



Secretary of Health and Human Resources

Secretary John Littel

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the responsibility of Commonwealth Government to provide for the safety and well-being of Commonwealth citizens and ensure the continuity of Commonwealth government operations, including the delivery of essential government services during a disaster. The Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan (COVEOP) assigns specific responsibilities to agencies and offices to ensure the Commonwealth is able to meet this responsibility. Commonwealth agencies and institutions of higher education (IHEs) must be prepared to implement their own agency's emergency plans and execute their duties as assigned in the COVEOP, hazard specific annexes, and support plans. *COVEOP 2021*

INDIVIDUAL SECRETARIAT RESPONSIBILITIES

Each Secretariat is responsible for ensuring their agencies and offices are: (1) meeting their statutory obligations for emergency preparedness, (2) prepared and able to implement their agency continuity plans, and (3) prepared and able to execute the duties assigned to them in the COVEOP and all-hazards annexes.

THE HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES SECRETARIAT

The 12 agencies within this Secretariat create a network of providers and services that enhance and protect the health and well-being of Virginians. In addition to ensuring public health monitoring and outreach, this collection of agencies also provide support for the most vulnerable Virginians. These agencies play a crucial role in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from a wide range of disasters. The specialized expertise within these agencies ensure that essential public health, social services, and critical infrastructure needs are met or restored as quickly as practical during disasters.



Your Supporting Agencies:

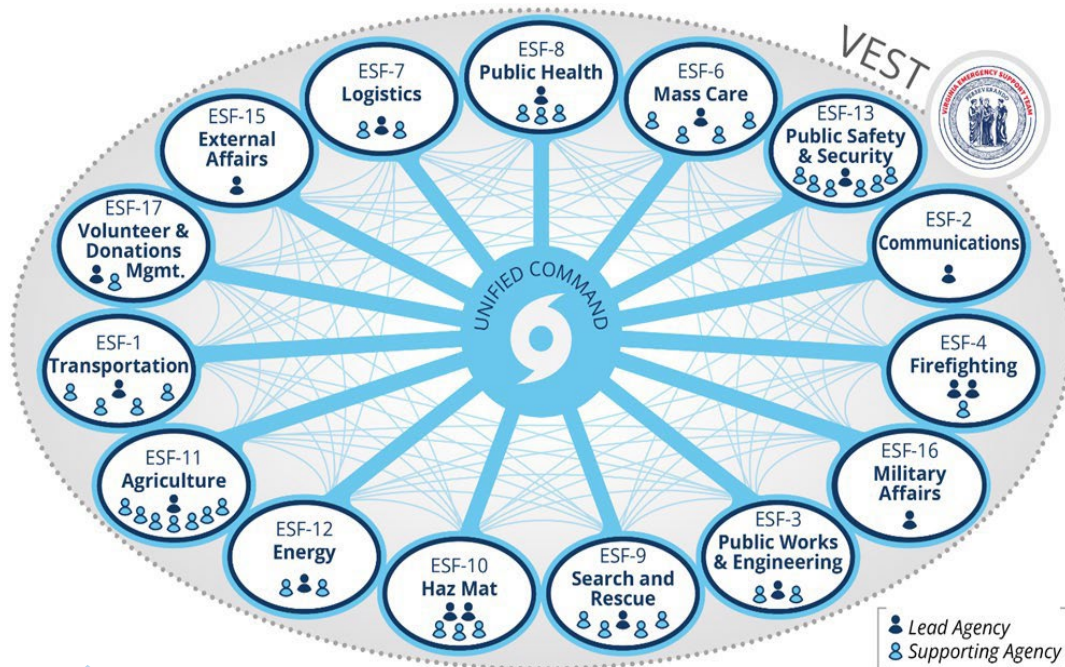
-  **Virginia Dept of Health**
-  **Virginia Dept of Social Services**
-  **Department of Health Professions**
-  **Dept of Medical Assistant Services**
-  **Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority**
-  **Dept for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**
-  **Dept of Aging and Rehabilitative Services**
-  **Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth**
-  **Dept of Blind and Vision Impaired**
-  **Virginia Board for People with Disabilities**
-  **Office of Children's Services**
-  **Dept of Behavioral Health and Human Services**



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THE VIRGINIA EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (VEST)

Comprised of Commonwealth agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private sector companies, the VEST supports all ten Cabinet Secretaries in meeting their statutory emergency management responsibilities. Command and General Staff and 17 Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) are activated through four levels to meet emergency needs, incidents that exceed local capacities, or when incidents span multiple VDEM Regions.



VEST ACTIVATION LEVELS

CONDITION GREEN
Steady State

CONDITION YELLOW
Activated Monitoring

CONDITION ORANGE
Partially Activated

CONDITION RED
Fully Activated

Emergency Support Functions (ESF)

Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) group governmental and certain private sector capabilities into an organizational structure to provide support, resources, program implementation and services that are most likely needed to save lives, protect property and the environment, restore essential services and critical infrastructure, and help victims and communities return to normal following incidents. Each ESF has a Lead Agency and Supporting Agencies that collaborate to execute their responsibilities.

For more information, please go to <https://www.vaemergency.gov/2022-cabinet-exercise/> to review: 1) COVEOP, 2) Secretariat emergency management responsibilities per COVEOP, agency, and emergency support function, 3) Governor's Cabinet emergency management overview, and 4) individual Cabinet Secretary emergency management overview and construct.

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Your Supporting ESFs, their Lead Agencies, and Function:

| ESF Number | Lead Agency | Function | Status |
|------------|--|--|--------|
| 1 | VDOT | ESF 1 Transportation | |
| 3 | VDH, VCS | ESF 3 Public Works and Engineering | |
| 5 | Virginia Department of Emergency Management | ESF 5 EM/Command and General Staff | |
| 6 | VDH | ESF 6 Mass Care | LEAD |
| 8 | VDH | ESF 8 Public Health | LEAD |
| 10 | DEQ, Virginia Department of Emergency Management | ESF 10 Oil and Hazardous Materials | |
| 11 | Virginia Department of Emergency Management | ESF 11 Agriculture and Natural Resources | |
| 15 | Virginia Department of Emergency Management | ESF 15 External Affairs | |
| 17 | Virginia Department of Emergency Management | ESF 17 Volunteers and Donations Management | |



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- linkedin.com/company/virginia-department-of-emergency-management/

- their partners, the public, and external audience when received.

7.1.4.7 SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

7.1.4.7.1 Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services is assigned the following duties:

- **ESF 5 Emergency Coordination, Information And Planning**
 - Appoint a VEST Liaison Officer and at least one alternate to serve as the primary point of contact for all disaster preparedness, response and recovery matters.
 - Appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and at least one alternate responsible for the development and maintenance of agency-specific emergency plans.
 - Appoint a public information officer to staff the VEST Joint Information Center at the request of VDEM and coordinate emergency public information with VDEM during states of emergency.
 - Support recovery operations as outlined in the COVEOP Statewide Recovery Support Annex.

- **ESF 6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Human Services and Housing Referral**
 - Provide support as directed and as outlined in the Commonwealth Family Assistance Center plan.
 - Provide support as directed and as outlined in the Commonwealth of Virginia State Coordinated Regional Shelter Plan.
 - Provide subject matter expertise and guidance in matters relating to the needs of citizens with mental and behavioral health, developmental disabilities, and/or substance abuse issues.
- **ESF 8 Public Health and Medical**
 - Coordinate the provision of mental health services including crisis counseling in emergencies.
- **ESF 15 External Affairs**
 - Coordinate emergency-related public information with the Joint Information Center using the Joint Information System.
 - Provide staff to the Joint Information Center when requested.
 - Public Information Officers will distribute any disaster-related information to their partners, the public, and external audience when received.

7.1.4.7.2 Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH)

The Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is assigned the following duties:

- **ESF 5 Emergency Coordination, Information And Planning**
 - Appoint a VEST Liaison Officer and at least one alternate to serve as the primary point of contact for all disaster preparedness, response and recovery matters.
 - Appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and at least one alternate responsible for the development and maintenance of agency-specific emergency plans.
 - Appoint a public information officer to staff the VEST Joint Information Center at the request of VDEM and coordinate emergency public information with VDEM during states of emergency.
 - Support recovery operations as outlined in the COVEOP Statewide Recovery Support Annex.
- **ESF 6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Human Services and Housing Referral**
 - Provide support as directed and as outlined in the Commonwealth Family Assistance Center plan.
 - Provide support through HHR Secretariat agencies to mass care and sheltering missions that are within their normal scope of responsibilities.
 - Serve as a resource for sign language interpretation coordination for communication access at shelters.

- **ESF 15 External Affairs**
 - Serve as a resource for sign language interpreter coordination.
 - Coordinate emergency-related public information with the Joint Information Center using the Joint Information System.
 - Provide staff to the Joint Information Center when requested.
 - Public Information Officers will distribute any disaster-related information to their partners, the public, and external audience when received.

7.1.4.7.3 Department of Health (VDH)

The Department of Health is assigned the following duties:

- **ESF 2 Communication**
 - Maintain and coordinate automated alerting capabilities with the Health Alert Network (HAN) system.
 - Maintain and coordinate web, voice, text, and video communication capabilities with Health Departments and Regional Hospital Coordination Center (RHCC) sites throughout the Commonwealth.
 - Maintain redundant voice and web-based communications capabilities with hospitals and healthcare providers throughout the Commonwealth.
- **ESF 3 Public Works and Engineering**
 - Coordinate environmental health efforts (e.g., response work, database management of environmental sample results, interpretation of results, and risk communication).
 - Keep ESF 8 informed about the status of any potential or occurring water system-related problem in the state and recommend appropriate actions, such as an emergency declaration, when necessary.
 - Coordinate emergency assistance with ESF 8.
 - Coordinate with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and other federal agencies to assess impacts to public health during emergency operations.
 - Assess public water utilities, alternative water supplies, unregulated systems, and temporary or mobile treatment systems.
- **ESF 5 Emergency Coordination, Information And Planning**
 - Appoint a VEST Liaison Officer and at least one alternate to serve as the primary point of contact for all disaster preparedness, response and recovery matters.
 - Appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and at least one alternate responsible for the development and maintenance of agency-specific emergency plans.
 - Appoint a public information officer to staff the VEST Joint Information Center at the request of VDEM and coordinate emergency public information with VDEM during states of emergency.
 - Support recovery operations as outlined in the COVEOP Statewide Recovery Support Annex.

- **ESF 6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Human Services, and Housing Referral**
 - Provide support as directed and as outlined in the Commonwealth Family Assistance Center plan.
 - Provide emergency medical, public health, and medical services and support for mass care operations.
 - Coordinate agency responsibilities assigned in the Commonwealth of Virginia State Coordinated Regional Shelter Plan.
 - Participate in the development and maintenance of the Commonwealth Emergency Feeding Plan and the activation of the State Feeding Task Force as necessary.

- **ESF 8 Public Health and Medical**
 - Health districts are responsible for establishing dispensing sites. Staffing and operation of the dispensing sites is the responsibility of the Health District and city or county government.
 - Prevention of disease to include surveillance and investigation of diseases and other conditions and implementation of intervention measures.
 - Coordinate with DEQ on evaluation and interpretation of environmental and source water quality data as it relates to public health and regulation/operation of public water supplies.
 - Dispense medical supplies and equipment and provide life-saving pharmaceuticals and medical supplies with or without the activation of the Strategic National Stockpile.
 - Mass patient care to include pre-hospital emergency medical services, hospital care and partnership with the intra-state aid and the National Disaster Medical System.
 - Fatality management operations and coordination to include postmortem disease surveillance, death scene management operations, forensic examinations and collections, victim identification services, mortuary services, and ante-mortem data collection with oversight provided by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.
 - Provide guidance and technical assistance regarding emergency evacuation of persons with functional needs.
 - Assess public health and medical needs to include support of regional and local teams.
 - Patient evacuation in cooperation with federal, local, and private organizations.
 - Assist with the planning for and coordination of transporting seriously ill, injured patients, and medical needs populations from casualty collection points in the impacted areas.
 - Assist local and federal responders with a coordinated response in support of emergency triage and pre-hospital treatment, patient tracking, and distribution.
 - Provide appropriate personnel, equipment, and supplies for deployed public health and medical teams.
 - Provide support for public health matters for radiological incidents.
 - Support multi-agency response to a domestic incident as necessary and

appropriate.

- Following radiological events, evaluate the re-entry and re-occupancy of facilities (e.g., homes, educational, institution and health care facilities) and establish an evaluation process, assessment criteria, and indicators for safe re-occupation
- **ESF 10 Oil and Hazardous Materials**
 - Provide advice/guidance regarding the threat to human health posed by the release of the hazardous materials and recommend protective action measures.
- **ESF 11 Agriculture and Natural Resources**
 - Ensure that areas impacted by the disaster are a high priority for the food safety inspections and verifications required by law.
 - Coordinate and communicate with VDACS regarding potential public health threats that relate to the ESF 11 mission.
 - If an animal bite occurs at a state operated shelter, communicate the incident and pertinent information to the appropriate agencies and coordinate the response.
- **ESF 15 External Affairs**
 - Coordinate emergency-related public information with the Joint Information Center using the Joint Information System.
 - Provide staff to the Joint Information Center when requested.
 - Public Information Officers will distribute any disaster-related information to their partners, the public, and external audience when received.

7.1.4.7.4 Department of Health Professions (VDHP)

The Department of Health Professions is assigned the following duties:

- **ESF 5 Emergency Coordination, Information And Planning**
 - Appoint a VEST Liaison Officer and at least one alternate to serve as the primary point of contact for all disaster preparedness, response and recovery matters.
 - Appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and at least one alternate responsible for the development and maintenance of agency-specific emergency plans.
 - Appoint a public information officer to staff the VEST Joint Information Center at the request of VDEM and coordinate emergency public information with VDEM during states of emergency.
 - Support recovery operations as outlined in the COVEOP Statewide Recovery Support Annex.
- **ESF 6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Human Services, and Housing Referral**
 - Provide support through Health and Human Resources Secretariat agencies to mass care and sheltering missions that are within their normal scope of responsibilities.

- **ESF 8 Public Health and Medical**
 - Provide information on the licensing of qualified health care professionals.
 - Enforce standards of practice.
 - Provide information to practitioners and consumers on health care services.

- **ESF 15 External Affairs**
 - Coordinate emergency-related public information with the Joint Information Center using the Joint Information System.
 - Provide staff to the Joint Information Center when requested.
 - Public Information Officers will distribute any disaster-related information to their partners, the public, and external audience when received.

7.1.4.7.5 Department of Social Services (VDSS)

The Department of Social Services is assigned the following duties:

- **ESF 1 Transportation**
 - Coordinate with VDOT during mass evacuation and sheltering operations to provide information regarding opening and closing of State Coordinated Regional Shelters (SCRS).
 - Coordinate with ESF 1 and ESF 7 for the return of transportation-dependent individuals in SCRS.

- **ESF 5 Emergency Coordination, Information And Planning**
 - Appoint a VEST Liaison Officer and at least one alternate to serve as the primary point of contact for all disaster preparedness, response and recovery matters.
 - Appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and at least one alternate responsible for the development and maintenance of agency-specific emergency plans.
 - Appoint a public information officer to staff the VEST Joint Information Center at the request of VDEM and coordinate emergency public information with VDEM during states of emergency.
 - Support recovery operations as outlined in the COVEOP Statewide Recovery Support Annex.

- **ESF 6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Human Services, and Housing Referral**
 - Coordinate activities assigned to ESF 6 in accordance with this Plan including coordination of state-level sheltering and mass care operations.
 - Coordinate with ESF 17 for voluntary agency support of ESF 6 missions and state-level sheltering and mass care operations.
 - Coordinate with ESF 11 and other appropriate ESFs and agencies to ensure food security throughout emergency operations.
 - Support the transition of shelter clients into appropriate housing solutions including providing casework services to shelter clients, as needed.
 - Provide information to the JIC to assist with event messaging regarding mass care operations.

- Coordinate agency responsibilities assigned in the Commonwealth of Virginia State Coordinated Regional Shelter Plan.
 - Ensure all ESF 6 activities, including state-level mass care and sheltering operations, comply with state and federal non-discrimination laws.
 - Provide support as directed and as outlined in the Commonwealth Family Assistance Center plan.
 - Assist in the identification of facilities for state shelters.
 - Prior to the declaration of an emergency, coordinate with the DGS Division of Engineering and Buildings to perform the duties of the building official for all state-owned buildings or structures designated for use as an emergency shelter under § 36-98.1 of the *Code of Virginia* notwithstanding any other provisions of the Code of Virginia to the contrary.
- **ESF 11 Agriculture and Natural Resources**
 - Coordinate with VDACS for pet sheltering at state shelters.
- **ESF 15 External Affairs**
 - Maintain the Virginia 2-1-1 System contract to provide a public information call center during disasters or emergencies.
 - Coordinate emergency-related public information with the Joint Information Center using the Joint Information System.
 - Provide staff to the Joint Information Center when requested.
 - Public Information Officers will distribute any disaster-related information to their partners, the public, and external audience when received.

Virginia Office of Volunteerism and Community Service

- **ESF 5 Emergency Coordination, Information And Planning**
 - Appoint a VEST Liaison Officer and at least one alternate to serve as the primary point of contact for all disaster preparedness, response and recovery matters.
 - Appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and at least one alternate responsible for the development and maintenance of agency-specific emergency plans.
 - Appoint a public information officer to staff the VEST Joint Information Center at the request of VDEM and coordinate emergency public information with VDEM during states of emergency.
 - Support recovery operations as outlined in the COVEOP Statewide Recovery Support Annex.
- **ESF 17 Volunteer and Donations Management**
 - Provide volunteer resource support as needed.
 - Participate in the development and maintenance of the Commonwealth Emergency Feeding Plan and the activation of the State Feeding Task Force as necessary.

7.1.4.7.6. Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority

The Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority is assigned the following duties:

- **ESF 5 Emergency Coordination, Information And Planning**
 - Appoint a VEST Liaison Officer and at least one alternate to serve as the primary point of contact for all disaster preparedness, response and recovery matters.
 - Appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and at least one alternate responsible for the development and maintenance of agency-specific emergency plans.
 - Appoint a public information officer to staff the VEST Joint Information Center at the request of VDEM and coordinate emergency public information with VDEM during states of emergency.
 - Support recovery operations as outlined in the COVEOP Statewide Recovery Support Annex.

- **ESF 6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Human Services, and Housing Referral**
 - Provide support through Health and Human Resources Secretariat agencies to VEST missions that are within their normal scope of responsibilities.

- **ESF 15 External Affairs**
 - Coordinate emergency-related public information with the Joint Information Center using the Joint Information System.
 - Provide staff to the Joint Information Center when requested.
 - Public Information Officers will distribute any disaster-related information to their partners, the public, and external audience when received.

7.1.4.7.7 Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (VBPD)

The Virginia Board for People with Disabilities is assigned the following duties:

- **ESF 5 Emergency Coordination, Information And Planning**
 - Appoint a VEST Liaison Officer and at least one alternate to serve as the primary point of contact for all disaster preparedness, response and recovery matters.
 - Appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and at least one alternate responsible for the development and maintenance of agency-specific emergency plans.
 - Appoint a public information officer to staff the VEST Joint Information Center at the request of VDEM and coordinate emergency public information with VDEM during states of emergency.
 - Support recovery operations as outlined in the COVEOP Statewide Recovery Support Annex.

- **ESF 6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Human Services, and Housing Referral**
 - Provide support through Health and Human Resources Secretariat agencies to mass care and sheltering missions that are within their normal scope of responsibilities.

- **ESF 15 External Affairs**
 - Coordinate emergency-related public information with the Joint Information Center using the Joint Information System.
 - Provide staff to the Joint Information Center when requested.
 - Public Information Officers will distribute any disaster-related information to their partners, the public, and external audience when received.

7.1.4.7.8 Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

The Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services is assigned the following duties:

- **ESF 5 Emergency Coordination, Information And Planning**
 - Appoint a VEST Liaison Officer and at least one alternate to serve as the primary point of contact for all disaster preparedness, response and recovery matters.
 - Appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and at least one alternate responsible for the development and maintenance of agency-specific emergency plans.
 - Appoint a public information officer to staff the VEST Joint Information Center at the request of VDEM and coordinate emergency public information with VDEM during states of emergency.
 - Support recovery operations as outlined in the COVEOP Statewide Recovery Support Annex.
- **ESF 6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Human Services, and Housing Referral**
 - Provide support through Health and Human Resources Secretariat agencies to mass care and sheltering missions that are within their normal scope of responsibilities.
- **ESF 15 External Affairs**
 - Coordinate emergency-related public information with the Joint Information Center using the Joint Information System.
 - Provide staff to the Joint Information Center when requested.
 - Public Information Officers will distribute any disaster-related information to their partners, the public, and external audience when received.

7.1.4.7.9 Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (VDBVI)

The Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired is assigned the following duties:

- **ESF 5 Emergency Coordination, Information And Planning**
 - Appoint a VEST Liaison Officer and at least one alternate to serve as the primary point of contact for all disaster preparedness, response and recovery matters.
 - Appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and at least one alternate responsible for the development and maintenance of agency-specific emergency plans.
 - Appoint a public information officer to staff the VEST Joint Information Center at the request of VDEM and coordinate emergency public information with VDEM

- during states of emergency.
- Support recovery operations as outlined in the COVEOP Statewide Recovery Support Annex.
- **ESF 6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Human Services, and Housing Referral**
 - Provide support through Health and Human Resources Secretariat agencies to mass care and sheltering missions that are within their normal scope of responsibilities.
- **ESF 15 External Affairs**
 - Coordinate emergency-related public information with the Joint Information Center using the Joint Information System.
 - Provide staff to the Joint Information Center when requested.
 - Public Information Officers will distribute any disaster-related information to their partners, the public, and external audience when received.

7.1.4.7.10 Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)

The Department of Medical Assistance Services is assigned the following duties:

- **ESF 5 Emergency Coordination, Information And Planning**
 - Appoint a VEST Liaison Officer and at least one alternate to serve as the primary point of contact for all disaster preparedness, response and recovery matters.
 - Appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and at least one alternate responsible for the development and maintenance of agency-specific emergency plans.
 - Appoint a public information officer to staff the VEST Joint Information Center at the request of VDEM and coordinate emergency public information with VDEM during states of emergency.
 - Support recovery operations as outlined in the COVEOP Statewide Recovery Support Annex.
- **ESF 15 External Affairs**
 - Coordinate emergency-related public information with the Joint Information Center using the Joint Information System.
 - Provide staff to the Joint Information Center when requested.
 - Public Information Officers will distribute any disaster-related information to their partners, the public, and external audience when received.

7.1.4.7.11 Office of Children's Services (OCS)

The Office of Children's Services is assigned the following duties:

- **ESF 5 Emergency Coordination, Information And Planning**
 - Appoint a VEST Liaison Officer and at least one alternate to serve as the primary point of contact for all disaster preparedness, response and recovery matters.

- Appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and at least one alternate responsible for the development and maintenance of agency-specific emergency plans.
 - Appoint a public information officer to staff the VEST Joint Information Center at the request of VDEM and coordinate emergency public information with VDEM during states of emergency.
 - Support recovery operations as outlined in the COVEOP Statewide Recovery Support Annex.
- **ESF 6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Human Services, and Housing Referral**
 - Provide support through Health and Human Resources Secretariat agencies to mass care and sheltering missions that are within their normal scope of responsibilities.
- **ESF 15 External Affairs**
 - Coordinate emergency-related public information with the Joint Information Center using the Joint Information System.
 - Provide staff to the Joint Information Center when requested.
 - Public Information Officers will distribute any disaster-related information to their partners, the public, and external audience when received.

7.1.4.7.12 Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth

The Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth is assigned the following duties:

- **ESF 5 Emergency Coordination, Information And Planning**
 - Appoint a VEST Liaison Officer and at least one alternate to serve as the primary point of contact for all disaster preparedness, response and recovery matters.
 - Appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and at least one alternate responsible for the development and maintenance of agency-specific emergency plans.
 - Appoint a public information officer to staff the VEST Joint Information Center at the request of VDEM and coordinate emergency public information with VDEM during states of emergency.
 - Support recovery operations as outlined in the COVEOP Statewide Recovery Support Annex.
- **ESF 6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Human Services, and Housing Referral**
 - Provide support through Health and Human Resources Secretariat agencies to mass care and sheltering missions that are within their normal scope of responsibilities.
- **ESF 15 External Affairs**
 - Coordinate emergency-related public information with the Joint Information Center using the Joint Information System.

- Provide staff to the Joint Information Center when requested.
- Public Information Officers will distribute any disaster-related information to their partners, the public, and external audience when received.