

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

Hurricane Katrina

SITUATION REPORT 17

1630 Hours September 19, 2005

WEATHER

Forecast: *Mostly sunny today across the Commonwealth with high temperatures around 90. Overnight lows will range from the mid 60's to low 70's.*

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia EOC is at Hurricane Readiness Condition 5.

State of Emergency: Governor Mark R. Warner declared a limited state of emergency within the Commonwealth on August 31, 2005, directing the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) to coordinate state relief efforts in response to Hurricane Katrina. Governor Warner announced Virginia is offering to shelter a minimum of 4,000 evacuees. The Governor requested a Presidential disaster declaration on September 6, 2005 to assist with Virginia's relief effort. The President approved Governor Warner's request for an emergency declaration on September 10, 2005. The incident period will begin on August 29, 2005 authorizing 100% federal funding for Public Assistance Category B (emergency protective measures). The assistance is for all 95 counties and 40 independent cities in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Protective Actions: Local EOC Activations: None at this time.

Local Emergency Declared: None at this time.

Evacuations: Localities across the Commonwealth are receiving evacuees from the Gulf States. The American Red Cross, voluntary organizations, and state agencies are providing assistance, such as food, clothing, and shelter, to the evacuees.

Schools Closed: None at this time.

OPERATIONS SECTIONS

State Warning Point: Continuing to receive and disseminate situation reports from impacted Gulf States.

TOWN PICKETT

Secretary Woods is continuing discussions regarding the voluntary transfer of shelterees to Town Pickett. A decision is expected by Tuesday 20 September. Administrative and security staffs remain at Town Pickett.

All state agencies and local governments that made preparations for evacuees, including preparations at Town Pickett, have been asked to send a Request of Public Assistance (RPA) to VDEM by COB September 20.

VIRGINIA EVACUEES

FEMA and Red Cross registrations indicate that there may be as many as 10,000 people in Virginia who evacuated from the areas impacted by Katrina.

Red Cross reports 2833 applicants (1 applicant per household – 6229 people). The largest numbers continue to be in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia. To determine the general status of the evacuees, VDEM staff surveyed in-state Red Cross chapters who have reported Katrina cases. The survey results indicate that some people evacuated in advance of the storm and others came after the storm.

Many of the evacuees the Red Cross has seen are low-to-moderate income and were renting accommodations in Louisiana or Mississippi. Their situations right now are not urgent, although they have not yet made many of their crucial decisions such as whether to stay in Virginia, find employment, and find housing in their current location.

Red Cross has extended its support of evacuees in hotels an additional two weeks – to 30 days. Red Cross casework will continue as long as the applicant is receiving federal disaster assistance.

FEMA reports 4,271 applicants (1 applicant per household). FEMA is going to provide further data from its database this week. There continue to be questions concerning the implementation of the regular FEMA Individuals and Households Program (IHP) for evacuees. It is not known at this time whether FEMA is sending funds to applicants in Virginia or is delaying distribution of funds until current interim housing (Red Cross) eligibility expires. Discussions with FEMA are ongoing.

Government programs assisting evacuees:

Department of Social Services has enrolled 1454 in the “e-Medicaid” health care assistance program administered by the Department of Medical Assistance. They also report 840 calls on their Information and Referral line, and 518 cases for TANF/Food Stamps (TANF-temporary assistance for needy families)

U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a new policy for evacuees applying for disaster food stamps. Households from the affected counties can receive a one-month maximum allotment, regardless of income, resources or non-financial factors.

Department of Education reports that 1062 students are enrolled in public schools and an additional 117 children have enrolled in pre-schools. The schools have also enrolled 7 special needs children. The school districts with the largest numbers of evacuee students are Fairfax County (114) and Virginia Beach (100). Chesapeake and Prince William County both have enrolled 71 students.

Head Start programs have enrolled 49 children so far.

College and university enrollments of students from Gulf Coast region: University of Virginia (140), George Mason University (40), Virginia Commonwealth university (38), University of Richmond (33), Virginia Union University (3), Virginia State University (4), Randolph Macon College (10).

WIC (women, infants and children) programs are accepting women from impacted states and waiving an ID. They use “homeless” protocols to be able to service clients, but they cannot track the evacuees separately and therefore do not know the exact number.

The Hurricane Housing Transition Center at VHCD is accepting calls from housing providers and calls that come through the VPIC. The housing number is 1-804-225-8989.

Virginia Employment Commission reports that more than 400 people have applied for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA).

Mental Health – Community Services Boards surveyed are not reporting any marked increases in request for services.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services established a website (<https://volunteer.hhs.gov>) and toll-free number (1-866-KAT-MEDI) to help identify private sector health care professionals and relief personnel to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

Virginia VOAD: Southeast Virginia VOAD – several volunteers have been trained by Southeast Virginia Red Cross chapter to help with registration or evacuees.

EMAC

The VEOC is coordinating 81 open requests through Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Posting EMAC requests for state and/or local agency response on the Online EOC. Currently supporting 10 EMAC missions in Louisiana and 5 in Mississippi. Awaiting responses from requesting states on approximately 45 proposals to respond to EMAC missions. The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (VDCJS) is providing staffing at the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) to assist with EMAC.

A 7 person Incident Management Team from Chesterfield County deployed to the New Orleans Fire Emergency Operations Center.

Chesterfield Counties Mobile Command Post deployed to Baton Rouge in support of Louisiana State Police.

Six person Incident Management Team from Arlington County deployed and onsite working from the New Orleans Police Department Emergency Operations Center. Two ten-person Incident Management Teams from Arlington County deployed to assist the New Orleans Emergency Operations Center. VDEM Regional Coordinator deployed with one of the Arlington County teams.

Six person Incident Management Team from Fairfax County deployed and onsite working from the NASA Complex Mississippi.

Four person IMT deployed to Louisiana Office of Emergency Management in Baton Rouge.

Thirty person IMT deployed to Harrison County Mississippi for State Emergency Management Office.

Fifty person fire fighting task force with equipment deployed to Hancock County Fire Command.

STATE ACTIVITIES

Currently there are 405 Virginia National Guardsmen deployed to the Gulf area.

There are 64 Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOP) personnel deployed to the Gulf area.

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Virginia Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT)-1 is fully operational with 34 personnel and a five person Medical Strike Team has been rerouted to Miami, Florida in preparation for Tropical Storm Rita. There are also 2 Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) personnel, in support of DMORT operations and 1 VDH Public Information Officer deployed to Texas in support of FEMA. Fourteen Medical Reserve Corp groups have been activated with a total of 72 people deployed.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Citizen Corps volunteers are assisting with local emergency management efforts in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts across the state. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers have been deployed through their local Red Cross chapters.

The Virginia Public Inquiry Center (VPIC) reports 15 calls received today. The total number of calls received to date is 774. The VPIC hours are from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm until further notice.