

Joint Field Office (JFO)
13900 Hull Street Road, Midlothian, Virginia
Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)
Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

Louisa County Earthquake / 2011-08

FEMA-4042-DR-VA

SITUATION REPORT #76

1600 Hours Thursday, January 19, 2012
Next SITREP 1600 Hours Monday, January 23, 2012

SUMMARY

Gov. Bob McDonnell declared a State of Emergency for Virginia August 26, in response to the 5.8 magnitude Louisa County earthquake August 23. Several thousand residents and dozens of businesses and other entities reported damage. Louisa County High School and Thomas Jefferson Elementary School suffered major damage.

As of today, the U.S. Geodetic Survey reported, 54 aftershocks with a magnitude greater than 2.0 had struck the area, four of them since January 13:

- **2.5 magnitude, 4:03 p.m. Wednesday, 6 miles southwest of Mineral.**
- **2.0 magnitude, 9:20 a.m. Wednesday, 8 miles south of Louisa.**
- **2.5 magnitude, 8:08 a.m., Wednesday, 5 miles southwest of Mineral.**
- **2.3 magnitude, 6:18 p.m., January 13, 9 miles south-southwest of Mineral.**

FEMA announced a Presidential Major Declaration for Individual Assistance November 4 for Louisa County and added Public Assistance November 10. Later, Spotsylvania County and the city of Fredericksburg were declared for Public Assistance. An expanded outreach program, extensive site visits and inspections turned up large numbers of structures with significant damage that had previously gone undetected or unreported.

On December 28, FEMA approved requests for federal assistance for seven jurisdictions affected by the earthquake: Culpeper County, Individual and Public Assistance; Fluvanna, Goochland and Orange counties, Individual Assistance; Northampton County, Public Assistance; and Spotsylvania County and the city of Fredericksburg, Individual Assistance.

The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) has analyzed the seismological cause of the quake and the type and extent of damages. The report, which noted major differences between East Coast and West Coast quakes, looked at the limited ability of the region to deal with the impact of even a moderate earthquake on evacuation, communication and transportation. To read the report, go to: www.eqclearinghouse.org/2011-08-23-virginia/files/2011/12/EERI-GEER-DRC-Virginia-eg-report.pdf

Significant amounts of federal aid have started flowing into the earthquake area. FEMA has approved \$11.5 million in assistance for families, individuals, business owners, and local governments who suffered damage.

IA Registration in Declared Localities (As of 1/19/12)	
Locality	Number
Culpeper	90
Fluvanna	220
Fredericksburg	64
Goochland	185
Louisa	3,652
Orange	158
Spotsylvania	458
Total	4,827
Virginia Total	5,036
Percent of All Registrations	96%

The amount approved as of January 18 includes more than:

- \$9.0 million in grants under the FEMA Individuals and Household Program.
- \$2.5 million in SBA loans for homeowners, renters and business owners.

The total number of registrations with FEMA has climbed to 5,043 with 101 on Wednesday. Traffic at the two Disaster Recovery Centers reached 2,935 with 63 on Wednesday.

Individual Assistance

FEMA denied the Commonwealth’s request Individual Assistance for Louisa County October 7, but based on additional data, reversed its decision November 4 and approved assistance for individuals and business owners in Louisa County.

**Individual Assistance Daily Summary
(COB 1/18/12)**

Registrations in 7 Designated Localities	4,834	Total Registrations	5,043
Registrations in 53 Undesignated Localities	209		

Individual & Households Program (IHP)

Registration Referrals	4,467	Total \$ Approvals	\$9,013,615.05
Registrations Approved	3,298	Total \$ Disbursed	\$9,002,973.51
Eligibility Rate	74%		

Broken Down As:

Housing Assistance (HA)

Registration Referrals	4,451	Total \$ Approved	\$8,970,617.67
Registrations Approved	3,256	Total \$ Disbursed	\$8,959,976.13
Eligibility Rate	73%	Average Award	\$2,755.10

Other Needs Assistance (ONA)

Referrals	916	Total \$ Approved	\$42,997.38
Approved	257	Total \$ Disbursed	\$42,997.38

Inspection Services (IS)

Inspections Requested	4,601	Inspections Outstanding	255
Inspections Performed	4,346		

FEMA granted a 60-day extension of the teleregistration period until March 5 because of the steady high volume of teleregistrations and the number of individuals visiting the Disaster Recovery Center in Louisa. The volume of registrations and visits reflected an intensive Community Relations initiative.

In today’s IA report, 5,043 individuals from 60 Virginia jurisdictions had called the FEMA teleregistration number to report earthquake damages. Of the 101 new registrants, 95 were from the declared jurisdictions.

Of the 4,467 referrals from declared localities, 3,298, or 73 percent, have been approved for financial assistance totaling \$9.0 million. Thirteen recipients are eligible for the maximum Individual and Households Program grant of \$31,400.

Disaster Recovery Center

Of 2,935 visitors to both locations, 2,470 were referred to Housing Assistance, 1,197 to SBA for home or business loans, 1,446 to Hazard Mitigation, and 1,243 to volunteer assistance organizations. In all, 44 percent of the 1,296 of the visitors registered for disaster assistance.

DRC Visitors 2011-12 (As of 1/18/12)					2012 New DRC Referrals (As of 1/18/12)				
Location	Daily	2012	2011	2011-12	DRC	Housing	SBA	Mitig.	Vols.
Louisa	47	597	2,131	2,728	Louisa	539	179	238	190
Spotsylvania	16	207	0	207	Spotsylvania	186	139	138	0
TOTAL	63	804	2,131	2,935	Total	725	318	376	190

**Home and Business Field Contacts in Newly Declared Localities
(As of 1/18/12)**

Type	Visited	Spoke with	Damaged	Registered
Residences	1,492	1,093	492	142
Businesses	481	537	62	12

Community Relations

Community Relations teams are canvassing the six newly declared jurisdictions to provide information to the public on the availability of Individual Assistance.

Since they began their canvass January 5, the teams have visited 1,492 residences, 481 businesses, 139 faith-based and community organizations, 21 local agencies and 6 schools.

The two-month Louisa County canvass, which ended December 23, shows CR teams visited 10,048 residences out of some 12,000 in the county of 30,000. They spoke with 3,506 individuals, of whom 1,847 reported damage and 503 had not registered at the time of the visit. The teams called on 234 businesses, 240 faith and community based groups, 28 local agencies and 4 schools.

SBA Loans

The Small Business Administration reported that it has approved \$2.4 million in low-interest loans to repair damages from the quake, including \$460,700 to businesses.

**Louisa Small Business Administration (SBA)Loans
(As of 1/17/12)**

Applications	Home	Business	Econ. Inj.	Total
Issued	3,586	451	2	4,039
Received	318	22	0	340
Approved	113	7	0	120
Amount	\$2,016,700	\$460,700	\$0	\$2,477,400

Community Outreach

The first of several town hall meetings in the earthquake area is scheduled for January 24 at 7 p.m. at Culpeper High School, 14240 Achievement Drive, Culpeper, VA 22701. Other town hall meetings are being scheduled for Goochland County January 26 and Fluvanna County February 1. The

meetings are designed to give the public a chance to learn about assistance programs and ask questions about them.

Public Assistance

The governor announced November 10 that FEMA had approved a Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance for Louisa County requested by the Commonwealth October 21. FEMA designated Spotsylvania County November 18 as an add-on for Public Assistance. On December 6, FEMA added the city of Fredericksburg as eligible for Public Assistance. On December 28, Culpeper and Northampton counties were added. As the extent of significant amounts of infrastructure and private structural damage became apparent, VDEM and FEMA sent out additional joint assessment teams to quantify it in surrounding jurisdictions. Verification of damages for both Individual and Public Assistance requests in undesignated localities was completed December 22.

**Summary of Public Assistance Activity
FEMA 4042 (As of 1/18/12)**

PA Requests	16	Project Worksheets	
Ineligible/Withdrawn	0	Estimated Total	58
Exit Briefs	2	Received	22
Open	14	Pending Obligated	13
Kickoff Meetings	11	Obligated	0
Total Completed	2	\$Dispersed	\$0

The Project Worksheet to repair the heavily damaged Thomas Jefferson Elementary School has been completed and is under review. The worksheet would cover the uninsured portion of the damages incurred from the earthquake.

Mitigation

Home and business owners may be eligible for assistance to strengthen their structures against future earthquakes similar to the August 23 Louisa event. Three mitigation options are available: rebuild or replace an existing structure; retrofit an entire structure or incrementally retrofit key components. Some steps can be accomplished during scheduled maintenance such as roof or structural wall repair. Virginia building codes set standards for basic building integrity but may need to be strengthened in light of the Louisa event. Information kits are available through the two Disaster Recovery Center and FEM/VDEM Mitigation booths at three disaster area Lowe’s stores.

PROGRAM REPORTS

Joint Incident Priorities:

1. Determine resource needs to support recovery operations.
2. Ensure a safe and healthy working environment.
3. Work together as a cohesive team.
4. Provide a timely and effective Hazard Mitigation program.

Joint Incident Objectives:

1. Conduct Individual Assistance Operations and assess unmet survivor needs in newly designated localities.
2. Reach out to disability community to provide survivors needed services.
3. Implement Public Assistance program for newly designated counties through kick-off meetings and applicant briefings.
4. Support Disaster Recovery Center operations in Louisa and Spotsylvania Counties.
5. Inform potential applicants of need to register through effective outreach effort.
6. Coordinate Mitigation, Historic Preservation and Environmental activities.
7. Integrate volunteer agencies into the IA relief process.

8. Conduct an effective outreach strategy to manage expectations of applicants, local officials and Virginia delegation.

Deputy Commonwealth Coordinating Officer (DCCO) Brett Burdick

- Coordinate joint activities between the Commonwealth and FEMA.

Operations Section George Roarty:

- **Damage assessments are continuing in Albemarle and King George counties in support of an Individual Assistance appeal.**
- Support two Disaster Recovery Centers in Louisa and Spotsylvania counties for the delivery of disaster assistance.
- Drafted combined Individual and Public Assistance add-on request letter for review.
- Requested VHDA to identify housing resources available within a reasonable distance of the impacted area through their housing database.

Public Assistance Supervisor Nealia Dabney:

- Completion of kick-off meetings is scheduled January 20.
- Deploy Public Assistance teams covering seven affected local jurisdictions.
- Received 11 requests for Public Assistance.

Individual Assistance Larry Braja:

- Assess justification for an Individual Assistance appeal for Albemarle and King George counties.
- Develop in coordination with the Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters a strategy to address unmet needs in designated and non-designated localities.
- Respond to inquiries from citizens, businesses and local governments.
- Coordinate response for special needs cases.
- Support DRC operations in Louisa and Spotsylvania counties.

External Affairs Bob Spieldenner:

- Perform CR duties with six teams in declared localities.
- Evaluate issues identified by CR teams for public message.
- Coordinate release of public information products with FEMA.
- Respond to inquiries from the media and citizens.
- Coordinate outreach to state elected officials and local governments.

Finance and Administration Section Virginia Moore:

- Assure efficient and cost-effective administration of disaster-related activities for Virginia.

Communications/IT:

- Maintain JFO network and telephone connectivity with VITA/NG.

Logistics Section:

- Furnish supplies to field and JFO team members.
- Track motor vehicle rental fleet.

Planning Section Robert Lambert:

- Develop and distribute daily JFO Situation Reports.

Prepared by: Robert Lambert, Planning Section

Authority of: Michael Cline, State Coordinator
/s/ Brett Burdick, DCCO, or George Roarty, DCCO