

***BUFFALO POLICE DEPARTMENT***  
***D District***

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**TO:** Mr. Dean Messing  
Erie County Emergency Services

**FROM:** Gregg G. Blossat  
Captain-D District, Buffalo Police Department

**SUBJECT:** Threat Assessment 95 Franklin St. conducted 3/3/04

**DATE:** 3/5/04

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Mr. Messing:

The following is a synopsis of our findings from the Threat Assessment conducted on Wednesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004, at the Rath Building, 95 Franklin St. Buffalo, N.Y.

1) **Team Members;** Mr. Dean Messing, Erie County Emergency Services  
Mr. Norbert Rzeszutek, US Postal Service  
Lt. Steven Miller, Wyoming Co. Sheriff's Department  
Mr. David Serota, TSA  
Mr. Robert Moore, DHS/Federal Protection Service  
Capt. Gregg Blossat, Buffalo Police Department

2) **Synopsis of Visit:** During Training conducted by Texas A & M University for the Office for Domestic Preparedness, our team members arrived on site at @ 1030 hrs 3/3/04. The team did an initial walk around conducting a visual inspection of the exterior of the facility as well as taking several digital pictures of the periphery. Upon completion, team members did enter the Western public door (Franklin Street Side), and inspected the security booth on this side of the lobby. After conferring with the uniformed guard on station, the team did proceed to the 14<sup>th</sup> floor where we met with the Deputy Commissioner of Buildings and Grounds, Mr. William Thornton. Brief introductions were exchanged and several areas discussed after which the Deputy Commissioner and Senior Engineer Earl Zeeb did accompany us on the remainder of our tour. Team members next visited the 16<sup>th</sup> floor to observe the County Executive's Office and admission procedures. Following this stop, we then observed the 15<sup>th</sup> floor computer facility, the 5<sup>th</sup> floor HVAC/electrical stations, the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor security post and walk over to Main Place Mall, and concluded with an inspection of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor electronic security system. Our formal tour concluded @ 1155 hrs, at which time the team did adjourn to the 6<sup>th</sup> floor cafeteria to evaluate our findings.

3) **Results:** Exterior Parking and VBIED concerns-Northern and eastern sides of the facility have on- street adjacent parking next to the structure, while the southern side has full exposure to the street. While the western side does have landscaping and some barriers, there are 2 pedestrian ramps that allow vehicles to drive directly toward the side of the building. There are obvious concerns on the 2 underground parking ramp entrances that lead directly under the facility and are not actively monitored. The loading dock area on the western side near West Eagle St. had a large

County box truck parked there that was unsecured and unmonitored. The loading door itself was wide open with full access to the interior elevator. There were several drain covers on the southern side wall (Church St. sidewalk area) that could be secured more effectively. Current coverings could be easily removed and devices placed inside.

Internal Security concerns-lobby-uniform guard was looking toward Pearl St. door upon our entry and did not notice us until we had nearly reached the elevators. We were able to observe his camera monitor and elevator locator without hindrance. The lobby stairwell door was unsecured and we had access to the positive pressure venting fans in the stairwell. Had some agent been placed in this area and an alarm initiated, the agent would have been dispersed when the fans activated. This problem will be negated when the venting system is relocated to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, however the stairwell door should be secured and swipe card access only from street level.

Internal Concerns-16<sup>th</sup> Floor-County Executives Office was open to the public with only a receptionist present, and ready access to the internal areas once inside. The hallway leading to the press conference area was open and the internal door could easily be breached with little effort with full access to the interior.

Internal Concerns-15<sup>th</sup> floor- the access to the computer facility was through card access or by being admitted by receptionist. While the team was on site, a male delivery driver (FEDEX) did ring for admission and was allowed in with packages without any ID being presented to the window. The driver may have been known to the employee, but if not, ID should have been verified prior to admission being granted. While on site, the team did observe a male, purportedly a US Postal Employee, leave his mail container unsupervised in the hallway near the elevator. An object could have been easily placed in this carrier and blindly delivered into a sensitive area of the building.

Internal Concerns-5<sup>th</sup> floor-Excellent security on the admission procedures to the HVAC/Electric system. The location of the outside air intakes, air mixing process and the use of Plenum air are all excellent.

Internal Concerns-3<sup>rd</sup> floor- excellent planning on the closing of the walk over during alarm activations. Sheriff substation located well to assist in securing this area.

Internal Concerns-1<sup>st</sup> floor-as noted above, as well as the building monitoring system is in direct line with any potential device placed near the loading dock or a VBIED driving up the pedestrian ramps. The system itself is excellent, with the camera upgrades and when fully operational, this would be a strong asset during emergency situations.

Internal Concerns-Food service-excellent control of access to prepared food. Little possibility of tampering while in either the 1<sup>st</sup> floor café or the 6<sup>th</sup> floor cafeteria.

Internal Concerns-utility closets and chemical storage-both restricted very well. Supervisors only and access by swipe card or pass key.

4) **Ratings based on ODP Standard:**

- A) Visibility – High- existence of facility known regionally. {4}
- B) Criticality to Jurisdiction-Significant {3}
- C) Impact of Loss outside Jurisdiction-Low {2}
- D) PTE access to Facility- Open {4} - Many nationalities from Terrorist Sponsoring/Supporting Countries have access through utilization of Social Services and other County functions.
- E) Facility Hazards on site- minimal {1}- materials under good control
- F) Site Population- <15,000 – {3}
- G) Potential for Collateral Casualties (within 1 mile)- <50,000 -{4}

5) **Facility Vulnerability Rating:** 8 on a scale from 1 (low)-12 (very high)

6) **Overall Recommendations:** Facility making excellent progress in hardening itself against various threats. The remote monitoring systems as well as upgrades in the building monitoring system are very positive. The increased use of card access technology is proceeding well as is the relocation of all air handling systems to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor with restricted access. The security station on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor is inefficient in monitoring both public entrances and is too remote from the Pearl Street side to effectively react to an incursion. A second booth could be considered for this area. Concrete planters should be placed on the pedestrian ramps on the western side plaza to prevent any possibility of VBIEDs having access to that side of the building. The loading dock door must be secured and actively monitored and any vehicles parked there should be locked as well as checked regularly. The excellent plans for large concrete barriers on the Pearl Street roadway to keep vehicles further away from the eastern side are adequate given the public nature of the facility. The most glaring weakness in security is the unlimited access to the underground parking ramp. The occupied security/toll booth should be at street level with crash barriers available. Buildings and Grounds are totally aware of the problem and have initiated efforts to address this issue which are out of their control at this writing. All delivery personnel should have facility approved IDs and should be required to display them before admission to any areas in a manner similar to the contractors. The mail delivery personnel must be reminded to maintain full control over their materials at all times while on site and not leave them in the hallways unsupervised.

Mr. Thornton and his staff should be commended for their thoughtful and effective approach to the many threats facing our society given the public nature of the building and daily population on site. Hard copies of all notes and assessment ratings materials will be forwarded as soon as possible.

Respectfully;

Gregg Blosat  
Captain-Buffalo Police Department



# **Transportation Plan**

## **(Seasonal & Incident ANNEX)**

**Goal:** To expedite as efficiently and safely as possible, the movement of traffic within, through, or from the City and/or its inner ringed suburb communities during potential or actual seasonal weather or other emergency conditions. The inner ring communities include: the City of Lackawanna, and Towns of Tonawanda, West Seneca, Cheektowaga and Amherst.

**Objective:** To establish a plan with criteria which would minimize major traffic problems during seasonal weather conditions or other identified events, in the City of Buffalo and the surrounding suburbs. The objective would be reached by having all major employers and municipalities voluntarily participating in the program.

**Purpose:** To provide for the public safety, meet the transportation needs of the City of Buffalo and surrounding suburbs despite the adverse seasonal weather conditions or other identified events. To identify potential weather conditions or other events before they cause serious traffic problems and/or threaten public safety.

- The criteria:**
- A. The National Weather Service issues a Winter Storm Warning, Watch or Advisory
  - B. Forecasted sleet/freezing rain
  - C. Forecasted snowfall (intensity and duration) that will cause serious driving conditions
  - D. Any event or situation which would necessitate an evacuation

**Criteria will be obtained from:** National Weather Service  
NITTEC  
Emergency Services (City & County)

### **Plan Administrators**

City of Buffalo Disaster Preparedness Office  
Phone #: **851-4443**  
(24-hour number)

**And**

County of Erie Emergency Services Department  
Phone #: **898-3696**  
(24-hour number)

## **Plan Implementation**

### 1. Activation

The Plan Administrators from Erie County Emergency Services and City of Buffalo Disaster Preparedness will initiate activation of the Seasonal Transportation Plan. The participating agencies, listed below, may also recommend or request that the Plan Administrators consider activation of the plan.

### 2. Initial Contacts and Consultation

Initial consultation to consider activation of the plan can be done immediately by telephone conference calls between the Plan Administrators and key participating agencies. Key participating agencies would include NITTEC, National Weather Service, Erie County Sheriff, Buffalo Police, Buffalo FD, Buffalo Dept. of Public Works, Erie County Dept. of Public Works, NFTA & the Buffalo School System (if applicable).

The Plan Administrators and NITTEC will determine which additional agencies should be included in the initial, and subsequent, conference calls.

## **Participating Agencies**

- A. National Weather Service – Forecast Operator
- B. New York State DOT –North Erie Resident Engineer & South Erie Resident Engineer
- C. Erie County Department of Public Works – Commissioner and/or Deputy Commissioner of Highways or Designee
- D. C/Buffalo Dept. of Public Works – Deputy Commissioner of Streets or Designee
- E. New York State Thruway Authority – Communications Supervisor or Designee
- F. NITTEC – Traffic Operations Center
- G. Erie County Sheriff's Department – Watch Commander
- H. New York State Police –Tech. Sgt. – Communications – Thruway T-Troop
- I. Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority – Bus and Rail Controller or Designee
- J. Buffalo Place – Security Liaison or Designee
- K. City of Buffalo Police – 911 Lieutenant
- L. City of Buffalo Fire Department – Alarm Office Dispatcher/Division Chief
- M. Emergency Dispatch Centers – Emergency Managers of Tonawanda, West Seneca, Cheektowaga, Amherst & C/Lackawanna
- N. City of Buffalo – Mayor/ Emergency Manager
- O. Erie County Emergency Services – County Executive/ Emergency Management
- P. Buffalo School System – (if applicable)

## **Recommended Plan Options**

1. Don't open
2. Close and conduct an early release
3. Hold and no release
4. Close and conduct an early release using specified evacuation routes

**Major employers, both public and private, will be asked to participate in this plan.**

**If this plan requires an early release, voluntary compliance with the following two steps will need to be followed.**

### **Step I of the early release part of this plan**

Two Groups of Major Employers will conduct a rotation release of their non-essential employees when this plan is utilized. This release will be conducted one hour apart.

**Group one** will consist of: The City of Buffalo

**Group two** will consist of: The County of Erie

**Advise only:** State of New York and the Federal Government

### **Step II of the early release part of this plan for participating employers**

The remaining employers are being asked to consider releasing their total non-essential employees/workforce in 30-minute increments or choose to be part of Step I.

Employers may release their non-essential employees in any manner/fashion they see fit. Examples are by floor, by building, or alphabetical.

**The Mayor of the City of Buffalo and/or Erie County Executive, upon receipt of adequate information, will implement the plan.**

**The City of Buffalo Disaster Office/ Buffalo Fire Dispatch and/or Erie County Emergency Services will notify NITTEC, Buffalo Fire Dispatch and MERS to make the notifications to the appropriate agencies.**

**The Agencies/Private entities to be notified that the plan has been put into effect:**

**(not necessarily in order of priority)**

**Buffalo Fire Dispatch** will notify : Buffalo Police (including Parking Enforcement), Dept of Public Works (inc. Streets & Sewer Authority), Municipal Housing Authority, and **Buffalo Place** (Mon-Fri, 9 AM to 5 PM)→ contact downtown\_building security personnel

**Buffalo Place** will notify those facilities/businesses which they are responsible for (via the Secure-Net radio system & email)

**MERS Control** will notify :Emergency Services, EC DPW, Erie County Sheriff's Office and the Emergency Managers for the Towns of Tonawanda, West Seneca, Cheektowaga, Amherst, and the City of Lackawanna.  
NYSEMO –advise only

**NITTEC** will notify :

NYSDOT – North Erie Resident Engineer & South Erie Resident Engineer  
NFTA – Communications (Dispatch)  
NYSTA – Sr. Communications Dispatcher  
New York State Police – Troop A Batavia Communications  
New York State – Buildings Manager  
Federal Government – Buildings Manager

**Media to be contacted by NITTEC:**

WGRZ-TV (Channel 2)  
WIVB-TV (Channel 4)  
WKBW-TV (Channel 7)  
WBEN (930), WGR (550), WBFO, WBLK, WJYE, WNED, WYRK  
Metro Networks & Associated Press  
Dave Masi, NFTA Traffic Central  
National Weather Service (NY ALERT)

**The Following streets in the City of Buffalo have been identified as possible Emergency Evacuation Routes. In the event of an Emergency requiring access or egress to the City of Buffalo, these specific routes will be utilized and maintained to the best as conditions permit. These are posted with signage.**

**\*Evacuation Route\***.

South Park Avenue	Genesee Street
Niagara Street	Seneca Street
Elmwood Avenue	Exchange Street
Delaware Avenue	Main Street
Clinton Street	William Street
Broadway	

**Other Routes that may be utilized, if open and safe, to travel are:**

Route I-90, Route I-190, Route 33, Route 5, Route 219, Routes 400,  
Route I-290, Route I-990.

**The Seasonal Transportation Program relies on three parts to be effective:**

1. The voluntary compliance of all involved, agencies and business to participate in the release of their employees in timed fashion. (Vary from one hour to 30 minutes depending on the agency or business).
2. Communicating to the public that a program has been established and will be implemented when severe weather or other potential situation/event presents itself.
3. Re-affirming that the Plowing patterns and Snow Evacuation Routes will be plowed as advertised (when applicable).