

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

2012-04 Wildfires

SITUATION REPORT 7

1500 17 April 2012

New information in *bold italic type*

Summary: *Elevated fire weather conditions continue across Virginia today. Break in fire weather conditions anticipated Wednesday as wetting rain is forecast for Virginia. U.S. Forest Service Easter Complex Fire Update indicates burnout operations completed and all fires are in a mop up and hold status. Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOT) reports 10 fires burned approximately 58 acres on private land. Eight homes/structures were protected and 1 home/structure was damaged on Monday, 16 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 – 6,906; 60% contained**
 - Shenandoah County, Wolf Gap Fire: acreage burned – 755; 95% contained
 - Alleghany/Rockbridge Counties, Rich Hole Fire: **acreage burned – 15,171; 60% contained**
 - Alleghany County, Alleghany Tunnel Fire: acreage burned – 11,381; **90% contained**
 - Bath County, Porter Mills Fire: acreage burned – 879; **100% contained**

VEOC Status: Routine Operations

Local Status/Actions:

Declarations: 4

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

Activity:

- **Page County; all county resources released**
- **Shenandoah County; all county resources released**
- **Bath County; all County resources released**

VERT:

ESF 1-Transportation:

- Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
 - **Road Closures**
 - **Route 675, Page County**

- **Route 675, Shenandoah County**
- Route 770, Alleghany County

ESF 4-Firefighting:

- Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)
 - **All VDOF resources released from Easter Complex fires**
 - Coordinating with USFS Regional Incident Management Team

ESF 5-Emergency Management (VDEM):

Operations Strategic Reserve

- **Harrisonburg and Chesapeake Radio Caches released and in service**

Planning Maintain situational awareness; **next State Situation Report to be issued around 1500 18 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
 - **Initial attack resources responded and contained a fire near Edith Gap, Shenandoah County, on 16 April. Quick response by local firefighters contained the fire at five acres.**
 - **Mop up of Alleghany Tunnels, Shipwreck, Wolf Gap and Porter Mills fires continue with little or no fire activity.**
 - **Firefighters from 29 different states are assisting with fire suppression efforts and demobilization of excess resources will commence at end of shift today.**
- **Smoke from all Easter Complex fires may be visible in the area for some time.**
- USFS Resources (Regional Incident Management Team 17 April)
 - **661**
 - **15 hand crews**
 - **28 engines**
 - **6 helicopters**
 - **4 dozer**

Weather:

Elevated fire danger threat continues across Virginia today with a break anticipated Wednesday as wetting rain, .25-.5 inches, forecast.

Wednesday 18 April 2012 Forecast

- **Cloudy;70-80% chance of showers across Western portion of Virginia with 30-50% chance of showers across rest of Virginia; high temperatures mid 50s to mid 60s; low temperatures low to upper 40s; winds 5-10 mph with gusts up to 20 mph; relative humidity 50-60%**

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