

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

2012-10 Hurricane Sandy

Situation Report #6

October 29 0700 hours

Updates since last State Situation Report

SUMMARY

The VEOC is at Response Operations and Hurricane Readiness Condition 1 and continues to monitor National Hurricane Center and National Weather Service products related to storm impacts.

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 to include a limited mandatory evacuation for low lying areas along the Virginia coast and Chesapeake Bay. **Federal and State Government Offices are closed Monday, 29 October.**

WEATHER FORECAST

- Hurricane Sandy is on northern track due east of Cape Hatteras NC.
- Sandy has strengthened as expected with winds now at 85 mph as she transitions to a strong Nor'Easter.
- Moderate to potentially severe tidal flooding is forecast for coastal VA during periods of high tides today. The moderate to severe tidal flooding along the Eastern Shore is forecast thru Tuesday.
- Coastal Virginia and eastern shore localities remain under a high wind warning until midnight tonight for sustained winds of 35/45 mph and wind gusts to 60 mph. In general, winds will be less severe further inland, with gusts to 40 to 45 mph expected across much of the Interstate 95 corridor including Richmond, with 35-40 mph gusts west of this region.
- Five to seven (5-7) inches of rain is expected in Hampton Roads and eight to ten (8-10) inches along the Eastern Shore. The heaviest rainfall is expected today, Monday, and Monday night, with highest amounts over eastern Virginia near the Bay and the coast (*these areas are under a Flood Watch*).
- Blizzard Warning Dickenson & Buchanan Counties from Noon today until 4AM Wednesday
- Snow accumulations up to 6 inches (*below 2,000 feet*)
- Snow accumulations up to 1 to 2 feet in higher elevations
- Wind gusts up to 50 mph
- Winter Storm Warning & Watches far Southwest VA until 8AM Wednesday
- High Wind Warning until Wednesday Morning for areas along & west of the Blue Ridge & Northern Virginia
- Winds from 25-35 mph, Gusts to 45 mph

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Local Emergencies Declared (43)

Accomack County
Arlington County
Brunswick County
Charles City County
Chesapeake, City of
Chincoteague, Town of
Colonial Heights, City of
Essex County
Fairfax County
Falls Church, City of
Fauquier County
Franklin, City of
Fredericksburg, City of
Gloucester County
Greene County

Hampton, City of
Henrico County
Isle of Wight County
King George County
King and Queen County
King William County
Lancaster County
Madison County
Mathews County
Middlesex County
New Kent County
Newport News, City of
Norfolk, City of
Northampton County
Northumberland County

Orange County
Poquoson, City of
Portsmouth, City of
Prince George County
Richmond, City of
Richmond County
Stafford County
Suffolk, City of
Surry County
Sussex County
Virginia Beach, City of
Westmoreland County
York County

Local Emergency Operation Centers Open (35)

Accomack County
Brunswick County
Caroline County
Charles City County
Chesapeake, City of
Chincoteague, Town of
Colonial Heights, City of
Fairfax County
Gloucester County
Greensville County
Hampton, City of
Henrico County

Isle of Wight County
James City County
King and Queen County
King George County
King William County
Lancaster County
Loudoun County
Mathews County
Middlesex County
New Kent County
Newport News, City of
Norfolk, City of

Northampton County
Northumberland County
Poquoson, City of
Portsmouth, City of
Richmond, City of
Stafford County
Suffolk, City of
Surry County
Westmoreland County
Virginia Beach, City of
York County

Local Shelters Open By Locality (16)

Accomack County
Chesapeake, City of
Chincoteague, Town of
Colonial Heights, City of
Hampton, City of
Lancaster County

Mathews County
Newport News, City of
Norfolk, City of
Northampton County
Northumberland County
Poquoson, City of

Portsmouth, City of
Surry County
Westmoreland County
York County

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Local Voluntary Evacuations

Accomack County
Chincoteague, Town of
Essex County
Gloucester County
Hampton, City of

King and Queen County
Lancaster County
New Kent County
Norfolk, City of
Northumberland County

Richmond County
Surry County (Town of
Claremont Beach)
Westmoreland County
Virginia Beach, City of

Local Mandatory Evacuations

Mathews County –
low-lying areas

Northampton County –
low-lying areas

Tangier, Town of

Other Actions

- Numerous school systems, private and public colleges and universities are closed Monday, 29 October.

Federal Response Efforts

- Federal Response Teams from FEMA, Coast Guard, and DoD are staffing the VEOC.

ESF #1 – Transportation

- The Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel is at Level 4 wind restriction. Sustained winds are currently at 60 MPH. Only cars, trucks, pick-up trucks, and SUV's with no cargo are allowed.
- The Jamestown Scotland Ferry is now operating at reduced capacity due to high tides.
- The Metro rail system will be closed on Monday 29 October.
- All Metrobus service is suspended until further notice.
- All Metro Access service is suspended until further notice.
- Road Closure Report:
 - 19 roads are closed in the Hampton Roads Region.

ESF #4 – Firefighting

- An additional strike team and leader composed of personnel normally assigned to the DOF eastern region are on standby in their bases of operations to immediately respond locally as needed.
- MIST mobile assets support units are staged in Glen Allen, VA.
- 1 mobile water rescue trailer with equipment and generator to handle 20+ personnel is staged in Richmond.
- VDOF has pre positioned 8 - 2 person chain saw crews in Richmond. 2 Skid Steers have been rented along with trailers to support the saw crews.

ESF #5 – Emergency Management

- Coordinating 21 requests for assistance across the Commonwealth.
 - Accepted/In Use – 19
 - Completed/Withdrawn – 2

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ESF #7 – Logistics Management & Resource Support

- Number of missions: 3 (1 in review and 2 completed).

ESF #8 – Public Health and Medical Services

- Medical Reserve Corp activated. In City of Norfolk for special needs registry and in the City of Alexandria for public health awareness (flyer distribution).

ESF #11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources

- 5 localities have opened pet shelters (Mathews, York, Chesapeake, Newport News and Hampton). There are no reports of any pets in these shelters.
- Food Safety and Security Inspectors are pre-staging in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia to conduct post storm inspections.

ESF #12 – Energy

- Approximately 3400 customers are currently without power across the State.
 - Dominion VA Power: 2958
 - Appalachian Power: 425

ESF #13 – Public Safety

- VSP has staged 5 boat teams at the following areas: Eastern Shore, Richmond, Tidewater, and Northern Virginia (2 teams).

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.
- Joint Information Center is staffed with PIOs from VDEM, VDOT, VDH, VSP and VBPD.

ESF #16 – Military Affairs

- Department of Military Affairs is pre-positioning forces to the Eastern Shore (Onancock), Richmond, West Point, Tidewater, Fredericksburg, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Defense Supply Center Richmond (DSCR).
- 582 of 750 authorized Guardsmen on state active duty.

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

http://www.vaemergency.gov/content/sitreps#hurricane_sandy