



# Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs

# Secretary Craig Crenshaw

## 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 VETERANS and DEFENSE AFFAIRS SECRETARIAT

Comprised of two agencies, DMA plans, coordinates, maintains situational awareness, and employs Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Air National Guard, and Virginia Defense Force for homeland security and homeland defense in response to incidents, disasters, or times of need within the Commonwealth.



## Your Supporting Agencies:



Department of Military Affairs



Department of Veterans Services

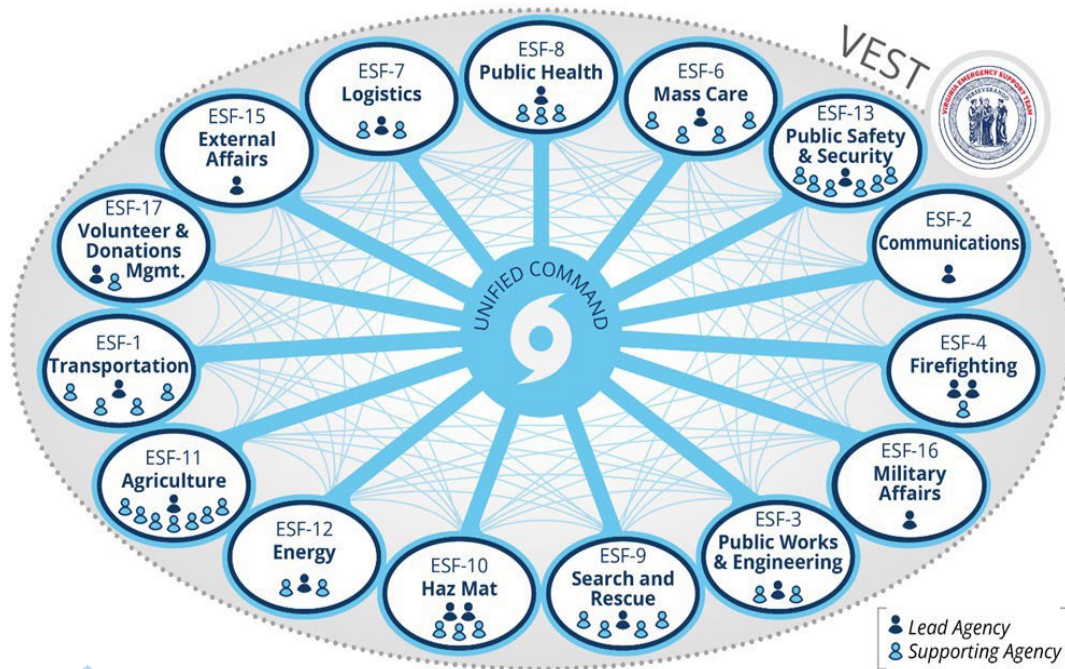


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## THE VIRGINIA EMERGENCY SUPPORT TEAM (VEST)

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

### Your Supporting ESFs, their Lead Agencies, and Function:

1	2	4	5	8	9	13	15	16
ESF 1 Transportation	ESF 2 Communications	ESF 4 Firefighting	ESF 5 EM/Command and General Staff	ESF 8 Public Health	ESF 9 Special Operations	ESF 13 Public Safety and Security	ESF 15 External Affairs	ESF 16 Military Affairs <b>LEAD</b>

## 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.



[www.vaemergency.gov](http://www.vaemergency.gov)

[twitter.com/VDEM](https://twitter.com/VDEM)

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## 7.1.4.11 SECRETARY OF VETERANS AND DEFENSE AFFAIRS

### 7.1.4.11.1 Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

The Department of Military Affairs is assigned the following duties:

- **ESF 1 Transportation**
  - Assist in debris reduction if resources are available.
  - Provide military transportation in accordance with ESF 16 of the COVEOP and other supporting ESFs and support plans.
  
- **ESF 2 Communication**
  - Provide Tactical Communications Packages, Mobile Command Post, and Joint Incident Site Communication Capability (Mobile) to support communications for statewide coordination of emergency/disaster operations.
  
- **ESF 4 Firefighting**
  - Coordinate state military forces and resources employed in emergency fire suppression operations under the direction of VDOF.
  - Provide military support of back-up communications, area security and traffic

control, heavy equipment, such as bulldozers and water supply, aerial reconnaissance, aerial cargo delivery, and water buckets.

- In selected Virginia National Guard units, provide personnel for firefighting hand crews, dozer crews or chain saw crews and crew leaders with emergency onsite training in basic fire control, chain saw use and safety as necessary to support a response mission.
- **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 logistical support to public health/medical response including medical personnel for casualty clearing/staging and other missions as needed like aero-medical evacuation and medical treatment.
  - Provide emergency decontamination capabilities.
  - Provide chemical and radiological detection, identification, and monitoring capabilities.
  - Provide security for state shelters as directed by the VSP.
- **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 13 Public Safety and Security**
  - Provide physical security/critical infrastructure protection to including building security and sensitive site protection.
  - Provide civil disturbance response as directed by the VSP to include show of force and less lethal control agents.
  - Provide security and protection for dignitaries and work crews.
  - Provide traffic direction and control.
  - Provide escort emergency equipment, support joint patrols and ride-alongs, and transport law enforcement
  - Provide area security and patrols.
  - Provide security at custody facilities.
  - Provide reserve quick reaction force.

- **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.

- **ESF 16 Military Affairs**

*Joint Force Headquarters – Virginia (JFHQ-VA)*

- Serves as the DMA mission command element in all matters concerning Homeland Defense and National Guard Civil Support.
- Gathers and compiles damage assessment information regarding JFHQ and VA National Guard facilities and assets and provides to ESF 16.
- Works with ESF 7 to identify military support mission assignments that may be needed within the Commonwealth and maintains information regarding JFHQ resource and capabilities available for deployment.

*Joint Force Headquarters – Joint Operations Center (JFHQ-JOC)*

- Serve as the primary point of contact for JFHQ-VA for day-to-day operations and during DMA support of state emergency operations.

*Virginia Army National Guard*

- Maintain trained and equipped forces capable of performing federal and Commonwealth missions.

*Virginia Air National Guard*

- Maintain trained and equipped forces capable of performing its federal and Commonwealth missions.

*Virginia Defense Force*

- Maintain a force to augment staffing at JFHQ-VA, the VEOC, and ESF 16.
- Provide staff to support COVIMT.

*34th Civil Support Team*

- Maintain a trained, equipped, and certified team capable of assessing a suspected Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) attack, advising civilian responders on appropriate actions through on-site testing and expert consultation, and facilitating the arrival of additional state and federal military forces.

*CBRNE Response Force Package*

- Maintain elements that are trained and equipped to integrate into the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to plan and conduct casualty search and evacuation, medical triage and treatment, ambulatory and non-ambulatory decontamination, and fatality search and recovery.

#### **7.1.4.11.2 Department of Veterans Services (DVS)**

The Department of Veterans 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.