



Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

Secretary Travis A. Voyles

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 NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES SECRETARIAT

Comprised of five agencies, The Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources advises the Governor on natural and historical resource issues and works to advance the Governor's top environmental priorities. The Secretary oversees those agencies that protect and restore the Commonwealth's natural and historic resources prior to, during, and after a disaster.



Your Supporting Agencies:



Virginia Department of Environmental Quality



Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation



Virginia Department of Historic Resources



Virginia Marine Resources Commission



Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

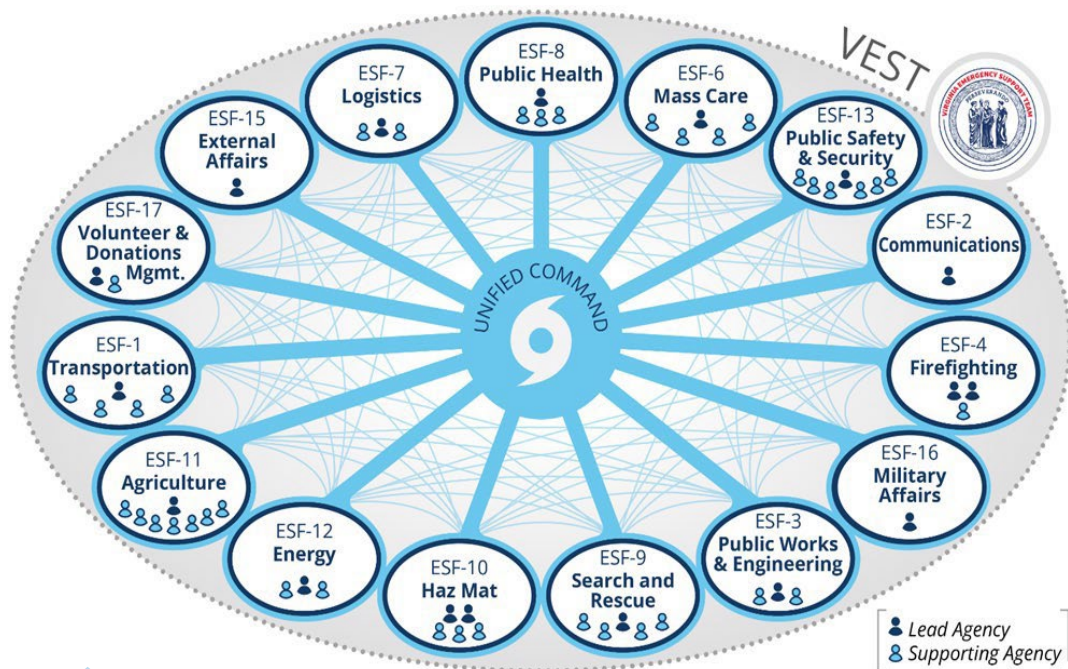


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THE VIRGINIA EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (VEST)

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.

Your Supporting ESFs, their Lead Agencies, and Function:

ESF Number	Lead Agency	Function	Activation Status
2	VIRGINIA IT AGENCY	ESF 2 Communications	Steady State
3	VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	ESF 3 Public Works and Engineering	Activated Monitoring
4	VIRGINIA FORESTRY	ESF 4 Firefighting	Activated Monitoring
5	VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	ESF 5 EM/Command and General Staff	Activated Monitoring
8	VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	ESF 8 Public Health	Activated Monitoring
9	VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	ESF 9 Special Operations	Activated Monitoring
10	DEQ VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	ESF 10 Special Operations	Fully Activated (LEAD)
11	VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	ESF 11 Agriculture and Natural Resources	Activated Monitoring
13	VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	ESF 13 Public Safety and Security	Activated Monitoring
15	VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	ESF 15 External Affairs	Activated Monitoring



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

7.1.4.8 SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

7.1.4.8.1 Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

The Department of Conservation and Recreation is assigned the following duties:

- **ESF 3 Public Works and Engineering**
 - Support requests for public safety and security from the Virginia State Police that are within the agency's capabilities and within the parameters of other operational commitments, existing agreements, protocols, and statutes as required
 - Provide regulatory guidance and technical engineering expertise to Dam owners and their engineers subject to the Dam Safety Act and Dam Safety Regulations, local, state and federal stakeholders, as well as emergency management and public safety personnel.
 - Provide regulatory guidance and technical expertise related to floodplain management to local, state and federal stakeholders and assistance with substantial damage estimates during recovery.
- **ESF 4 Firefighting**
 - Provide available personnel for fire suppression operations. Develop firefighting hand crews or chain saw crews and crew leaders with training in basic fire control, chain saw use and safety.
 - Provide crew boss training for personnel who will supervise crews.
 - Provide law enforcement officers for traffic control and security measures and assist in fire investigations.
 - Provide available equipment to support suppression operations.
 - Assist in repair and maintenance of fire tools and equipment as resources allow.
- **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 9 Special Operations**
 - Support requests for SAR assets within their capabilities and within the parameters of other operational commitments, existing agreements, protocols, and

statutes as required.

- **ESF 11 Agriculture and Natural Resources**
 - Natural heritage resource protection.
 - Water quality protection.
 - Provide advice and support to VDACS for protection of endangered plant and insect species.
 - Provide advice and guidance related to the response, recovery and restoration of natural area preserves and state parks that are affected by a disaster event.

- **ESF 13 Public Safety and Security**
 - Support requests for public safety and security from the VSP that are within the agency's capabilities and within the parameters of other operational commitments, existing agreements, protocols, and statutes as required.

- **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.

7.1.4.8.2 Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

The Department of Environmental Quality is assigned the following duties:

- **ESF 3 Public Works and Engineering**
 - Provide technical assistance to solid waste management facilities (SWMFs) and wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) on mitigation, response, and recovery strategies leading up to, during, and following a disaster situation.
 - Provide regulatory direction and technical assistance associated with wastewater treatment plants, collection systems, and land application of wastewater.
 - Track operational status of affected solid waste management facilities and wastewater treatment plants and share information with VDH and other agencies and ESFs as necessary.
 - Conduct and/or oversee field investigations and sampling activities to assess environmental conditions and source water quality during emergency operations
 - Coordinate with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), US Coast Guard, and other federal and state agencies during emergency operations.

- **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 8 Public Health and Medical**
 - Provide guidance and technical support on solid waste management and wastewater treatment to minimize and/or prevent public health emergencies from occurring during a disaster response.”

- **ESF 10 Oil and Hazardous Materials**
 - Support collection, analysis, and assessment of air and water quality samples.
 - Support collection, analysis, and assessment of meteorological data.
 - Provide technical assistance and information on environmental impacts resulting from the release of hazardous materials including recommendations for actions that are protective of human health and the environment.
 - Provide technical and regulatory assistance on waste management issues related to oil and hazardous materials releases, including: reviewing waste management plans and proposed waste management facilities and temporary storage and staging sites; conducting independent sampling and analysis of waste streams; and monitoring waste management facilities and temporary storage and staging sites.
 - Provide technical and regulatory assistance on regulated medical waste and Category A incident response, especially waste management, treatment and disposal.
 - Serve as State On-Scene Coordinator to make key decisions on oil and hazmat response actions and to coordinate state response actions.

- **ESF 11 Agriculture and Natural Resources**
 - Provide regulatory and technical assistance related to biological and chemical contamination of sites, including environmental monitoring, facility remediation, and contaminated agriculture and food product decontamination and disposal.”
 - Provide technical and regulatory assistance on the emergency poultry and swine depopulation or mortality events.
 - Coordinate and provide expertise to VDACS and VDH regarding policies on animal wastes and wastewater disposal at state and local pet shelters.

- **ESF 15 External Affairs**
 - Coordinate emergency-related public information with the Joint Information Center using the Joint Information System.
 - Respond to requests to 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.

7.1.4.8.3 Department of Wildlife Resources

The Department of Wildlife Resources is assigned the following duties:

- **ESF 2 Communication**
 - Provide personnel, equipment, supplies, and expertise as requested by the VEST to support communication operations and other requests for assistance.

- **ESF 4 Firefighting**
 - Provide personnel to support fire suppression activities to include law enforcement personnel for traffic control and security
 - Provide equipment for transportation of firefighters (to include four-wheel drive vehicles, boats, etc.).

- **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 8 Public Health and Medical**
 - Assist VDH with investigation of zoonotic disease outbreaks.
 - Manage wildlife populations to minimize impacts on human and animal populations.
 - Monitor wildlife populations for event related impacts.

- **ESF 9 Special Operations**
 - Support requests for SAR assets within their capabilities and within the parameters of other operational commitments, existing agreements, protocols, and statutes as required.

- **ESF 10 Oil and Hazardous Materials**
 - Assess impacts and coordinate wildlife recovery efforts.

- **ESF 11 Agriculture and Natural Resources**
 - Protection of endangered species.
 - Monitor impacts on threatened and endangered species.
 - During recovery phase, utilize facilities to support reestablishment of damaged wildlife populations.

- **ESF 13 Public Safety and Security**
 - Support requests for public safety and security from the Virginia Department of State Police that are within the agency's capabilities and within the parameters of

other operational commitments, existing agreements, protocols, and statutes as required.

- **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.

7.1.4.8.4 Department of Historic Resources (DHR)

The Department of Historic Resources is assigned the following duties:

- **ESF 3 Public Works and Engineering**
 - In coordination with DGS, assess and develop strategies to protect, stabilize, and restore buildings and facilities of historic significance.
- **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 11 Agriculture and Natural Resources**
 - Identify and evaluate cultural and historic resources and assist federal, state, tribal, and local authorities in assessing damage to and appropriate protection, conservation, rehabilitation, and restoration or mitigation of damage to cultural historic resources.
- **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.

7.1.4.8.5 Virginia Marine Resources Commission

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission is assigned the following duties:

- **ESF 2 Communication**
 - Provide personnel and equipment to support a 24-hour dispatch operation as a secondary means of communication. Dispatch operations should support State Agency Radio System (STARS).

- **ESF 4 Firefighting**
 - Provide boats, fixed winged aircraft, and four-wheel drive vehicles for transportation of fire fighters and equipment.
 - Provide law enforcement personnel for traffic control, security, and fire investigation.

- **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 9 Special Operations**
 - Support requests for SAR assets within their capabilities and within the parameters of other operational commitments, existing agreements, protocols, and statutes as required.

- **ESF 11 Agriculture and Natural Resources**
 - Coordinate and provide expertise regarding air and water quality protection.

- **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.