



# VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



#GetReadyVA

2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

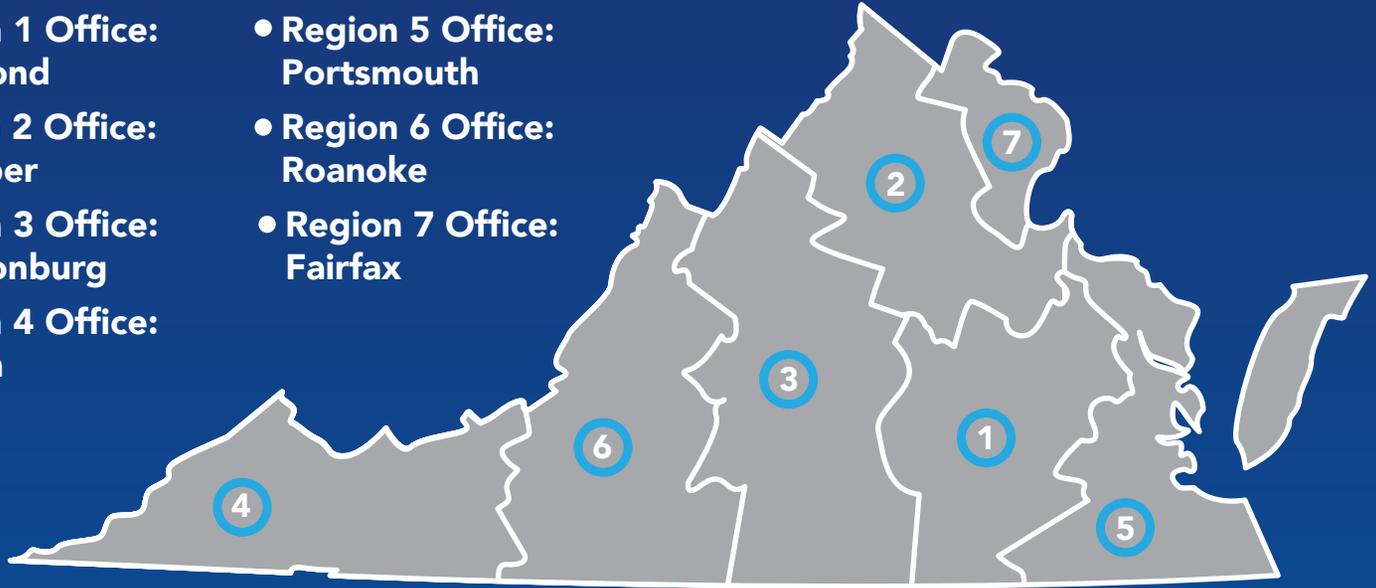
# INCREASE REGIONAL CAPACITY

Position to better support local and regional planning, response, and recovery operations.



VDEM opened regional offices in each of its seven operating regions across the Commonwealth – each led by a Chief Regional Coordinator – to be faster, more flexible, and more integrated with local partners when responding to and recovering from disasters. Through decentralizing staff, VDEM field personnel now represent more than 30 percent of agency staff, at no extra cost to the state.

- **Region 1 Office:** Richmond
- **Region 2 Office:** Culpeper
- **Region 3 Office:** Harrisonburg
- **Region 4 Office:** Marion
- **Region 5 Office:** Portsmouth
- **Region 6 Office:** Roanoke
- **Region 7 Office:** Fairfax



# QUICK AND INTEGRATED RESPONSE

Mobilize immediately in response to disaster events, incidents, and threats to the Commonwealth.



Winter Storm Jonas  
(January)



Tornadoes  
(February)



Severe Winter Weather  
(February/March)



Rocky Mountain Fire  
(April)



Severe Flooding  
(June)



Tropical Storm Hermine  
(August)



Colonial Pipeline Spill  
(September)



Hurricane Matthew  
(October)

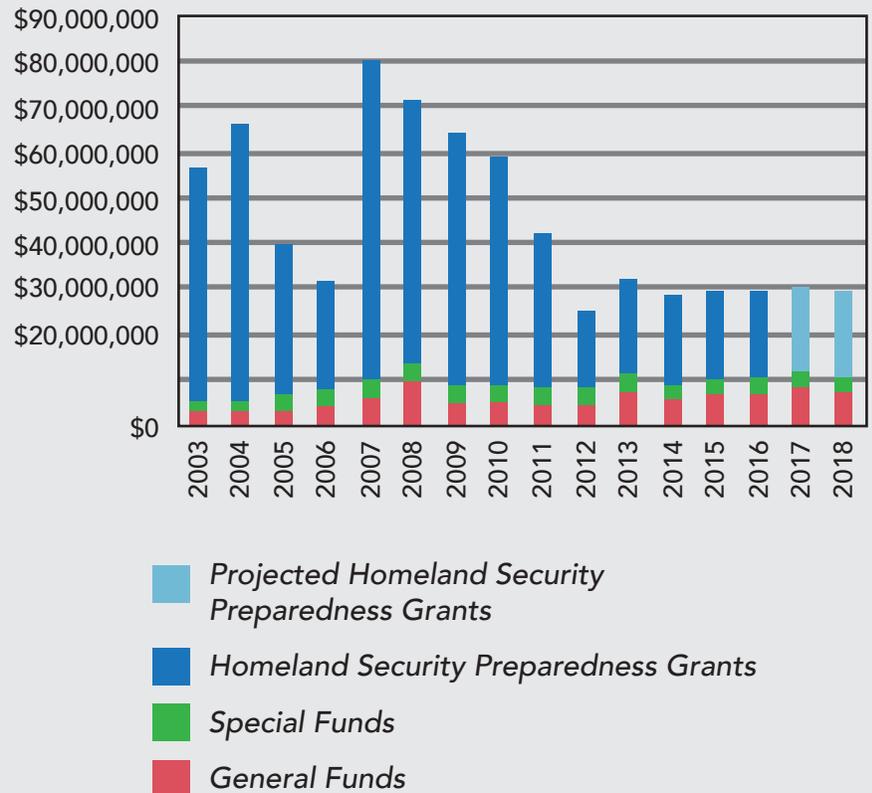
- 24/7/365 emergency monitoring
- 12 major disaster responses
- 6 Gubernatorial State of Emergency declarations
- 8 activations of Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST)
- 26 incidents requiring state coordination
- 2 Presidential Disaster Declarations
- 80+ search and rescue missions
- 7 mutual aid missions deployed to 5 states
- 225+ on scene hazardous materials response missions

**Other Achievements:** Memorandums of Understanding in place with 7 Technical Rescue Teams, 4 Incident Management Teams, 13 Regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams, 23 Search and Rescue Teams, 5 Radio Communication Caches; established Southwest Virginia Incident Management Team; deployed response assets to Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and West Virginia during disasters.

## STRATEGIC AND SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMS

*Sustain programs through period of dramatic federal grant reductions and budget austerity.*

- Consolidated agency finances under a Chief Financial Officer for centralized management of more than 20 funding streams, approximately \$20 million per year in grants, a \$6 million general fund budget, and \$3 million of special fund programs.
- Implemented a risk-based, transparent, peer review process to evaluate grant project scope, impact, regional collaboration, and cost benefit in order to strategically allocate State Homeland Security Program funds. This process promotes coordination among local and state partners and ensures federal funds are used to close the most critical preparedness gaps consistent with the Commonwealth's risk.
- Completed and closed 375 projects through the federal Public Assistance Program, including 3 disasters, while paying out \$33 million in federal and state disaster assistance funds.



## ENHANCED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

*Execute training exercises and expand professional development programs for state and local emergency managers.*

- Conducted 25 exercises featuring seminars, workshops, tabletops, drills, and functional and full-scale exercises for 800+ participants from federal, state, and local governments, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations.
- Trained approximately 80 local and state emergency managers in the Emergency Management Professional Program Basic Academy.
- First state authorized by FEMA to host an offering of the Advanced Academy outside the Emergency Management Institute's main campus.
- Successfully executed a FEMA-evaluated, full-scale Virginia Operations Plan Exercise for the North Anna Power Station.
- Engaged in extensive training and preparation for a large scale functional exercise, which was designed to test the response to a widespread electrical power outage. Preparation for this event involved extensive collaboration with the VEST and State EOC, Local EOCs, and Emergency Support Functions.



# A READY VIRGINIA IS A RESILIENT VIRGINIA

From hurricanes to terror threats, from cybersecurity risks to flooding, the Commonwealth continues to face a dynamic risk environment that reflects new threats and increasing vulnerabilities. In 2016, VDEM completed a comprehensive and methodical reorganization to ensure that we are ready to face these changing and evolving risks.

## REALIGNED 12 INDEPENDENT DIVISIONS INTO TWO BUREAUS

Disaster Services – Oversees Regional Support East (Regions 1, 5, and 7), Regional Support West (Regions 2, 3, 4, and 6), Planning, and Response Programs. Programs include: search and rescue, urban search and rescue, technical rescue, incident management teams, radio cache system, logistics, fusion center, watch center, and strategic planning.

Mission Support – Administers Human Resources, Information Technology, Recovery and Resilience, Finance, and the Training, Education and Exercise Division. Finance is now headed by a Chief Financial Officer.

## OPENED REGIONAL OFFICES AND DOUBLED REGIONAL STAFF

Each region has a Chief Regional Coordinator, Disaster Response and Recovery Officer, HAZMAT Officer, and Regional All-Hazards Planner.

## EVERYONE IS AN EMERGENCY MANAGER

Every VDEM employee is trained as an all-hazards emergency management professional. All employees have been assigned a role in the Virginia Emergency Support Team and are required to complete the Emergency Management Professional Program's two-week Foundations of Emergency Management course.

NCR ISIL HURRICANES CYBERSECURITY FLOODING CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE  
STATE BUDGET DEFICIT NORTH ANNA TORNADOES ZIKA  
SURRY SNOW STORMS

### MESSAGE FROM THE STATE COORDINATOR

VDEM is constantly evolving to address each new challenge that confronts our Commonwealth. We never know exactly when an earthquake will strike, and we may only have minutes to take shelter from an approaching tornado. However, we can improve our readiness by planning for all hazards, organizing our response system to speed help to those in need, training for a wide range of scenarios, equipping ourselves with the best technology, and exercising together as a single team comprising local, state, and federal governments, the private sector, and nonprofit organizations.

A ready Virginia is a resilient Virginia.

**Jeffrey D. Stern, Ph.D.**  
State Coordinator, VDEM



**Virginia Department of Emergency Management**  
10501 Trade Court  
North Chesterfield, VA 23236  
(804) 897-6500

[www.VAemergency.gov](http://www.VAemergency.gov)

