

As more Americans switch to electric vehicles (EVs) and hundreds of billions of dollars are distributed through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), state agencies will play a continued role in the successful transition to electric transportation. This guide details immediate actions that state emergency management agencies or similarly focused organizations can take to prepare for the shift to EVs, bringing value to their state and constituents.

## Emergency management agencies

provide planning, training, and resources for the state and local communities to ensure preparedness for natural disasters, domestic hazards, and other emergencies. Additionally, these state departments may be required to respond to isolated emergencies or help clean up and restore following disasters. To prepare for these disasters and ensure transportation electrification is supported during these events, emergency management agencies should do the following:



## Minimum Actions to Take Now

- Ensure EV charging stations are installed along emergency evacuation routes and develop a plan for increasing redundancy of EVSE on evacuation routes to match adoption rates.
- Establish plans and policies for EV charging stations in flood plains—particularly for post-flood reconnection and safety measures.\*
- Catalog electric school buses (ESBs) as a resource in state emergency management resource libraries; utilize the EC’s [V2X Implementation Guide and Mutual Aid Agreement](#) for assistance.
- Coordinate with state fire entities on policies, procedures, and training for first responders on EV fires during emergencies.\*\*
- Electrify department fleet vehicles, including cars and pick-up trucks.

\*Louisiana Department of Transportation prioritizes [solar generation and battery storage at chargers adjacent to flood plains](#) for charging during storm surges and other emergencies.

\*\* Valley Hospital First Responders in Phoenix, AZ underwent [EV emergency response training](#).

## Recommendations for Accelerated Adoption

- Partner with local emergency management offices and school districts and sign [mutual aid agreements](#) to use ESBs as mobile power units in times of emergency and disaster response. Conduct drills/scenarios to utilize ESBs in this manner.
- Leverage hazard mitigation plan funding or the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program to install bidirectional EV charging stations at shelters, police stations, hospitals, and other priority building locations.
- Work with utilities, public utility commissions, and state energy offices to establish bidirectional charging rates, plans, policies, and procedures for EVs—both for consumers and fleets—to aid in grid resilience and leverage EVs as backup power supply.

### Case Study: Florida Division of Emergency Management

The [Florida Division of Emergency Management](#) (FDEM) plans for and responds to emergencies and disasters. The Division has prepared for the transition to EVs through thorough planning and elevated stakeholder engagement. Specific areas of action include the following:

- **Prepare charging:** FDEM successfully contracted with vendors and coordinated with state agency partners to provide additional charging stations to a community, region, or key evacuation route in the event of a disaster. This pre-disaster coordination and collaboration with key stakeholders ensures that residents have access to ample charging when they need it most, resulting in a safe and efficient evacuation process.
- **Educate Floridians:** The Division utilizes its communication platforms to provide consumer education to EV drivers on [steps to prepare for an emergency](#) and information on [how to handle power outages](#).
- **Understand challenges:** While FDEM does not own all emergency vehicles, they rely on outside contractors for vehicles and support. As fleets transition to electric, they must be aware that some of these emergency vehicles they are contracting with could be electric; therefore, the FDEM must identify needs and plan for reliable access to charging for these emergency vehicles.
- **Next steps:** The Division is currently determining how to provide EV charging to Floridians who choose not to evacuate during an extreme weather event.

### About the Electrification Coalition

The Electrification Coalition is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advances policies and actions to facilitate widespread deployment and adoption of electric vehicles in order to reduce the economic, public health and national security risks caused by America's dependence on oil. For more information, visit [electrificationcoalition.org](https://www.electrificationcoalition.org).