

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

2012-10 Hurricane Sandy
Situation Report #1
October 26 1700 hours

SUMMARY

The Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) is at Response Operations, Hurricane Readiness Condition 3 monitoring National Hurricane Center and National Weather Service products related to Hurricane Sandy. Governor McDonnell will be holding a State Agency and Press Conference at 1300 hours tomorrow, 27 October.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

Governor Bob McDonnell declared a State of Emergency at 0950 hours on 26 October due to the anticipation of severe weather impacting the Commonwealth as a result of Hurricane Sandy.

Local Emergencies Declared

- None

Local Emergency Operation Centers Open

- Greensville, County of

Federal Response Efforts

- FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer and IMAT are deployed to the VEOC.
- FEMA has placed VATF-1 (Fairfax) on standby for contingency purposes. There are no plans to pre-deploy the team at this time.

ESF #1 – Transportation

- Virginia Department of Transportation is monitoring the situation and conducting conference calls with all districts. The flood gates at the Midtown Tunnel will be tested at 0500 tomorrow, 27 October.
- Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, and Virginia Department of Emergency Management jointly authorized a temporary waiver of registration and license requirements along with normal weight restrictions. This waiver is effective beginning 12 p.m. on 26 October, 2012 until 12 p.m. on 30 November 2012 and includes an exemption in coordination with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management which activates the FMCSA Section 390.23 Relief of Regulations including hours of service. This waiver applies only to statewide shippers and carriers of essential emergency relief supplies or providing restoration of utilities to severe weather impacted areas within the Commonwealth.
- Virginia State Police have 4 boat teams ready to be pre-positioned. Location TBD based on pending forecast/impact information.
- Virginia Department of Forestry will be pre-position two (2) Chainsaw Strike Teams to the Richmond area during the day on Sunday, October 28th and has additional teams on standby for each of three (3) regions.
- USCG Captain of the Port moved to Port Condition X-ray (port open to all commercial traffic) at 1600 today.

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ESF #2 – Communications

- Virginia Information Technology Agency has communicated with the Federal Communications Commission and major carriers. Some carriers have already dispatched mobile command centers to the Commonwealth.

ESF #3 – Public Works & Engineering

- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is maintaining a list of pre-approved emergency debris sites.

ESF #5 – Emergency Management

- VEOC at Response Operations
- Virginia Emergency Response Team augmented
- Responding to requests for assistance

ESF #6 – Mass Care

- Virginia for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is monitoring the situation and notifying their community on social media to update their emergency kits, review emergency plans, and closely monitor news broadcasts for current and predicted weather conditions.
- Virginia Department of Social Services has reached out to support agencies, and district and field offices in preparation for the storm. Additionally, they facilitated conference calls with HHS offices, state agencies, and localities.

ESF #7 – Logistics Management & Resource Support

- Requested and received approval to use sandbags under USACE/VDEM Memorandum of Agreement for 19,000 total sandbags (stored in Sandston, Virginia). Units will be ready for potential deployment contractor is on standby to do so upon request.
- Emailed updates / status reports to Virginia Private Sector Partners, EMAC States in Region III, NRCC, Logistics Staff, and VERT Leadership.
- Sent resource and commodity pre-planning email to all Virginia localities.

ESF #8 – Public Health & Human Services

- Virginia Department of Health reviewed Continuity of Operations Plans with all hospitals and is prepared to collect and distribute status of affected waterworks.
- Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services is maintaining communication with coastal facilities in preparation of the storm.

ESF #11 – Agriculture & Natural Resources

- Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services reviewed potential locality shelter needs and have contacted pet shelter volunteer and emergency adjunct workforce members. Provided inventory of U.S. Food Banks to FEMA Region III and ESF 11 partners. Food Safety Rapid Response Team has been put on standby. Distributed press releases to inform farmers on how to prepare for the storm.
- Department of Conservation and Recreation is reviewing emergency plans and state park facilities in case the need to be closed, as well as talking with dam owners regarding dam safety.

ESF #12 – Energy

- State Corporation Commission is monitoring the situation and will provide outage data as the storm impacts the state.

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ESF #13 – Public Safety & Security

- Virginia State Police has staff on standby.
- Virginia Department of Corrections communicating with DOC facilities in coastal areas.

ESF #15 – External Affairs

- Developing talking points and news releases to be distributed to state agencies and local emergency managers.
- Responding to inquiries from news media and posting emergency preparedness information on social media sites.

ESF #16 – Military Affairs

- Department of Military Affairs is pre-positioning a twenty-five (25) force unit to the Eastern Shore. Forces are expected to arrive at 1200 hours on 27, October. A CAP force of 300 is authorized. The Joint Operations Center will go to 24 hour operations beginning at 0800, 27 October.

ESF #17 – Volunteer & Donations Management

- Virginia VOAD is monitoring the situation and notifying membership to be on standby.
- American Red Cross is verifying availability of volunteer base and coordinating with localities.

Weather Forecast

The track of Sandy is further west than previously predicted and landfall is anticipated to be somewhere around Delaware Bay. Some models show it making landfall as far south as eastern Virginia. There is still quite a bit of uncertainty in the model. The storm system is already transitioning into an extra-tropical system transitioning into a Nor'easter. The storm has a very broad and large wind field. Whether it makes landfall in Maryland or upstate New Jersey, the forecast will not change much due to the size of the storm. Tropical storm force winds will enter south eastern Virginia starting 7am on Sunday. Peak gusts will be 50-60 mph across the bay. The winds will be blowing from Saturday night through Tuesday. Forecasted surge values are up to 4 feet. For the Hampton Roads and Eastern Shore regions 8 inches of rain is possible. The I-95 corridor could potentially receive up to 4 inches of rain. Expect significant flooding from rainfall along the coast. Storm surge will exacerbate rainfall flooding. Will likely see the higher surge levels at the lower bay based on the current forecast. If track changes, then the Eastern Shore could experience higher surge values. Snowfall is possible in Southwest Virginia, but amounts are also track dependent.

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All Situation Reports for this event can be found on the VDEM website at:

<http://www.vaemergency.gov/news/sitreps>