Evacuation procedures are the primary focus of emergency managers (and researchers) when planning for disaster in at-risk areas. However, re-entry could be more difficult than evacuation when evacuees are scattered across multiple regions or states (Lin et al, 2013). Furthermore, properly timed and organized re-entry is essential for the safety of returning residents while also helping the recovery process begin as soon as possible (Texas Division of Emergency Management, 2013).

A systematic re-entry plan also helps to support the recovery process by allowing it to be managed and begins as soon as possible (Texas Division of Emergency Management, 2013). The limited amount of research into re-entry processes and management has lead to a limited knowledge of the practical and theoretical aspects of the re-entry process and its smaller components (Siebeneck et al, 2013).

The research proposed in this project will explore key concept related to the processes and procedures associated with post-event re-entries. The general idea is to assess current practices and condense it for a general understanding of current guidelines and procedures for return-entry process and procedures. This may also allow disaster management agencies to demonstrate a broader benefit to the community resulting in increased level of support from many area transportation agencies (DOTs, counties, cities, MPOs, etc.) and the public.

The research output will come not only from development of new guidance but also from the standpoint of creating and disseminating knowledge that may exist in practice but has never been systematically quantified or assessed from a research perspective.