

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

2012-04 Wildfires

SITUATION REPORT 6

1500 16 April 2012

New information in *bold italic type*

**Summary:** *Elevated fire weather conditions continue across Virginia. Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) reports 33 fires burned approximately 102 acres on private land. Fifty-one homes/structures were protected and 1 home/structure was damaged from Friday, 13 April, through Sunday, 15 April.* Large wildfires on private property and National Forest land:

- Easter Complex (*6 fires managed by U.S. Forest Service Regional Incident Management Team*)
  - Page County, Shipwreck Fire: *acreage burned – 4,000; 100% contained*
  - Alleghany/Craig Counties, Barbours Creek Fire: *acreage burned – 4,783; 40% contained*
  - Shenandoah County, Wolf Gap Fire: *acreage burned – 755; 95% contained*
  - Alleghany/Rockbridge Counties, Rich Hole Fire: *acreage burned – 12,131; 30% containment*
  - Alleghany County, Alleghany Tunnel Fire: *acreage burned – 11,381; 85% contained*
  - *Bath County, Porter Mills Fire: acreage burned – 879; 95% contained (assumed management on 15 April)*

**VEOC Status:** *Transitioned to Routine Operations, 0800 16 April*

## **Local Status/Actions:**

**Declarations:** 4

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

## **Activity:**

- Page County
  - Providing resources to assist VDOF protecting private property
- Shenandoah County
  - Monitoring and providing resources to keep fire from crossing State Route 675 and Forest Service Road 92; should fire cross Forest Service Road 92 plans will be initiated for evacuations of Millertown Road area and possible shelter operations
- Roanoke County; *Resources returned to county 14 April*
- Floyd County; *Resources returned to county 14 April*
- Wise County; *Resources returned to county 14 April*
- Augusta County; *Resources returned to county 14 April*

- Halifax County; **Resources returned to county 14 April**
- Bedford County; **Resources returned to county 14 April**
- Hampton Roads Area Task Force; **Resources returned on 14 April**
  - City of Virginia Beach
  - City of Suffolk
  - City of Portsmouth
  - City of Chesapeake
  - City of Newport News
  - City of Hampton
  - City of Williamsburg
  - York County
- **Bath County; providing resources to protect private property**
- **Isle of Wight County; voluntary evacuation issued 15 April for homes threatened by 100 acre fire on Old Suffolk Road; VDOF and local resources contained fire protecting all threatened homes; evacuees returned home 15 April**

**VERT:**

**ESF 1-Transportation:**

- Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
  - Road Closures
    - Route 770, Alleghany County

**ESF 4-Firefighting:**

- Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)
  - Coordinating with USFS Regional Incident Management Team
  - Page County, Shipwreck Fire: 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 monitoring fire line protecting private property
  - Shenandoah County, Wolf Gap Fire: VDOF and local resources protecting private property
  - Alleghany County, Alleghany Tunnel Fire: VDOF resources protecting private property
  - **Bath County, Porter Mills Fire: VDOF and local resources protecting private property**
  - **Request for Assistance for two VDOT vehicle operators trained in Wildland Fire Operations completed**

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

**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)  
**Completed 14 April**

**Planning** Maintain situational awareness; ***next State Situation Report to be issued around 1500 17 April***

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

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

**U.S. Forest Service (USFS)**

- Regional Incident Management Team assumed management of fires on National Forest land on 11 April; ***assumed management of Porter Mills fire on 15 April***
  - ***Continued progress is expected on all fires within the Easter Complex. Wolf Gap, Shipwreck, Alleghany Tunnels, and Porter Mills fires all have containment lines in place. Improvements to these lines will continue to be made, and these fires are in a patrol, mop up, and hold status.***
  - ***Significant progress was made Sunday on both the Barbours Creek and Rich Hole fires. Containment lines on both fires are complete, and additional burnout operations will continue to strengthen and improve these lines.***
  - ***Smoke from burnout operations on Barbours Creek and Rich Hole Fires will be visible for some time. Favorable weather conditions will once again contribute to slowing down these fires***
- USFS Resources (Regional Incident Management Team 16 April)
  - ***634 (+131)***
  - ***16 hand crews (+3)***
  - 29 engines
  - 5 helicopters
  - ***1 dozer (-7)***

**Weather:**

***Elevated fire danger threat continues across Virginia.***

**Tuesday 17 April 2012 Forecast**

- ***Mostly cloudy;30-50% chance of afternoon/evening showers; high temperatures upper 60s to low 80s; low temperatures upper 40s to mid 50s; winds 5-10 mph with gusts up to 20 mph; relative humidity 25-35%***

Prepared by: Mike Gray, VERT Plans Chief  
Authority: Michael Cline, State Coordinator  
Approved: Michael Nelson, VERT Coordinator