

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

**SEVERE WEATHER April 28 2008**

**SITUATION REPORT # 12**

**1300 Hours May 12, 2008**

*The next Situation Report will be Wednesday, May 14, 2008 around 1300 hours.*

## SUMMARY

In the afternoon hours of April 28 a storm system moving across the Commonwealth generated rain, wind and tornadoes. The National Weather Service (NWS) updated their count of confirmed tornadoes to a total of 11: 3 EF0 (Southampton, James City and Gloucester/Mathews counties), 7 EF1 (City of Colonial Heights and counties of Isle of Wight, Brunswick, Surry, Mathews, Greenville and Halifax) and 1 EF3 (City of Suffolk). Multiple injuries reported but no storm related deaths reported. Visual graphics are available at: [Suffolk radar indicated tornado](#); [Brunswick radar indicated tornado](#); [NWS 28 April Tornado Event](#)

## EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:** The VEOC has transitioned to **Recovery Operations** with normal staffing and continues to monitor recovery operations. Recovery Operations is being coordinated by VDEM Recovery Staff at the Arboretum Complex.

**State of Emergency:** At 1855 hours 28 April, Governor Kaine declared a state of emergency for the severe weather that impacted the Commonwealth. Governor Kaine visited Suffolk on 29 April. [Executive Order #65 \(2008\)](#)

**Federal Declaration:** No declaration has been requested at this time. The FEMA ERT-A Team demobilized on 8 May.

**Protective Actions:**

Local Emergency Declared:  
City of Suffolk declared a local emergency at 1625 hours 28 April.  
Colonial Heights declared a local emergency at 1555 hours 28 April.  
Isle of Wight declared a local emergency at 0830 hours 29 April.  
Brunswick County declared a local emergency at 0930 hours 29 April.

Local Emergency Operations Center Activated:  
City of Norfolk 28 April at 1650 Hours on behalf of City of Suffolk. City of Norfolk closed at 1918 hours as City of Suffolk communications were restored.  
City of Suffolk closed at 2000 hours, 5 May.

## WEATHER

**Forecast:**

**Monday, 12 May: Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers; high temperatures mid 50's to low 60's; winds 15-25 MPH with gusts up to 50 MPH in West Central, South Central and Eastern Shore. Monday night: Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers; low temperatures low to upper 40's; winds 10-20 MPH with gusts up to 35 MPH in West Central, South Central and Southeast and gusts up to 55 MPH in Eastern Shore. Tuesday, 13 May: Mostly sunny with a chance of showers on the Eastern Shore; high temperatures upper 60's to low 70's; winds 10-15 MPH except Southeast and Eastern Shore 15-25 MPH. Tuesday night: Partly cloudy; low temperatures mid 40's to low 50's; winds 5-15 MPH.**

## OPERATIONS SECTION

### EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

**ESF 8 – Public Health and** [Virginia Department of Health \(VDH\)](#)

**Medical Services:**

**Peninsula Medical Reserve Corps assisted Western Tidewater Medical Reserve Corps during Community Clean-up Day on Saturday, 10 May. Medical Reserve Corps staffed field first aid stations and provided medical assistance as needed during the event.**

**Western Tidewater Health District nurses administered 97 Tetanus vaccinations/boosters as of 8 May to those exhibiting a dirty wound, were past due, and/or had no record of or could not remember their last vaccination.**

VDH reported patient treatment and admissions as of 1030 hours 30 April:

City of Colonial Heights – approximately 20 treated and released

Sentara Obici Hospital – 70 patients treated, 3 admitted – current condition “improving”

BonSecours Maryview – 3 patients treated and released

BonSecours Harborview Health Center – 3 treated, 1 admitted – current condition “improving”

Southampton Memorial Hospital – 2 treated and released

Approximately 122 patients treated by local Emergency Medical Service, physicians’ offices and emergent care centers

Virginia Department of Mental Health (DMHMRSAS)

Western Tidewater Community Services Board (CSB) has over 70 staff deployed to support the City of Suffolk, Suffolk Schools, Department of Social Services, Salvation Army and local churches. CSB staff has been deployed since 30 April to Hill Point, Burnett’s Mill, Driver, Saddler Heights and the Suffolk Disaster Assistance Center in support of mental health issues. CSB staff has provided crisis counseling and has arranged groups for families and children to assist with normalization efforts and residual emotional concerns. Those undergoing crisis support are also eligible for pre-paid phones and Wal-Mart cards. CSB has made their fleet of vehicles and staff available to transport individuals and goods. CSB staff deployment rotations will continue throughout the weeks ahead and begin to become more targeted to individuals and families expressing trauma symptoms.

**HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH**

**ESF 14 – Long-term  
Community Recovery**

**Initial Damage Assessment Reports:**

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Public</u>
Colonial Heights, City of	\$2,000,000	\$0
Halifax County	\$500,000	\$0
Isle of Wight County	\$184,000	\$0
Portsmouth	\$ 60,000	\$0
Suffolk, City of	\$28,405,508	\$2,740,919
Brunswick County	\$650,000	\$0
James City County	\$217,000	\$0
Surry County	\$ 74,000	\$0
Prince George County	\$ 18,000	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$32,058,508</b>	<b>\$2,740,919</b>

Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment was completed on 1 May in the City of Suffolk. State and federal representatives also surveyed the City of Suffolk in regard to Public Assistance - public property, debris clearance and emergency response. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments were completed in the City of Colonial Heights and Brunswick County on 2 May. Results of the Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments that were conducted May 1-2 were evaluated by VDEM and FEMA. The Commonwealth did not meet the threshold for federal disaster assistance as most properties impacted had insurance. **VDEM representatives from ESF 14, Long-term Community Recovery, and ESF 17, Volunteers and Donations, and Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VA VOAD) will be attending a meeting in Suffolk on Tuesday, 13 May chaired by the Suffolk Director of Social Services to begin discussing long term recovery issues. VDEM Recovery Staff is coordinating with the**

***Brunswick County Administrator; President, State VOAD; Department of Housing & Community Development; and USDA - Rural Development Administration (RDA) concerning housing for the displaced residents in Brunswick. RDA may be able to help with intermediate housing needs; VA Department of Housing and Community Development may be able to provide funding through the emergency fund of the Community Development Block Grant program.*** Requested guidance from Department of Accounts in regard to Section 44-146.17 of the Code of Virginia (Powers and duties of the Governor), item 10, which states that the Governor may direct the Comptroller of the Commonwealth to issue warrants not to exceed \$2,500 per month, up to three calendar months, to an employee of a state or local public safety agency responding to a disaster that has suffered an extreme personal or family hardship in the affected area.

The City of Suffolk submitted their Notice of Interest to seek assistance under the state Public Assistance program for eligible costs. The city also submitted preliminary cost estimates associated with their response and recovery operations to VDEM.

***ESF 17 – Volunteers and Donations***

The United Way of South Hampton Roads is coordinating all volunteer efforts regarding the tornado response. The Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia delivered two truckloads of food to Suffolk.

***ESF 6 – Mass Care***

The American Red Cross reports that approximately 5,021 meals have been prepared and distributed throughout the event. A total of 157 Red Cross workers of which 142 were volunteers, have been involved in the relief effort to date. Red Cross is providing housing on a one-to-one basis. Those wishing to make donations please see the Virginia Department of Emergency Management website at [www.vaemergency.com](http://www.vaemergency.com), “How You Can Help.”

**LOGISTICS SECTION**

***ESF 7 – Resource Support*** All localities have been given access to the State Emergency Services contract.

**PLANNING SECTION**

***ESF 5 – Situation Unit*** Preparing Situational Reports, monitoring WebEOC entries and maintaining situational awareness

**LOCAL ACTIVITIES**

***City of Suffolk:***

National Weather Service (NWS) Wakefield confirmed an EF 3 tornado impacted the City of Suffolk on 28 April. EOC operations closed at 2000 hours, 5 May, and a daily staff meeting will be held at the City Manager’s Office to review operations and the need to continue recovery operations and return to normal operations. All curfews for the impacted areas have been rescinded and restrictions on access to impacted areas have been lifted. ***The Community Cleanup Day on Saturday, 10 May, was a success with over 1500 volunteers cleaning impacted areas. To date, the City of Suffolk has removed approximately 20,300 cubic yards of debris. The Suffolk Disaster Assistance Center closed on 9 May and services and support is being provided through City departments and volunteer organizations. VDEM Individual Assistance (IA) Staff attended the Suffolk Town Hall Meeting.*** Following the Town Hall meeting on 8 May, IA officers met with Virginia VOAD, City of Suffolk Social Services, and Young Lawyers to begin discussing intermediate and long term recovery needs. There will be a follow up meeting to be held on Tuesday May 13, 2008. Approximately 633 volunteers have participated in the response and recovery efforts, donating 3,671 hours.

***City of Colonial Heights:***

NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 1 tornado caused the major damage reported in and around Southpark Mall.

- Isle of Wight County:** NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 1 tornado impacted the Carrsville area damaging fourteen homes.
- Halifax County:** NWS Blacksburg confirmed an EF1 tornado caused major damage to two homes, minor damage to one home and slight damage to three homes in the Virgilina area. All homes were insured. Four sheds were observed to have major damage or be destroyed.
- Brunswick County:** NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF1 tornado touched down south of Lawrenceville with winds between 86-100 MPH and damaged 14 homes. .
- James City County:** NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 0 tornado touched down 6 miles northwest of Jamestown impacting 10 homes, with one residence uninhabitable.
- Surry County:** NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 1 tornado destroyed 1 mobile home destroyed in Claremont area.
- Greensville County:** NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 1 tornado touched in the Bryant's Corner area causing damage to some outbuildings.
- Mathews County:** NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 1 tornado touched in the Bohannon area blowing the roof off 1 house, overturning a boat and vehicle.
- Gloucester/Mathews County:** NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF 0 tornado touched in the Belroi area damaging some agricultural buildings and part of a commercial building. NWS Wakefield indicated that this tornado had been previously described and listed as 2 tornadoes; however, further review of damage photos and radar data suggests that this was a single tornado.
- Southampton County:** NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF0 tornado touchdown near Capron causing minor agricultural damage.

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