

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 #79

1600 Hours Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Next SITREP 1600 Hours Thursday, January 26, 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.

The U.S. Geological Survey reported that 54 aftershocks with a magnitude greater than 2.0 had struck the area, including three on January 18.

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-eq-report.pdf

IA Registration in Declared Localities (As of 1/24/12)	
Locality	Number
Culpeper	133
Fluvanna	261
Fredericksburg	92
Goochland	217
Louisa	3,765
Orange	189
Spotsylvania	592
Declared total	5,249
Virginia Total	5,383
Percent of All Registrations	98%

FEMA has approved \$12.2 million in assistance for families, individuals, and business owners as of January 24. The amount includes:

- **\$9.6 million in grants under the FEMA Individuals and Household Program.**
- **\$2.6 million in SBA loans for homeowners, renters and business owners.**

Total registrations with FEMA climbed by 90 on Tuesday to 5,489. Traffic at the Louisa and Spotsylvania Disaster Recovery Centers added 68 visitors for a total of 3,209.

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 1/24/12)**

Registrations in 7 Designated Localities	5,267	Total Registrations	5,489
Registrations in 53 Undesignated Localities	222		

Individual & Households Program (IHP)

Registration Referrals	4,862	Total \$ Approvals	\$9,584,411
Registrations Approved	3,616	Total \$ Disbursed	\$9,554,704
Eligibility Rate	74%		

Broken Down As:

Housing Assistance (HA)

Registration Referrals	4,844	Total \$ Approved	\$9,540,603
Registrations Approved	3,573	Total \$ Disbursed	\$9,510,838
Eligibility Rate	74%	Average Award	\$2,670

Other Needs Assistance (ONA)

Referrals	967	Total \$ Approved	\$43,809
Approved	264	Total \$ Disbursed	\$43,867

Inspection Services (IS)

Inspections Requested	5,015	Inspections Outstanding	215
Inspections Performed	4,800		

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, 5,489 individuals from 63 Virginia jurisdictions had called the FEMA teleregistration number to report earthquake damages. Eighty-seven of the 90 new registrants were from the declared jurisdictions.

Of the 4,844 referrals from declared localities, 3,573, or 74 percent, have been approved for financial assistance totaling more than \$9.5 million. Thirteen recipients are eligible for the maximum Individual and Households Program grant of \$31,400.

Disaster Recovery Center

Of 3,209 visitors to both locations, 1,402, or 44 percent, registered for disaster assistance; 2,723 were referred to Housing Assistance, 1,278 to SBA for home or business loans, 1,594 to Hazard Mitigation, and 1,305 to volunteer assistance organizations.

**DRC Visitors 2011-12
(As of 1/24/12)**

Location	Daily	2012	2011	2011-12
Louisa	40	792	2,131	2,923
Spotsylvania	18	286	0	286
TOTAL	58	1,078	2,131	3,209

**2011-12 DRC Referrals
(As of 1/24/12)**

DRC	Housing	SBA	Mitig.	Vols.
Louisa	2,467	1,101	1,411	1,305
Spotsylvania	256	177	183	0
Total	2,723	1,278	1,594	1,305

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 2,147 residences, 763 businesses, 240 faith-based and community organizations, 33 local agencies and 7 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

**Home and Business Field Contacts in Newly Declared Localities
(As of 1/24/12)**

Type	Visited	Spoke with	Damaged	Registered
Residences	2,147	1,407	628	186
Businesses	763	806	74	12
Total	2,910	2,213	702	198

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 more than \$2.6 million in low-interest loans to repair damages from the quake, including \$467,500 to businesses.

**Small Business Administration (SBA) Loans
(As of 1/24/12)**

Applications	Home	Business	Econ. Inj.	Total
Issued	3,652	459	2	4,113
Received	340	23	0	363
Approved	124	8	0	132
Amount	\$2,176,500	\$467,500	\$0	\$2,644,000

Community Outreach

Three town hall meetings have been scheduled in Culpeper, Goochland and Fluvanna counties to give residents and businesses an opportunity to learn more about disaster assistance programs. The sessions will include brief presentations on Individual Assistance, the Small Business Administration disaster loan program, hazard mitigation and historic preservation. Visitors will have an opportunity to clarify any questions they have with the program representatives.

Eleven individuals attended the first town hall meeting, held Tuesday evening in Culpeper. Eight of them registered.

The schedule:

- Goochland: January 26, 7 - 9 p.m., Board of Supervisors Room, 1800 Sandy Hook Road, Goochland, Va., 23063
- Fluvanna: February 1, 7 - 9 p.m., Carysbrook Performing Arts Center, 8880 James Madison Highway, Fork Union, VA 23055

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 FEMA/VDEM Mitigation booths at four disaster-area Lowe’s stores.

Since the Mitigation Outreach program began January 5, a total of 2,383 individuals received information about steps they can take to improve the survivability of their homes in an earthquake. Visitors are encouraged to register for FEMA disaster assistance by March 5 if they experienced damage.

Mitigation Traffic
(As of 1/24/12)

Locality	Lowe’s	DRC	Total
Culpeper	431	N/A	431
Fredericksburg	166	N/A	166
Louisa	335	366	701
Spotsylvania	894	191	1085
Total	1826	557	2,383

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 1/25/12)

PA Requests	16	Project Worksheets	
Ineligible/Withdrawn	0	Estimated Total	58
Exit Briefs	2	Received	28
Open	14	Pending Obligated	13
Kickoff Meetings	11	Obligated	4
Total Completed	2	\$ Dispersed	\$0

Twenty-nine percent of the Project Worksheets, or 17 out of 58, are approved and awaiting funding. FEMA’s share of the \$7.4 million in requested funding is \$5.5 million. Forty-eight percent of the applications have been submitted and are awaiting approval.

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.

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:

- **Submit appeal for Individual Assistance for Albemarle and King George counties by Friday's deadline, based on the findings of Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments.**
- **Transition eight-member EMAC team from Arizona and Louisiana at the end of their 30-day deployment and bring in a replacement individual from Oklahoma.**
- Prepare for anticipated closing of DRCs in Louisa and Spotsylvania February 11, and expected closure of JFO operations March 2.
- FEMA has approved a VDEM request for additional PDAs 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:

- Complete processing of 16 Project Worksheets.
- Reallocate Public Assistance teams covering seven affected local jurisdictions.
- Received 16 requests for Public Assistance.

Individual Assistance Larry Braja:

- Attended State Housing Task Force Meeting for updates on:
 - Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments for Albemarle and King George counties.
 - Town hall meetings for Culpeper, Goochland and Fluvanna counties.
 - Housing challenges and anticipated resource requirements for damaged wells and chimneys, and historic properties.
 - State and voluntary resources for unmet needs.
- Attended organizational meeting for Disaster Behavioral Health Services Committee.
- 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