

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)
Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

2013-03-06 Winter Weather

Situation Report #1

0900 6 March 2013

Summary: Rain showers began during the evening hours of 5 March across Virginia. Forecast is that this precipitation will mix with snow then change over to all snow in parts of Virginia during the day 6 March. Total snow accumulations projected ranges from 1 inch or less in southeast Virginia with wind speeds of 20 mph sustained (maximum) and gusts to 30 mph (maximum) and 2 to 6 inches in southwest Virginia with wind speeds of 30 mph sustained (maximum) and gusts to 45 mph (maximum). As to northern and northwest Virginia, 6 to 14 inches is now forecast (changeover to snow occurred earlier than initial forecast). This accumulation together with sustained low temperatures and wind chill would negatively impact commuting to the extent government offices; including federal offices, and schools throughout the area have been closed. In addition, the wet heavy snow in combination with wind speeds of 25 mph sustained (maximum) and gusts to 40 mph (maximum) will increase the occurrence of power outages.

VEOC Status/Staffing: WebEOC Incident, 2013-03-06 created. VEOC at Increased Readiness with ESF 1, 6, 12, 13, 15 and 16 activated. All VERT agencies are monitoring the storm and have staff prepared to respond should they be needed.

Local Status/Actions:

EOCs Open: 10

Declarations: 0

Shelters: 1

Requests for Assistance: 0

Virginia Emergency Response Team Monitoring the event; maintaining situational awareness

ESF 1-Transportation <http://www.511virginia.org/>

VDOT Districts are increasing staffing levels as conditions warrant. Crews monitored road conditions throughout the night. At 0400 hours on 6 March, 4,000 trucks were deployed to Northern Virginia. Contractors are on standby in the event that they are needed. ESF #1 will be staffed on a 24 hour basis beginning at 0700 hours 6 March and their Command Situation Room activated at 0600 hours on 6 March. As of 0600 6 March no roads were closed in the Commonwealth although sporadic blockages from downed trees are being reported.

Amtrak is anticipating no interruption to schedule.

VRE has cancelled service for 6 March.

Metro has cancelled paratransit service for 6 March. Metrorail is planning to operate regular schedule. Metrobus service may suspend operations.

ESF 2-Communications

Coordinating Private Sector participation in Governor's Briefing

ESF 3-Public Works

Made contact with water works directors in areas to be impacted to review reporting procedures. Will seek status reports in the morning of 6 March.

ESF4-Firefighting

Personnel and specialized equipment ready although VDOF Command Center is currently operating off of back-up generator power due to the local power outage.

ESF 5-Emergency Management

Logistics

Requests for Assistance: 4.

Planning

Maintaining awareness of the situation; preparing reports/briefings, participating in stakeholder conference calls.

ESF 6 – Mass Care

Assessed readiness of local shelters on 5 March. Will re-assess during the day of 6 March.

ESF 8-Health and Medical

Casualties

None

ESF 12-Energy

As of 0834 March 6, 2013 approximately 105,125 consumers are without electricity in Virginia. As the storm is still moving through the state it is anticipated that outages will grow throughout the morning and afternoon.

ESF 13-Public Safety and Security

Staff augmenting VEOC.

ESF 15-External Affairs

Answering traditional & social media inquiries.

ESF 16-Military Support

Staff augmenting VEOC. In addition, the Joint Operations Center is at Level 2 Operations- Increased Readiness with authorization for state active duty.

Contiguous Jurisdictions: Maryland has activated to Level 3 (MEMA staff only). Washington DC has activated its EOC. Federal Office of Personnel Management closed all federal offices for 6 March.

Weather Forecast

National Weather Service – Sterling:

Northern Virginia: Today: Snow, could be heavy at times. Patchy fog, high near 32. Breezy, with a north wind 17 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 36 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. Total daytime snow accumulation of 5 to 9 inches possible. Tonight: Snow, mainly before 11pm. Areas of fog before 9pm. Low around 32. Breezy, with a north wind 15 to 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches possible.

National Weather Service (NWS) – Morristown:

Southwest Virginia: Today: Snow showers before 3pm, then a chance of rain showers. High near 39. Breezy, with a northwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. Total daytime snow accumulation of less than one inch possible. Tonight: A 30% chance of snow showers before 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

National Weather Service – Blacksburg:

West-Central Virginia: Today: Snow showers likely before 1pm, then a chance of rain and snow showers between 1pm and 2pm, then a chance of snow showers after 2pm. Cloudy, with a high near 37. Windy, with a northwest wind 25 to 28 mph, with gusts as high as 45 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. Total daytime snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches possible. Tonight: A slight chance of snow showers before 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27. Northwest wind 14 to 18 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

National Weather Service – Wakefield:

Eastern Virginia: Today: Showers, mainly before 7am. Temperature falling to around 37 by 2pm. Breezy, with a southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming northwest 18 to 23 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible. Tonight: A chance of rain and snow showers before 10pm, then a chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32. Breezy, with a northwest wind 14 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

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