

## Safety & Security Planning

# SECURITY PLANNING INFORMATION DIRECTED TO EFFECTIVE RESPONSE (SPIDER) MANUAL

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## WEST VIRGINIA DOT & FTA

RLS & Associates, Inc. redesigned and updated the West Virginia DOT's Safety and Security Planning Information Directed to Effective Response, or SPIDER, Manual to reflect the current issues and concerns in transit safety and security. This manual was prepared specifically for West Virginia's transportation systems to assist them with ensuring the safety and security of their operations, with an emphasis on emergency preparedness. It also presented all of the information and forms necessary to assist transit systems in meeting WVDOT Division of Public Transit (DPT)'s and the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) program requirements.

Unfortunately, the tragic events of September 11, 2001 ushered in a new era for safety, security and emergency preparedness in the United States. As Federal, State, and local public safety organizations assessed their capabilities to manage the new threat environment, so, too, the public transportation industry was placed in the position to evaluate and enhance its level of readiness.

While most transportation systems in West Virginia were relatively safe from terrorist attack, natural disasters throughout the United States highlighted the need for transportation systems to be prepared to respond to these types of emergencies in their own communities; to assist other communities; or seek the assistance of other communities, in times of disaster. Therefore, each transportation system was required to evaluate the needs of the community they serve, coordinate with surrounding communities, and develop, and implement, safety, security and emergency response plans.

Even closer to home, the mining disaster at the Sago coalmine in West Virginia highlighted the need for crisis communications. Keeping the lines of communication open is critical during a crisis. While transit systems may never be able to prevent a catastrophe from happening, they can control how they respond to the crisis. This manual enables transportation systems to take a pro-active, not reactive, role in emergency preparedness. Along with this SPIDER Manual and CD, you will receive all of the guidance, directions, and forms necessary to develop an on-going, comprehensive safety and security program.

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