

## Policies regarding wheelchair evacuation

Information compiled October 27, 2005

**The Question:** What are your emergency procedures regarding wheelchair evacuation in case of fire on a fixed route bus. Please attach your policy to your reply.

**Ben Franklin Transit** says... Evacuation of the bus is to be done as quickly as possible. Wheelchair users are to be taken out anyway necessary depending on the situation. If they have to be carried or drug out because of fire then that's what needs to be done. Cutters are on all buses for the securement straps removal. Cutters are within reach of the drivers. With the flip out ramps, drivers have a chance to manually flip the ramp down and then could roll the chair out. With the other ramps it would be necessary to drag or carry people out and down the stairs.

**Clallam Transit** says... We do not have an emergency procedure for this.

**Everett Transit** says... We do not have a policy, but I would like to see what other agencies policies are.

**Grays Harbor Transit** says... Grays Harbor does not have a written policy, it is discussed in training and refresher training. I would like to see what other agencies have.

**Island Transit** says... We do not have a policy on this but would sure appreciate looking over some.

**Kitsap Transit** says... Kitsap Transit does not have a Wheelchair Evacuation Procedure per se. I have talked with Mark Anderson and Shirley Henderson - our Training Instructors for Routed Operations and ACCESS (paratransit) on this subject. We do have a training video that addresses this specific issue in great detail. Practically every evacuation scenario for getting passengers off of the buses is covered using various methods during accident/emergency scenarios.

Kitsap Transit will be drafting a Wheelchair Evacuation Procedure based on topics covered in the video and tailored to Kitsap Transit Operations and ACCESS bus types.

**Mason Transit** says... No policy. Good one to have.

**Pullman Transit** says... We don't really have a written policy on this, but we would handle this like all other fire evacuations from a bus. Obviously the driver would pull over and direct all

passengers off the bus to a safe location assist all passengers as needed and in the case of a wheelchair make an extra effort to evacuate the passenger.

**Twin Transit** says... Twin Transit does not yet have an emergency evacuation plan for wheelchairs on buses. We are about to finalize our Master Emergency Action Plan, which might have this plan included in it. If so, I will forward it along in the near future. Otherwise, we would be interested to see other Transit's plans for this situation.