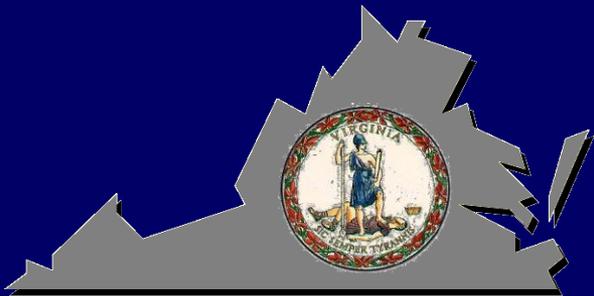




Search and Rescue Program



Search and Rescue System Overview
Mark Eggeman – State Search and Rescue Coordinator
Billy Chrimes – Search and Rescue Training Specialist,
Deputy SAR Coordinator



Search and Rescue
Program

What is Search & Rescue?

- ❖ Lost / Missing / Injured persons
- ❖ Flooding / drowning victims
- ❖ Downed / missing aircraft
- ❖ Catastrophic disasters
- ❖ Collapsed structures

*Any of these may result in a
search and rescue effort*



Search and Rescue
Program

4 Elements of SAR

- ▶ Aeronautical
- ▶ Land (Wilderness)
- ▶ Maritime (Waterborne)
- ▶ Catastrophic Incident SAR (CISAR)

*Virginia SAR Structure is consistent with:
The National Response Framework
Emergency Support Function #9*



Search and Rescue
Program

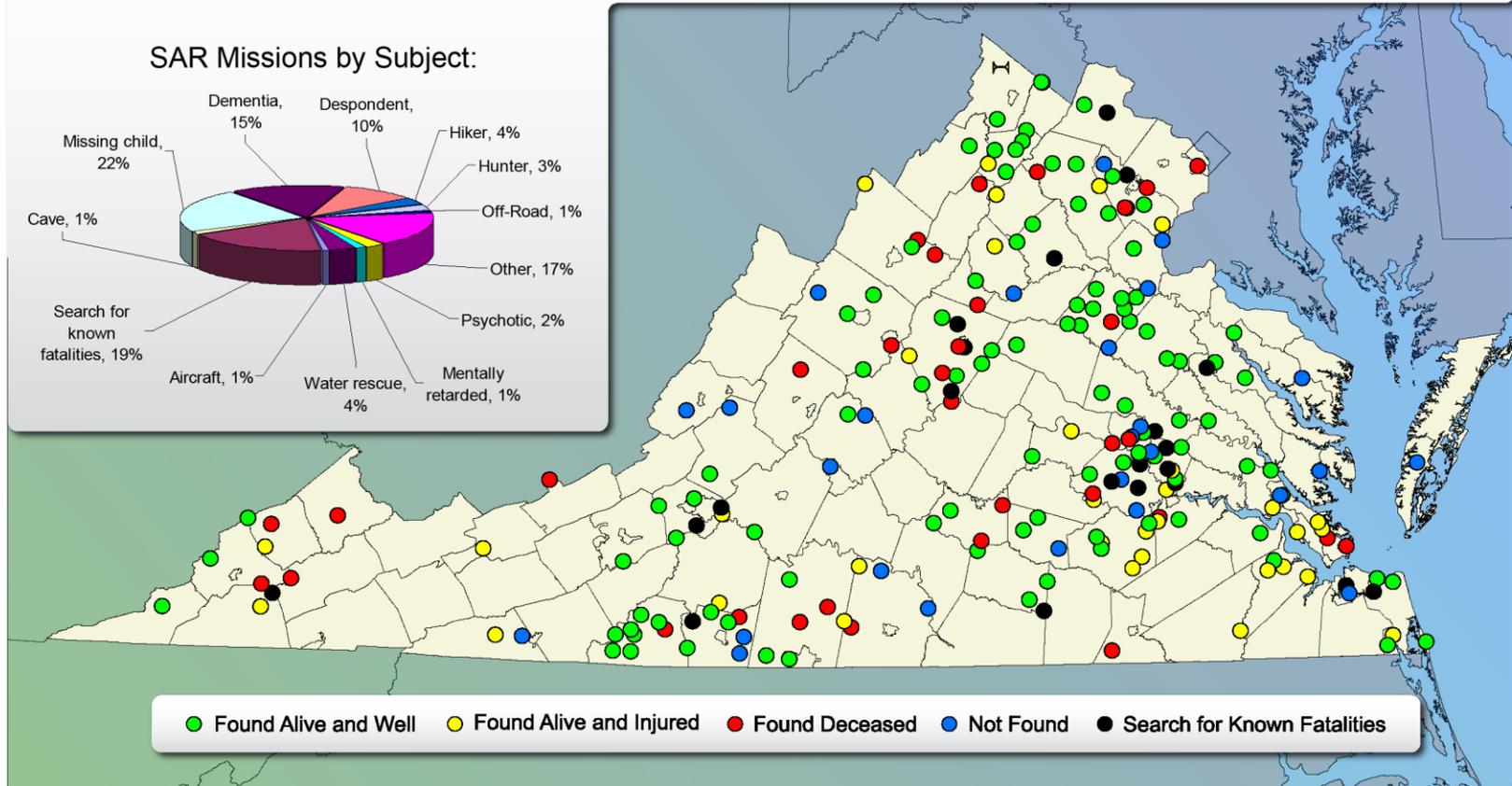
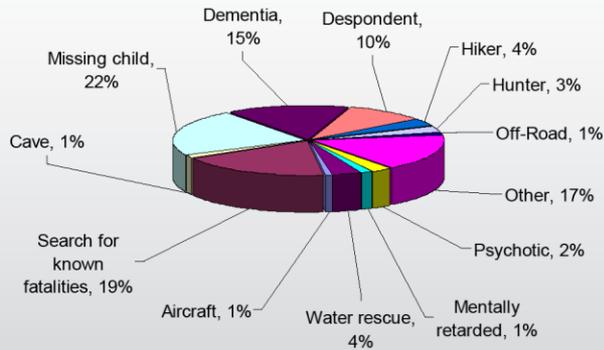
State Mission Response



VDEM Search and Rescue Missions, 2003 - 2005

Trained and certified SAR volunteers are available to localities throughout the nation 24 hours a day, seven days a week. From 2003 to 2005, SAR teams participated in more than 200 missions in Virginia, shown here.

SAR Missions by Subject:

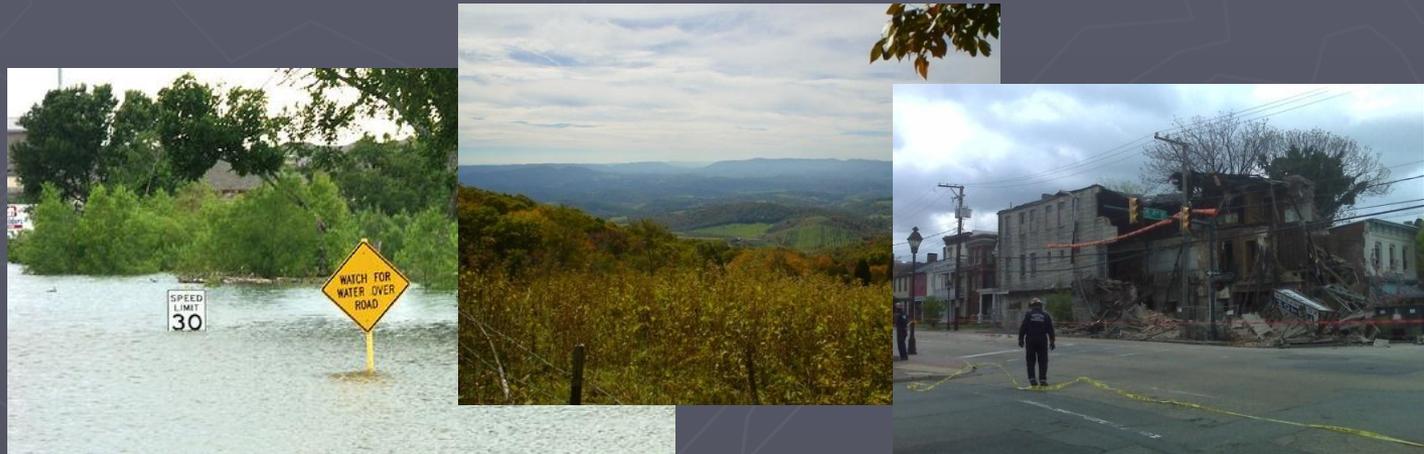




Search and Rescue
Program

Scope of SAR:

These events can and do occur in
Urban, Suburban, Rural, and Wilderness
Environments



Often requires multiple SAR disciplines to locate
/ access / rescue / recover victim(s)



Search and Rescue
Program

VDEM's Role

- ▶ State coordinating agency under title 44
- ▶ COVEOP, ESF-9 Annex
 - Assigns State SAR Coordinator
 - Assigns local responsibility:
"Each local jurisdiction may designate a local SAR coordinator, in the absence of an official designation by the local government
It is understood that
the Chief Law Enforcement Officer will become
the defacto local SAR coordinator"



Search and Rescue
Program

The Role of VDEM with SAR

- ▶ Emergency Operations Center serves as the State Rescue Coordination Center (SRCC)

- ▶ 24 Hour Contact:
(800) 468-8892

VDEM serves as the liaison between local jurisdictions and assistance from state or federal assets.





Search and Rescue
Program

The Role of VDEM with SAR

- ▶ SAR training to Volunteer SAR, Law Enforcement, Fire and Rescue, and other Emergency Services organizations
- ▶ Certifications for individual practitioners in multiple skill disciplines and levels
- ▶ Grants MOU's with SAR agencies who meet or exceed state standards



Search and Rescue
Program

The Role of VDEM with SAR

- ▶ Provides “one-stop shopping” for local jurisdictions seeking the assistance of specialized resources
- ▶ No cost for services to jurisdictions or families





Search and Rescue
Program

SAR Training Program

- ▶ Courses offered:
 - SAR 1st Responder (16 or 24 hours)
 - Lost Person Behavior
 - Search Team Member (40 hours)
 - Search Team Leader (40 hours)
 - Field Team Sign-cutter (40 hours)
 - Management Team Member (40 hours)
 - Management Team Leader (40 hours)
 - Search Mission Coordinator (40 hours)
 - Other Custom Courses available upon request

GSAR
College



Search and Rescue
Program

State SAR Standards

- ▶ Developed and reviewed with responders in the Virginia Search and Rescue Council
- ▶ First SAR standards adopted by agency in 1985 in conjunction with new program
- ▶ Currently 11 separate disciplines are recognized by MOU



Search and Rescue
Program

State SAR Standards

- ▶ Groups required to meet specific requirements to qualify for MOU
- ▶ Benefits
 - Assures an expected level of performance
 - Facilitates cooperative working environment among varying organizations
 - Reduces liability exposure to local jurisdictions
- ▶ State assumes tort liability for volunteers and provides Worker's Compensation for State sanctioned activities



Search and Rescue
Program

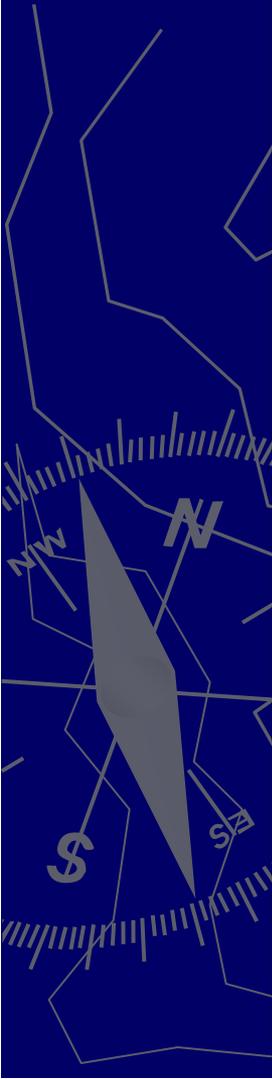
Virginia SAR Council

- Representative body of the statewide SAR community
- Provides a forum for federal, state, local and independent organizations involved in Search and Rescue in Virginia.
- Comprised of the following agencies
 - MOU response teams
 - Non-MOU local or developing teams
 - Federal, State and Local Government agencies



Search and Rescue
Program

SAR Resources





Search and Rescue
Program

Virginia SAR Agencies



Virginia SAR Groups

 **VAEmergency.com**
Virginia Department of Emergency Management



Virginia
Statewide Alert Network





Search and Rescue
Program

State MOU'd SAR Agencies

- ▶ Angel SAR
- ▶ Amherst Co. SAR
- ▶ Appalachian Professional Tracking Group
- ▶ Appalachian SAR Conference
- ▶ Black Diamond SAR Council
- ▶ Blue and Gray Search Dogs
- ▶ Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group
- ▶ Commonwealth SAR
- ▶ D.O.G.S. East
- ▶ Greater Atlantic Search D.O.G.S.
- ▶ K9 Alert
- ▶ Mid-Atlantic D.O.G.S
- ▶ Piedmont Search and Rescue
- ▶ Rockingham-Augusta SAR
- ▶ Search and Rescue Tracking Institute
- ▶ Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group
- ▶ Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group
- ▶ Tidewater Search and Rescue
- ▶ Trot SAR
- ▶ Virginia Recovery Canines
- ▶ Virginia Search and Rescue Dog Association
- ▶ Civil Air patrol



Search and Rescue
Program

USAR / Technical Rescue

▶ FEMA USAR Teams

- VA Task Force 1
Fairfax
- VA Task Force 2
Virginia Beach

▶ Virginia Divisional Technical Rescue Teams

- Division 1 – Chesterfield
- Division 2 – Harrisonburg
- Division 3 – Lynchburg
- Division 4 – Bristol
- Division 5 – Virginia Beach
- Division 6 – Roanoke
- Division 7 – Fairfax



Search and Rescue
Program

TRT Resource Capabilities

- ▶ Rope Rescue
- ▶ Confined Space
- ▶ Trench
- ▶ Heavy Vehicle
- ▶ Structural Collapse
- ▶ Wide Area Search (Disaster Search)
- ▶ Swift-water Rescue



Search and Rescue
Program

Activation of TRT

- ▶ Contact VEOC (800) 468-8892
- ▶ State Mutual Aid Process
- ▶ Expedited by verbal agreement process
- ▶ Requesting locality may incur cost of response



Search and Rescue
Program

Resource Integration

- ▶ Resources utilized depends on mission type, urgency, location, and availability
- ▶ Resource mixing is always appropriate
 - *No single resource is 100% effective*
- ▶ Under NIMS, can dovetail into existing command structure of local jurisdiction
- ▶ Responsibility of Search Mission Coordinator to work with you to accomplish the mission.



Search and Rescue
Program

Summary

- ▶ Assistance with EOP development / revision
- ▶ Training for local personnel for initial response
- ▶ Consultation for SAR Events / Planning
- ▶ On Site Coordination Support of SAR Events
- ▶ SAR Resources
- ▶ Support...



Search and Rescue
Program

Web sites and email

- ▶ www.vaemergency.com
- ▶ www.VASARCO.org

- ▶ Mark.eggeman@vdem.virginia.gov
State SAR Coordinator
- ▶ William.chrimes@vdem.virginia.gov
Deputy SAR Coordinator
- ▶ Bob.allam@gmail.com
President Virginia SAR Council



Search and Rescue
Program

Closing Thoughts

"...That Others May Live"

