

MDOT to Utilize Twitter during Hurricane Evacuations

Twitter will assist in providing traffic information for evacuation routes during the upcoming 2009 Hurricane Season.

MDOT has created six separate Twitter feeds that will provide route-specific traffic information to evacuees traveling Interstates 10, 20, 55, 59 and U.S. Highways 49 and 98.

The feed addresses are listed below:

www.twitter.com/mdot_i55

www.twitter.com/mdot_i59

www.twitter.com/mdot_us49

www.twitter.com/mdot_us98

www.twitter.com/mdot_i10

www.twitter.com/mdot_i20

Evacuees will receive information such as:

- Traffic delays
- Contraflow information
- Fuel availability
- Roadway openings, all on a real-time basis

In order to access an evacuation route-specific feed, evacuees can simply type in the feed address in your web browser.

- If you are new to Twitter, click “Join Today.”
- If you are an existing user, simply, “login.”
- Users will be asked to provide their full name, a user name, password, and email address.
- Once you are signed up to follow the evacuation route-specific feed, you must click device updates to the “on” position on the Twitter screen so that you will receive tweets via cell phone.

Tweets are text-based information that can contain up to 140 characters in length. Updates are displayed on the user’s profile page and delivered to other users who have signed up to receive them either by computer or cell phone.

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