

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

2012-04 Wildfires

SITUATION REPORT 4

1600 12 April 2012

New information in *bold italic type*

**Summary:** Combination of dry fuels, winds 10-20 mph with gusts up to 25 mph, relative humidity values ranging from 20%-30%, and temperatures in upper 50s to low 60s provide for increased fire danger this afternoon. Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) reports 3 fires burned approximately 24 acres on private land on 11 April.

Large wildfires on private property and National Forest land:

- Easter Complex (5 fires managed by U.S. Forest Service Regional Incident Management Team)
  - Page County, Shipwreck Fire: acreage burned – 4,748; 30% containment; mostly on National Forest land; 125 structures protected
  - Alleghany/Craig Counties, Barbours Creek Fire: acreage burned – 1,750; 20% contained; potential to burn 3,000 acres; mostly on National Forest land; 10 structures protected
  - Shenandoah County, Wolf Gap Fire: acreage burned – 600; 10% contained; potential to burn 6,000 acres; all on National Forest land
  - Alleghany/Rockbridge Counties, Rich Hole Fire: acreage burned – 1,159; 50 acres on private land 100% contained; 0% contained on National Forest land
  - Alleghany County, Alleghany Tunnel Fire: acreage burned – 6,004; 10% contained; all on National Forest land; 10 structures protected

**VEOC Status:** Increased Readiness with normal staffing; no unmet needs at this time

**Local Status/Actions:**

**EOC's:** None open

**Declarations:** **4**

- Bath County, 10 April
- Page County, 10 April
- Highland County, 12 April
- ***Rockbridge County***

**Shelters:** None

**Request for Assistance:** None

**Activity:**

- Page County
  - Providing resources to assist VDOF protecting private property
  - No unmet needs
- Shenandoah County

- Providing resources to keep fire from crossing State Route 675 and Forest Service Road 92
- Monitoring fire activity with Virginia Department of Forestry and U.S. Forest Service; should fire cross Forest Service Road 92 plans will be initiated for evacuations of Millertown Road area and possible shelter operations
- No unmet needs
- Bath County
  - Monitoring wildfire activity
  - Prepared to respond and assist U.S. Forest and Virginia Department of Forestry
  - Outdoor burn ban enacted
  - No unmet needs
- Roanoke County
  - Providing 1 fire wagon with 6 personnel and 1 fire officer to Rockbridge County
- Floyd County
  - Providing 1 engine, 1 attack engine, 1 brush truck, 1 tanker, 1 command vehicle and 11 personnel to Rockbridge County
- Wise County
  - Providing 1 engine and 1 brush truck with personnel to Rockbridge County
- Augusta County
  - Providing 1 brush truck, 1 ATV and 3 personnel to Rockbridge County
- Halifax County
  - Providing 4 personnel and apparatus to Rockbridge County
- Bedford County
  - Providing 1 engine and 4 personnel to Rockbridge County
- **Hampton Roads Area Task Force on scene Rockbridge County**
  - City of Virginia Beach
    - 2 brush trucks, 1 tanker and 6 personnel
  - City of Suffolk
    - 4 personnel
  - City of Portsmouth
    - 1 personnel
  - City of Chesapeake
    - 1 truck, 1 bus, 1 rehab unit and 7 personnel
  - City of Newport News
    - 5 personnel
  - City of Hampton
    - 4 personnel
  - City of Williamsburg
    - 2 personnel
  - York County
    - 3 personnel
- Highland County
  - Local emergency declared
  - No outside burning until further notice
  - No unmet needs
- **Rockbridge County**
  - **Local emergency declared**
  - **Burn ban in effect**

## VERT:

### **ESF 1-Transportation:**

- Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
  - Interstate 64 east and west reopened in Alleghany and Rockbridge counties
  - Road Closures
    - Route 770 and 850, Alleghany County
  - Filled request from Virginia Department of Forestry for vehicle operator
- U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
  - Road Closures
    - Wolf Gap Road (SR#675), Shenandoah County, from intersection of Jerome Road to Perry Store on Trout Run Road in West Virginia
    - Cub Run Road

### **ESF 4-Firefighting:**

- Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP)
  - Monitoring situation for potential resource needs
  - 3 person VDFP Mobile Incident Support Team (MIST) staffing Incident Planning Section in Rockbridge County
- Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)
  - Page County, Shipwreck Fire: 30 personnel; VDOF and local resources protecting private property
  - Alleghany/Craig Counties, Barbours Creek Fire: VDOF and local resources protecting six plus miles of fire line on private property
  - Alleghany/Rockbridge Counties, Rich Hole Fire: VDOF and local resources contained fire on private land that escaped from National Forest land; monitoring fire line protecting private property
  - Shenandoah County, Wolf Gap Fire: VDOF and local resources initiated fire suppression operations on 8 April until USFS resources arrive; USFS assumed operations on 10 April; VDOF and local resources protecting private property
  - Alleghany County, Alleghany Tunnel Fire: VDOF resources protecting private property
  - Patrick County, near Stuart VA: VDOF and local resources contained fire on private land; monitoring fire line
  - Request for Assistance filled for VDOT vehicle operator trained in Wildland Fire Operations
  - Coordinating with USFS Regional Incident Management Team; assumed operational command at 0700 11 April for fires on National Forest land

### **ESF 5-Emergency Management (VDEM):**

#### **Local Support Services**

- Region 2 Coordinator at Page County Incident Command Post
- Region 4 Coordinator on scene in Rockbridge County with VDEM Technical Support Unit (TSU)
- Region 6 Coordinator in Rockbridge County with Rockbridge County Emergency Manager

#### **Operations** Support request for assistance

- **Strategic Reserve assisting with wildfires**
  - **Harrisonburg Radio Cache**
    - **25 radios supporting Page County; still available for deployment**
  - **Chesapeake Radio Cache**
  - **VHF radios provided to Hampton Roads Area Task Force**

#### **Logistics** Support request for assistance and coordinate Statewide Mutual Aid (SMA) request

- SMA Requests
  - **Rockbridge County (VA-S-2012-04-0002 and VA-S-2012-04-0003) Filled and in use**
    - 5 tankers, 5 engines, 5 brush trucks, 10 Level 1 Trained Firefighters

**Planning** Maintain situational awareness; produce State Situation Reports; ***next State Situation Report to be issued around 1500 13 April***

**ESF 15-External Affairs (VDEM):**

- Responded to one media call
- Conducting outreach through social media
- Coordinating activities with VDOF, VDOT, VDFP, VA National Guard, and Governor's Office

**U.S. Forest Service (National Incident Management Situation Report)**

- 371 personnel assigned Easter Complex
- 13 crews
- 24 engines
- 4 helicopters

**Weather:**

**Watches/Warnings**

Freeze Watch in effect from late Thursday night, 12 April, through Friday morning, 13 April, for portions of Southwest VA and West Central VA

**Friday 13 April 2012 Weather Forecast**

- ***Combination of dry fuels, gusty winds and low relative humidity will provide for increased fire danger threat***
- ***Mostly sunny; high temperatures low to upper 60s; low temperatures upper 30s to mid 40s; winds 5-10 mph; relative humidity 20-30%***

**Extended Forecast (Friday through Monday)**

Phil Manuel, National Weather Service Meteorologist assigned to USFS Regional Incident Management Team, ***advised dry weather is forecast to continue through the weekend with no significant precipitation forecast. Winds forecast to calm down Thursday evening and pick up again Saturday through the weekend. Summer like temperatures, 10-15 degrees above normal, forecast for the weekend.***

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