines included the incorporation of intelligent transportation systems, video camera monitoring, highway advisory radio, dynamic message signs, and special signal timing plans to facilitate movement out of the zones to be evacuated and into the areas with designated shelters

Throughout the process, Mr. Samano worked closely with the RI Emergency Management Agency and Department of Administration, in addition to specialists in travel demand modeling and traffic engineering and operations. Mr. Samano’s assistance left RIDOT with an enhanced level of understanding and capability regarding the implementation of an evacuation.