

**Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)
Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)
Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)**

**Hurricane Earl
Situation Report # 1
1500 1 September 2010**

SUMMARY

At 1400 1 September, the eye of Hurricane Earl was located about 680 miles south-southeast of Cape Hatteras North Carolina moving toward the northwest near 17 mph with maximum sustained winds near 125 mph (Category 3). This general motion is expected to continue today with a gradual turn to the north on Thursday 2 September. The core will continue to move well east and northeast of the Bahamas today and tonight and will approach the North Carolina Coast by late Thursday 2 September. Preliminary data indicate the hurricane is beginning to strengthen and could become a Category 4 hurricane by late Thursday 2 September. Hurricane force winds extend outward up to 90 miles and tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 200 miles.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation VEOC at Increased Readiness with limited augmentation. The VERT will begin 24 hour operations at 0700 on Thursday 2, September 2010.

State of Emergency Governor Bob McDonnell declared a state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia as of 1000 today, a step authorizing state agencies to take precautionary action to prepare for any potential impacts in eastern Virginia from Hurricane Earl.

Protective Actions

Local Emergencies Declared
None

Local Emergency Operation Centers (EOC) Opened
None

VERT OPERATIONS

ESF 1 – Transportation

VA Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Hampton Roads Transit – maintaining communication with local Hampton Roads EOC's.
Williamsburg Area Transit – transit system is outside predicted track, but monitoring.
Star Transit – (Eastern Shore) working with Accomack Department of Public Safety to use buses for evacuations if needed, currently moving buses to higher ground.
Norfolk Portsmouth Belt Line Railroad – (Portsmouth, Norfolk) has moved railcars and locomotives to higher ground in the yards.

Coast Guard (USCG) The Captain of the Port of Hampton Roads set port condition X-ray in preparation for Hurricane Earl. Hurricane condition X-ray is set when gale force hurricane winds are expected within 48 hours.

ESF 4 – Firefighting

VA Department of Forestry (VDOF)
Placed 8 2-person chainsaw crews assembled as 2 separate strike teams & 1 Type 3 IMT on standby.

ESF 6 – Mass Care

VA Department of Social Services (VDSS)
Placed 3 SMS sites on standby; notified site officials/support agencies of potential activation; developed staffing plan for each general population shelter; placing VDSS employees on standby to staff shelters if required.

ESF 7 – Resource Management

VA Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)
4 requests have been processed.

ESF 8 – Public Health	<u>VA Department of Health (VDH)</u> Patients with specific medical conditions are being evacuated from Hampton Veteran's Affairs Medical Center to various VA hospitals.
ESF 11 – Agriculture	<u>VA Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VADACS)</u> Coordinating with volunteers & NGO partners for potential staffing of 3 State Managed Shelters.
ESF 13 – Public Safety	<u>VA Department of State Police (VSP)</u> Pre-positioning Swift Water Rescue Teams in 5th Division, Tidewater Region; will stage additional troopers in areas anticipated to be most affected by the storm; briefing those responsible for state shelter security to ensure readiness.
ESF 14 – Long Term Recovery	<u>VA Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)</u> Requested survey of selected reservists for availability to report Friday if necessary; will be sending out notice to state agencies in regard to tracking of costs.
ESF 15 – External Affairs	<u>VA Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)</u> Talking points provided to state agency and local government public information officers for media interviews. Talking points provided to 211, a toll-free information number that citizens can call. A news release about the governor's SOE declaration provided to the Governor's Press Office. A news release providing guidance for Hampton Roads residents sent to statewide media. Requests for media interviews are being handled, including interest by DC and national media. Legislative Relations coordinator briefed and is providing information to state elected officials.
ESF 16 – Military Support	<u>VA Department of Military Affairs (DMA)</u> 350 National Guard troops have been authorized to assist in response efforts. 200 troops will be available for mission by 1800 tomorrow, 2 September.
ESF 17 – Volunteers and Donations	<u>VA Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)</u> Food Bank of Virginia reviewed inventory & secured half a truckload of vitamin water through Feeding America; secured backup fuel for fleet; provided food to the homeless shelter programs: LINK-Hampton Roads (Newport News) and HELP (City of Hampton). Mercy Chefs is prepared and staged in Danville, VA. The United Methodist Church (UMC) Norfolk District Disaster Response Team has 2 Early Response Teams (ERTs) and equipment trailers on standby. Virginia United Methodist Church Conference Disaster Response Team has 4 ERTs on standby as well as three equipment trailers, one debris trailer, and one supply trailer. Courthouse Community United Methodist Church is the staging location for deploying UMC ERT and UMC Volunteer in Mission Teams.

VERT PLANNING SECTION

Operating with increased staff, conducting conference calls with National Weather Service Offices, state, federal, private, volunteer, and local partners; maintaining situational awareness; producing state spot and situation reports.

Contiguous States	North Carolina: No State Declaration; Central and Eastern Regional Operations Center started 24 hour operations at 0800 1 September and pre-staged National Guard resources; local declaration-Hyde County; mandatory evacuation Ocracoke Island & Hatteras Island visitors only. Maryland: No state declaration; possible pre-declaration this afternoon/evening; augmentation of state EOC 2 September. Delmarva Task Force: Monitoring potential for coastal flooding and rip currents.
--------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

FEMA Region III Federal Coordinating Officer for Virginia, State Liaison Officer, and an Incident Management Assessment Team (IMAT) will arrive tomorrow, 2 September.

Weather Forecast Wednesday, September 1: Sunny with high temperatures in the mid 90's, winds between 4 and 7 mph. Wednesday night: Clear, with a low around 69. Light south wind.

Thursday, September 2: Sunny, with a high near 91. Calm wind becoming southeast around 6 mph. Thursday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Friday, September 3: Sunny and hot, with a high near 98. Northwest wind between 3 and 11 mph. Friday night: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11pm, partly cloudy, with a low around 66. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Prepared by: Matt Lott, Donna Pletch, & Debbie Messmer
Authority of Michael Cline, State Coordinator
/s/ Harry Colestock, VERT Coordinator