

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST)

Situation Report #1
2015-09-29 Severe Weather
30 September 2015 1130

Summary: On Sept 29, 2015 large amounts of rainfall collected in addition to several previous days of accumulation to present over saturation of groundwater in some communities, as well as flash flooding events throughout much of Virginia. This weather event has caused road and school closures, delays, transportation detours, and the opening of an evacuation shelter in the City of Salem.

The National Weather Service is growing increasingly concerned about the potential for a high impact, major and prolonged flooding event late this week through the weekend and into early next week. Multiple rounds of rain, heavy at times, will return 30 September and increase in intensity late Thursday through the weekend. Confidence is high that flooding will return to much of our area. The exact details in terms of where the heaviest rain will fall, and wind speeds this weekend are unclear and will depend on the track of Hurricane Joaquin. The first round of rain will arrive tonight into Thursday morning with localized flooding possible. More intense rainfall rates arrive from the east late Thursday into the weekend. This will bring additional flooding, as well as the potential for landslides and debris flows. Wind gusts over 20 MPH arrive late Thursday and potentially stronger this weekend, depending on the track of Joaquin. Should these stronger winds materialize, power outages, downed trees and power lines will be likely.

Contiguous States and FEMA Region III

FEMA Region III is conducting conference calls and developing a staffing plan in advance of the storm.

Local Declarations as of 1000 (2):

- Patrick County
- Floyd County

VEST/VDEM/VEOC

- VEOC is operating at increased readiness with a limited activation.
- Response Operations as of 1200 September 29. A WebEOC event, **2015-September-29 Severe Weather**, created.
- VDEM continues to coordinate and/or participate in situational awareness conference calls.

ESF # 1 Transportation <http://www.511virginia.org/>

- As of 1000 hours on 30 September: 2 Interstates closed in the Salem district, 2 Primary roads closed in Northern Virginia district, 128 Secondary road closed in Bristol, Culpeper, Fredericksburg, Lynchburg, Northern Virginia, Salem, and Staunton.
- On 29 September, the Bob White Bridge in Patrick County collapsed. This covered bridge was closed to motor traffic and considered a historic landmark.
- At approximately 0630 on 30 September, a freight train collided with a pile of cross ties in Fauquier County and derailed 9 cars, causing a release of non-hazardous materials. At this time, this event does not appear to be weather-related.

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ESF # 2 Communications

- Sussex County reported that an equipment failure resulting in a loss of law enforcement, fire, and EMS radio coverage reported on 29 September has been partially resolved; as of 1000 30 September, only limited areas in the western part of the county remain without coverage. Efforts to assist continue.

ESF # 5 Emergency Management

- Preparing documentation

ESF # 6 Mass Care

- Local shelters open as of 1000: 1
 - Salem: The American Red Cross opened a shelter at the Salem Civic Center on 29 September.

ESF # 8 Public Health

- On 29 September, the Salem Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) reported water infiltration in multiple buildings. The Near Southwest Preparedness Alliance Regional Healthcare Coordinating Center (RHCC) provided submersible pumps, dehumidifiers, and water removal equipment.

ESF # 9 Search and Rescue

- Virginia State Police staged 4 swift water rescue teams at the Floyd County Sheriff's Office.
- One of rescue performed on 29 September in Floyd County.

ESF # 10 Hazardous Materials Response

- Patrick County – On 29 September, VDEM responded to a facility for leaking propane tanks; investigation revealed that approximately 6 tanks on site were leaking and 65 tanks had floated away.
- Shenandoah County – On 29 September, VDEM assisted with a release of diesel from an underground tank.

ESF # 12 Energy

- Current statewide power outages, which are consistent with a summer rainstorm, as of 0700: **3784**
 - Dominion Power: 2380
 - Northern Virginia: 2205
 - Shenandoah Valley/Western Piedmont: 8
 - Richmond Metro/Tri-Cities: 93
 - Southside Virginia: 5
 - Middle Peninsula/Northern Neck: 0
 - Southeastern Virginia: 69
 - Appalachian Power: 782
 - Electrical Cooperatives: 622
 - A&N: 300
 - Northern Virginia: 39
 - Rappahannock: 280

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Weather Forecast

- **Southwest/West Central Virginia**

Today/Tonight: In Abingdon, showers likely. Patchy dense fog before 2pm. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 71. North wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. Tonight, showers likely. Cloudy, with a low around 57. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Tomorrow: Showers likely. Cloudy, with a high near 66. Northeast wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. Overnight, showers likely. Cloudy, with a low around 57. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. [NWS Morristown](#), [NWS Blacksburg](#)

- **Northwest/Northern Virginia**

Today/Tonight: A chance of showers. Patchy fog before 1pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 79. Light and variable wind becoming north 5 to 7 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 30%. Tonight, a chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 56. North wind 7 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Tomorrow: Rain likely, mainly after noon. Cloudy, with a high near 61. North wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible. Overnight, rain with a low around 52. North wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New precipitation amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible. [NWS Sterling](#)

- **Central/Eastern Virginia**

Today/Tonight: Showers likely, mainly after 2pm. Cloudy, with a high near 80. West wind 3 to 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New precipitation amounts of less than a tenth of an inch possible. Tonight showers likely before 8pm, then rain likely, mainly after 2am. Cloudy, with a low around 60. North wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

Tonight/Tomorrow: Rain, with a high near 72. Northeast wind around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New precipitation amounts between three quarters and one inch possible. Thursday Night Rain. The rain could be heavy at times. Low around 68. Northeast wind 14 to 17 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New precipitation amounts between 1 and 2 inches possible. [NWS Wakefield](#)

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