

STATE AGENCY PARTICIPATION - The staffing pattern for the VEST will vary depending on the nature, size, and scope of the incident. It may continue throughout the recovery phase of the incident. State agency membership in the VEST is formally defined by the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan, but additional agencies may be called upon to provide specific technical expertise as the need presents itself and in accordance with Title 44 of the Code of Virginia and Executive Order 41 (2019).

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION	LEAD STATE AGENCY	SUPPORTING AGENCIES
ESF 1 - TRANSPORTATION	Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chesapeake Bay Bridge – Tunnel District (CBBT) - Department of Aviation (DOAV) - Department of General Services (DGS) - Department of Military Affairs (DMA) - Department of Energy (DOE) - Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) - Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) - Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) - Virginia State Police (VSP) - Virginia Port Authority (VPA) - Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)
ESF 2 - COMMUNICATIONS	Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) - Department of Military Affairs (DMA) - Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) - Virginia Department of Health (VDH) - Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) - Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) - Virginia State Police (VSP) - Other State Agencies with Communications Assets
ESF 3 - PUBLIC WORKS & ENGINEERING	Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Department of General Services (DGS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professional Engineers Emergency Response Team (PERT) - Department of Energy (DOE) - Department of Housing and Community (DHCD) Development - Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) - Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) - Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) - Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) - Virginia Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (VAWARN) - Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) - Department of Historic Resources (DHR)
ESF 4 - FIREFIGHTING	Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) - Department of Military Affairs (DMA) - Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) - Department of Corrections (DOC) - Department of Aviation (DOAV) - Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) - Virginia Marine Resource Commission (VMRC) - Virginia State Police (VSP) - Department of Energy (DOE)
ESF 6 - MASS CARE, EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES	Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) - Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) - Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) - Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) - Department of General Services (DGS) - Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) - Department of Military Affairs (DMA) - Office of the Attorney General (OAG) - Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) - Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (VCICF) - Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) - Virginia State Police (VSP) - Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VAVOAD) - Virginia Department of Health (VDH) - Virginia Public Institutions of Higher Education - Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM) - Virginia Department of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) - Other Health and Human Resources Agencies
ESF 7 - LOGISTICS & RESOURCE SUPPORT	Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of Corrections (DOC) - Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) - Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) - Department of General Services (DGS) - VDEM Disaster Service Contractors - Private Sector Partnerships - All other state agencies not listed when applicable
ESF 8 - PUBLIC HEALTH	Virginia Department of Health (VDH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) - Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) - Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) - Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) - Department of General Services (DGS) - Department of Military Affairs (DMA) - Department of Social Services (VDSS) - Virginia State Police (VSP) - Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VAVOAD) - Department of Health Professions (DHP)
ESF 9 - SEARCH & RESCUE	Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) - Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) - Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) - Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) - Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) - Virginia State Police (VSP) - Department of Military Affairs (DMA) - Civil Air Patrol (CAP) - Virginia Search and Rescue Council Organizations
ESF 10 - OIL & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Virginia Department of Health (VDH) - Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) - Department of Energy (DOE)
ESF 11 - AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES	Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) - Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) - Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) - Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) - Department of General Services (DGS) - Virginia Department of Health (VDH) - Department of Historic Resources (DHR) - Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) - Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) - Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) - Library of Virginia (LVA) - Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)
ESF 12 - ENERGY	Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of Energy (DOE) - State Corporation Commission (SCC) - Virginia Electric Cooperatives - Dominion Virginia Power - Appalachian Power Company (APCO)
ESF 13 - PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY	Virginia State Police (VSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) - Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) - Department of Corrections (DOC) - Department of Forestry (VDOF) - Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) - Department of Military Affairs (DMA) - Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) - Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
ESF 15 - EXTERNAL AFFAIRS	Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All Agencies of the Commonwealth of Virginia
ESF 16 - MILITARY AFFAIRS	Department of Military Affairs (DMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint Force Headquarters – Virginia - Joint Force Headquarters – Joint Operations Center (JFHQ-JOC) - Virginia Army National Guard - Virginia Air National Guard - Virginia Defense Force - 34th Civil Support Team (CST) CBRNE Response Force Package
ESF 17 - VOLUNTEER & DONATIONS MANAGEMENT	Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VAVOAD) - Adventist Community Services (ACS) - Volunteer Centers of Virginia - Virginia Department of Social Services: Virginia Office of Volunteerism and Community Services



VIRGINIA EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM + VIRGINIA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER



CONTACT THE VEOC:

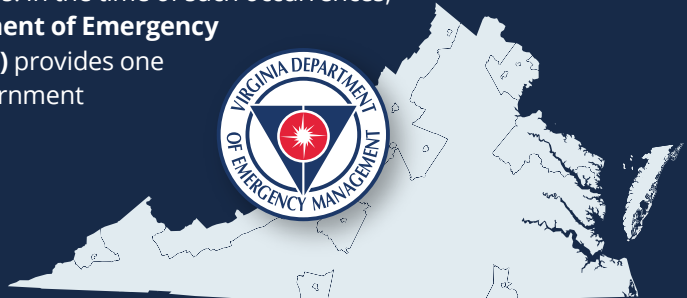
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About VDEM

The Commonwealth of Virginia is susceptible to a wide range of natural or human-caused events which may have catastrophic impacts. Additionally, Virginia encompasses a multitude of Critical Infrastructure and Key Resource (CIKR) assets which, if attacked or compromised, may result in significant loss of life and financial resources. In the time of such occurrences, the **Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)** provides one centralized state government emergency response operation.



Authority

The Code of Virginia, §44-146.13 to 44-146.28:1 establishes VDEM and the legal authority for the development and maintenance of the Commonwealth's emergency management program and organization. This authority is reflected in the **Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan (COVEOP)**, which provides for state-level emergency operations in response to natural or human-caused incidents.

The COVEOP establishes interagency and multijurisdictional mechanisms for state agency involvement in domestic incident management operations. Therefore, through the COVEOP, the Governor of Virginia establishes the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST). The mission of the VEST is to collaboratively respond to disasters and emergencies faced in the Commonwealth in an effort to best support all local, state, tribal, and territorial governments protect the lives and property of the citizens of Virginia.

Through Emergency Support Function (ESF #5), VDEM works with local government, state and federal agencies, and voluntary organizations to provide resources and expertise through the five mission areas of emergency management: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response and Recovery.

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

The Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) hosts the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST) and the Commonwealth's Emergency Support Functions (ESFs), which respond to calls for assistance from local governments throughout the Commonwealth. Representatives from state, federal, private, and nonprofit groups work together at the VEOC to form the VEST. Activation of the VEST generally occurs at the VEOC, a secure facility, located at the Virginia State Police Administrative Headquarters, at 7700 Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond, VA. Based on the level of VEST activation and the event requirements, some ESFs may be physically present at the VEOC while others may not be activated or may activate remotely.

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS UNIT (SAU): The Situational Awareness Unit (SAU), staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, coordinates day-to-day situational assessments, alerts and warnings, resource management, operational planning, reporting, and external emergency communications for Virginia's state and local emergency response agencies.

SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR): The SAR program manages and deploys a strategic and sustainable organization capable of an efficient and integrated response to lost and missing person incidents.

HAZMAT COORDINATION CENTER: The HAZMAT program administers statewide hazardous materials (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive) emergency response to protect life, critical infrastructure, property, and the environment.

REGIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAMS (IMT): VDEM supports four regional Incident Management Teams (IMT) located in Hampton Roads, Northern Virginia, Central Virginia and Southwest Virginia.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM (COVIMT): The Commonwealth of Virginia Incident Management Team (COVIMT) is an inclusive and collaborative partnership of state agencies serving the people of Virginia through a framework of all-hazards incident support.

ADJUNCT EMERGENCY WORKFORCE (AEW): The AEW provides opportunities for state government employees to support the Commonwealth's emergency response and recovery activities. During a declared emergency, qualified AEW participants may be offered temporary reassignment to close critical staffing gaps in Virginia Emergency Support Team agencies.

UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS (UAS): In close coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration, VDEM established an Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) program, one of the nation's first public safety drone programs for a state emergency management agency. The program is designed to support and provide capabilities in search and rescue, damage assessment, incident response, and situational awareness to our local and state agency partners.

COMMUNICATIONS CACHE: VDEM coordinates five radio communications caches strategically located to support first responder communications during large-scale events.

Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST)

The VEST is comprised of more than 300 credentialed members, drawing its staff from all Executive Branch state agencies, dozens of NGOs, and private sector companies such as Verizon and Dominion.



PLANNING SECTION: During a disaster, critical information is distilled at regular intervals to document the actions, plans, and decisions of responders. This data is funneled into situation reports, spot reports, and briefings for the governor and other decision-makers.



OPERATIONS SECTION: Each emergency response effort, from sheltering to recovery, is categorized into an ESF. These ESFs work together on the operations floor of the VEOC to track status updates, actions, and resource requests.



LOGISTICS SECTION: Local requests for assistance involve the flow of personnel, equipment, and services from place to place. The Logistics Section fulfills requests for assistance using technology, information, transportation, inventory, warehousing, material handling, and packaging.



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION SECTION: Provides overall financial management and administration support to assist in incident management activities. This includes monitoring costs associated with an incident, analyzing disaster costs for funding requests, and providing financial status reports to leadership.



RECOVERY SECTION: Provides the framework for recovery operations in the Commonwealth and the coordination of recovery capabilities. The Recovery Section supports the VDEM Regional Offices in fulfilling the recovery needs of localities during times of emergencies or events.



JIC: In the Joint Information Center (JIC), Public Information Officers (PIO) from state agencies work together to ensure the most accurate, up-to-date information is available to the public. Information is disseminated from the JIC through Emergency Alert System messages, news releases, and media interviews.

THE VEST MAY BE ACTIVATED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- » Declaration of Emergency by the governor,
- » Local and regional capabilities can't sufficiently address event impacts, or
- » The State Coordinator or VEST Director orders activation in support of:
 - » A high-profile emergency or non-emergency event.
 - » A notice or no-notice event which demonstrates need for a state-level request for assistance.

VEST ACTIVATION LEVELS:

Each emergency and disaster event is unique from the standpoint of the event type, duration of the event, and the intensity of the event. The VEST uses the Incident Command System (ICS) to manage a variety of incidents and events.

