

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

Situation Report #1
2015-09-29 Severe Weather
30 September 2015 1730

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.

Currently, there is not a lot of confidence in the forecast for Hurricane Joaquin other than what we are getting from the National Hurricane Center. The storm has become well defined over the last 24 hours. The storm wind spread is large because of the track uncertainty. The one area of confidence is with the expected rainfall. We have two events of concern. One is the cold front moving into the area. As the cold front moves toward the coast and stalls, we will experience heavy rain from the east moving toward the west. Once Joaquin makes it to the coast or along the coast, another surge of rain will move in; by Friday, all of Virginia could receive 3-7 inches of rain with the 5 day total in the 10 inch range. Regardless of Joaquin's track, the heavy rainfall will be a major impact over the entire Commonwealth. The soil has become saturated over the last couple days and the runoff will lead to flooding. Beginning Saturday thru Monday, the potential for river flooding is moderate to major and higher across the western portion of the state. There is a Coastal Flooding advisory in effect until 6 AM Thursday for the Northern Neck along the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River. Winds will be strongest along the coast and will peak later tomorrow into Friday.

Contiguous States and FEMA Region III

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

North Carolina Emergency Management has advised State Emergency Response Team partners of a possible activation of the State EOC for the weekend.

Local Declarations as of 1600 (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 1400 hours on 30 September: No Interstates closed, 2 Primary roads closed in Northern Virginia district, 89 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.

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Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST)

- 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. This event did not result from weather conditions.

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

- VDEM continues to coordinate conference calls
- Monitoring weather forecasts and flood gauges

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 has one swift water rescue team at the Floyd County Sheriff's Office.**
- **Virginia State Police has three swift water rescue teams enroute to Richmond to stage out of VSP headquarters.**
- One swift water rescues performed on 29 September in Floyd County by VSP teams.
- **Five swift water rescues completed by local resources on 29 September in Loudoun County.**
- **Multiple swift water rescues were completed by local resources on 29 September in Montgomery County.**

ESF # 10 Hazardous Materials Response

- **Loudoun County – On September 29, flooding in Loudoun County resulted in damage to three rooftop HVAC systems for businesses, causing natural gas leaks. Leaks resolved with local resources.**
- 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

- No significant outages have been reported

Weather Forecast

- **Southwest/West Central Virginia**
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](#)

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- **Northwest/Northern Virginia**

Tonight: 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**

Tonight: 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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