

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

## HURRICANE GUSTAV SITUATION REPORT # 1 1600 Hours 31 August 2008

### SUMMARY

Hurricane Gustav is threatening the Gulf Coast of the US. Current models are forecasting landfall in Louisiana as a Major Hurricane, Category 3 or stronger on Saffir-Simpson Scale. Hurricane Warnings issued for northern Gulf Coast from Cameron Louisiana east to Alabama/Florida border; Hurricane Watch issued west of Cameron Louisiana to east of High Island Texas; Tropical Storm Warnings issued for east of Alabama/Florida border to Ochlocknee River and from west of Cameron Louisiana to east of High Island Texas. At 1300 hours Gustav was located 270 miles Southeast of the Mississippi River moving toward the Northwest at 17 mph. Sustained winds have decreased to 115 mph but further strengthening is forecast over the next 24 hours.

### EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:** The VEOC is at Response Operations with limited augmented staff.

**Protective Actions:** Governor Kaine activated the Emergency Management Assistance Compact on Friday, 29 August, directing a series of state agencies and organizations to identify resources that they could deploy to help Gulf Coast states prepare and respond to impacts from Hurricane Gustav.

### WEATHER

**Forecast:** Sunday, 31 August: Partly to mostly cloudy; 30% chance of afternoon showers and thunderstorms across Southwest, West Central, Central and Southeast VA; high temps low to upper 80's; east-northeast winds 3-10 MPH. Sunday night: Partly cloudy; low temps mid 50's to mid 60's; east-northeast winds 3-7 MPH. Monday, 1 September: Mostly sunny; high temps low to upper 80's; variable winds 3-10 MPH. Monday night: Partly cloudy; low temps low 50's to low 60's; east winds 2-10 MPH

### OPERATIONS SECTION

The Virginia Emergency Operations (VEOC) has increased status to Response Operations and continues to monitor both Hurricane Gustav and Tropical Storm Hanna with limited augmented staffing and is maintaining situational awareness. The VEOC continues to monitor DHS and FEMA conference calls reference Hurricane Gustav and Tropical Storm Hanna. An event has been created in WEB EOC entitled 2008 09 Hurricane Gustav.

### LOGISTICS SECTION

#### **ESF 7 – Resource Support**

The Logistics Section and VDEM EMAC Coordinator continue to monitor EMAC requests coming from the Gulf States and is currently assessing State Resources for the potential effects of Tropical Storm Hanna on the Commonwealth. Statewide Mutual Aide broadcasts are being sent out to local jurisdictions and State agencies reference these requests.

EMAC Operations is working with Fairfax County and Roanoke County on a possible Incident Management Team (IMT) deployment to be sent to New Orleans and Saint Bernard Parish in Louisiana.

### PLANNING SECTION

#### **ESF 5 – Situation Unit**

Preparing Situation Reports; monitoring WebEOC entries; maintaining situational awareness.

- ESF 6 - Mass Care** Assessments are being made as to the potential for short term sheltering needs for evacuees that may enter the Commonwealth from areas impacted by Hurricane Gustav and for the potential impact of tropical Strom Hanna should it impact Virginia.
- ESF 13 – Public Safety** A 30 person Department of Game and Inland Fishery (DGIF) Task Force has been deployed to Baton Rouge, Louisiana under EMAC to support Search and Rescue efforts. They departed VA on 31 August with an expected return to the State on 10 September.
- Currently working an EMAC request for a 20 member Law Enforcement Team from the Virginia State Police to deploy to Slidell Louisiana on 2 September.
- ESF 14 - Recovery and Mitigation** Assessing long term housing resources for evacuees that may be coming into the Commonwealth from impacted area along the Gulf Coast.
- ESF 15 – External Affairs** VDEM Public Affairs staff continue to maintain situation awareness and field media Inquires reference Virginia’s response to Hurricane Gustav and are assisting the Governor’s Office in the preparation of press releases.
- ESF 17 – Volunteers and Donations** Virginia VOAD is assessing association members reference long term shelter capabilities. No requests to house evacuees have been received at his time.

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