

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)
Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

SEVERE WEATHER – WINTER STORM WARNING SITUATION REPORT # 1 1300 Hours December 5, 2005

SUMMARY

A winter storm warning has been issued for the majority of the State because of a weak low-pressure system developing over Georgia this morning. It is moving northeast at a slow rate and expected to be offshore by Tuesday morning. The snow line runs roughly from Farmville to Richmond, East/Northeast. There should be very little to no freezing rain during this event, with wind gusts of 10-15 mph.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia EOC is at Increased Readiness condition and augmented with additional staffing. The Virginia EOC is holding conference calls with State agencies and localities, and will continue to monitor the situation.

State of Emergency: A State of Emergency has not been declared.

Protective Actions:

Local Emergency Declared: None

Local EOC Activation: Richmond City – Partial Activation

Evacuations: None

Shelters Opened: None

Schools Closed:
Various schools have opened late, closed, or will be closing early today.

WEATHER

Forecast:

Wakefield NWS:
Snow and sleet will continue through this afternoon from Farmville to the Richmond Metro area. Precipitation will then become heavier from 2 PM to 8 PM, ending by late evening in Virginia, and after midnight in Maryland. Snow and sleet accumulations of 2 to 5 inches are expected by this evening from Farmville to western Chesterfield and Henrico Counties, while up to an inch is possible from Nottoway through Colonial Heights. Total accumulations will likely range from 4 to 7 inches in Prince Edward County, including Farmville and Amelia Counties. The Hampton-Roads area can expect a rain event with the possibility of a very light snow.

Blacksburg NWS:
The Winter Storm Warning has been cancelled for the majority of the area. A heavy snow warning has been issued for much of the North and Northwestern areas, where 4 to 6 inches are likely with the heaviest amounts from western Bedford County, across Lynchburg and into northern Buckingham County. The remaining area is under a snow advisory, and can expect variations from 1 to 3 inches to 3 to 5 inches. Precipitation will continue into the evening and be snow or change to all snow. Expect a mix of snow and rain along the North Carolina border.

Sterling NWS:

A heavy snow warning remains in effect until 0700 hours Tuesday, 6 December 2005. Low pressure developing over the Gulf States will track northeastward over the Carolinas this afternoon, and then well East of the Delmarva Peninsula tonight. Snow will increase in intensity this afternoon and continue into the evening hours. Between 3 to 6 inches of snow is expected to fall across the Central Shenandoah Valley. Approximately 4 to 8 inches of snow will fall across Central Virginia and southern Maryland including Charlottesville and Fredericksburg.

Morristown TN:

A winter snow advisory remains in effect until 9 PM, 5 December 2005. A rain and snow mix will change to snow by this afternoon, which may mix with sleet at times. Snow accumulations will vary across the area from 1 to 5 inches possible, with no significant accumulations except in the higher elevations.

Charleston WVA (Buchanan and Dickenson Counties):

The National Weather service in Charleston has cancelled the snow advisory. The heavier snow is expected to remain to the East of the area, although some light snow is still expected today.

OPERATIONS SECTION

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation:

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

VDOT snowplows and sanders are working on clearing the major interstates, bridges and roads, and expect to work on primary and secondary roads once the major roads are clear.

ESF 4 – Fire Fighting:

Virginia Department of Forestry

The Virginia Department of Forestry has several HMMWV's (Humvee's) situated throughout the state that are available.

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support:

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC is ready to coordinate requests for assistance from the localities.

Prepared by Ted Costin
Authority of Michael Cline, State Coordinator
/s/ Harry Colestock, Operations Director