

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

Situation Report #6
2015-09-29 Severe Weather
03 October 2015 0700
New information in red

Summary:

Hurricane Joaquin is currently forecasted to weaken prior to passing off of the coast of Virginia on Monday morning and **is no longer the key consideration for this event. Local evacuations have occurred and are detailed below.** The Navy has sortied a portion of the fleet stationed in Norfolk and the Air Force has moved assets out of the path of the storm. Flash flooding and river flooding is still expected across the Commonwealth. The National Weather Service has issued a Flash Flood Watch for the majority of the Commonwealth, east of the I-77 corridor.

Key Items:

- 1. 2 local shelters open statewide; 1 occupant in Floyd County**
- 2. Swiftwater Rescue units are deployed**

Contiguous States and FEMA Region III

FEMA Region III is conducting conference calls and has an IMAT team located at the VEOC.

Contiguous State Emergency Declarations:

- North Carolina
- Maryland

State Actions

Governor McAuliffe declared a state of emergency on September 30, 2015 at 1704.

Local Emergency Declarations as of 0700 (23)

- Poquoson City
- Norfolk City
- Newport News City
- Patrick County
- Floyd County
- Isle of Wight
- Hampton City
- Mathews County
- Prince Edward County
- Surry County
- Lancaster County
- Westmoreland County
- Williamsburg City
- Portsmouth City
- King and Queen County
- Charlotte County
- Town of Chincoteague
- Tazewell County
- Pulaski County
- Botetourt County
- James City
- Northampton County
- Accomack County

Local EOCs Open as of 0700 (7)

- Page County
- Hampton City
- Botetourt County
- Lancaster County
- Bedford County
- Floyd County
- Greene County

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Local Evacuations (1)

- Lancaster issued a mandatory evacuation for low lying areas (Windmill Point, Little Bay, Ocran, Fleets, Village Morattico, and Towles Point) effective AM on 2 October 2015, shelters opened in support of the evacuation.

VEST/VDEM/VEOC

- A WebEOC incident, 2015-09-29 Severe Weather, has been created
- VDEM is monitoring the weather and participating in coordination conference calls
- Regional and state agency conference calls continue

ESF # 1 Transportation

- As of 0600 on 3 October: 0 Interstates closed, 3 Primary roads closed, 50 Secondary road closed (20 in Salem, remainder distributed evenly across Commonwealth)
- Closure of Mid-Town Tunnel currently deferred due to on site conditions
- Service at the Jamestown-Scotland Ferry temporarily suspended. High waters caused by heavy rain and high tides are preventing the loading ramps on the docks from safely being raised and lowered onto the ferry boats. Service will be restored as soon as the waters recede, allowing the ramps to be safely secured for loading vehicles. Motorists are advised to use the Route 17 James River Bridge as an alternate route.
- Merry Pointe and Sunnybank ferries are closed throughout the storm. Service will be restored as soon as waters recede.

ESF #2 Communications

- Verizon Wireless and Verizon staff at the VEOC on 2 October 2015
- Lancaster County is functioning on Verizon wireless cellular LTE data access. Outage has not impacted critical service delivery and storm has had minimal impact, but the outage is part of a broader regional outage affecting multiple localities in the Great Bridge/Chesapeake area including Gloucester, King and Queen Counties
- Sprint Wireless will augment the EOC by 0900 3 October 2015

ESF #3 Public Works and Engineering

- Eastern shore communities are shutting off water to piers
- Caroline County have setup potable water stations if needed for residents, ESF3 monitoring
- Coordinated Lexington Field Office of VDH/ODW about "Winchester Star" inquiry on Waterworks issues on the Shenandoah River, shared info with the JIC

ESF #4 Firefighting

- DOF anticipating tree issues requiring deployment of chainsaw strike force teams
- IMT assistance continues for Rockingham County, Floyd County, Patrick County, City of Salem, and VEOC

ESF #5 Emergency Management

- FEMA Region 3 IMAT arrived at the VEOC on 1 October

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ESF #6 Mass Care

- Lancaster County (0 occupancy), Floyd County (1 occupant), and Hampton City (occupancy unknown) have opened shelters
- Following localities have shelters on standby or are planning to open if needed:
 - Bath County, Caroline County, **City of Danville**, Culpeper County, Essex, Galax, Gloucester County, Hampton City, Henrico County, Franklin County, Fredericksburg City, Floyd County, **Lexington City**, **Page County**, Pulaski County, Stafford County, Virginia Beach City, Wise County, and Prince Edward

ESF #7 Logistics/Resource Support (44)

- Requests include, but are not limited to water, meals, social media monitoring, debris removal teams, high mobility vehicles, and water rescue teams

ESF #8 Public Health

- Langley Air Force Base Hospital closed 2 October at 0600 through Hurricane event. Emergency room open to base residents only, this is a precautionary closure

ESF #9 Search and Rescue

- **VSP SRT**
 - **2 boat teams staging in Floyd / Patrick Counties**
 - **1 boat team staged on the Eastern Shore**
 - **2 boat teams currently in Richmond area, may be moving to Pulaski / Floyd area**
- **Div 4 TRT/SRT staging 1 boat team in Pulaski County**

ESF #10 Hazardous Materials Response

- Portsmouth regional Hazmat team activated to assist with a fuel spill in Capron
- DEQ Tidewater Office received report of a toppled residential above ground heating oil tank; contents impacted a tributary of the E. Branch Elizabeth River; property owner has engaged a contractor; cleanup initiated; no ongoing issue
- DEQ Blue Ridge Regional Office received report of a discharge of oil from an out-of-use residential underground heating oil tank; oil impacted basement of home; property owner has secured a contractor; cleanup initiated; no ongoing issue
- DEQ continues to receive reports of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) that are a result of heavy rains; no DEQ actions required.

ESF #11 Agriculture and Natural Resources

- Cooperative Extension working on damage assessments in Patrick, Floyd, and Montgomery counties
- Pet shelters are preparing to open in coordination with general population shelters

ESF #12 Energy

- Current statewide power outages: **5,053**
- Notification of potential electric sector Regional Mutual Assistance Group (RMAG) fleet movement coordination with multiple states on East Coast

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ESF #13 Public Safety

- Planned deployment of VSP Swift Water Team to Eastern Shore within 12 hours
- Reported some minor flooding and some standing water on the roadways

ESF #14 Recovery and Mitigation

- Continue to monitor storm impact and associated Initial Damage Assessments submitted by localities
- Continue to assess need to request Preliminary Damage Assessments based on findings in coordination with FEMA

ESF #15 Public Affairs

- Three sign language videos have been recorded
- Talking points for 1500 were developed
- Posts continue to be made to Facebook and Twitter

ESF #16 Military Affairs

- Personnel and Equipment have been staged and are ready for missions at the following locations:
 - Charlottesville: 24 PAX, 8 Vehicles, 8 Chainsaws
 - Fredericksburg: 16 PAX, 8 Vehicles, 4 Chainsaws
 - Sandston: 50 PAX, 12 Vehicles, 0 Chainsaws
 - Onancock: 48 PAX, 20 Vehicles, 4 Chainsaws
 - Hampton/Norfolk/Portsmouth/Virginia Beach: 160 PAX, 63 Vehicles, 6 Chainsaws
 - Farmville: 8 PAX, 2 Vehicles, 4 Chainsaws
 - Danville: 36 PAX, 15 Vehicles, 4 Chainsaws
 - Cedar Bluff: 86 PAX, 38 Vehicles, 2 Chainsaws
 - Lexington: 66 PAX, 23 Vehicles, 0 Chainsaws
 - Staunton: 60 PAX, 27 Vehicles, 0 Chainsaws
- Total: 554 PAX, 220 Vehicles, 32 Chainsaws

ESF #17 Volunteers and Donations

- Polling groups for types of assistance available
- Augmenting Request Management

Weather Forecast

Continued rainfall for 3 October of up to 2.5" in SW VA in areas already having received large amounts of rain: Patrick, Grayson, Carroll, Henry, Floyd & Franklin Counties. Some heavy rains may extend up to the Roanoke, Staunton & Harrisonburg areas. Additional rainfall of up to 1.5" may fall in far SW VA on 5 October. There are no river gauges forecast to moderate or major flood levels at this time. (Updated NWS forecasts may be posted around 9-10AM 3 October). Though current and forecast river flooding is minimal, it is likely that smaller streams, drainage channels, and creeks will create nuisance flooding of secondary roads and low water crossings.

Southwest/West Central Virginia:

Saturday - Periods of rain. The rain could be heavy at times. High near 57. Northeast wind 10 to 13 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

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Saturday Night - Showers likely. Cloudy, with a low around 52. Northeast wind 10 to 13 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

Sunday - Showers likely. Cloudy, with a high near 60. North wind around 14 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible. [NWS-Blacksburg](#)

Northwest/Northern Virginia:

Saturday - Showers with patchy drizzle. High near 59. North wind around 14 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

Saturday Night - Showers with patchy drizzle. Low around 56. Northeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

Sunday - Showers likely with patchy drizzle. Cloudy, with a high near 62. Northeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible. [NWS Sterling](#)

Central/Eastern Virginia:

Saturday - Showers likely, mainly before 8am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 77. Breezy, with an east wind 11 to 21 mph, with gusts as high as 31 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

Saturday Night - A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 70. Breezy, with a northeast wind around 23 mph, with gusts as high as 34 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%. New precipitation amounts of less than a tenth of an inch possible.

Sunday - Showers likely, mainly after 2pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 75. Windy, with a northeast wind 24 to 26 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New precipitation amounts of less than a tenth of an inch possible. [NWS Wakefield](#)

NWS Current Conditions:

Lewisetta (Potomac), Windmill Point (Rappahannock) and Jamestown/Scotland Ferry (James) at moderate flood levels. No known impacts, but it is likely that low lying roads are flooded in the Northern Neck counties.

NWS River Forecast (updated at about 4AM 3 October)

- Sites in the Lower Chesapeake Bay will experience high tides at/near the major level around 4PM 4 October.
- Windmill Point & Lewisetta will experience high tides near the major level at about 4PM 4 October.
- Wachapreague to reach moderate level at high tides of 3 October and 4 October at 2PM.
- Alexandria to reach moderate level at 1AM and 1PM on 3 October and 1AM on 4 October. Minimal impacts to low lying areas of Old Town.
- There are 15 stream gauges around the state forecast to near flood stage. Other than flooded low water crossings, there are no impacts associated with this level.
- Dan River at Danville forecast to crest above flood stage at 18.3ft at 2AM 4 October. There are no identified impacts.
- Dan River at Paces forecast to crest above flood stage at 20.7ft at 2PM 4 October. At this level, impacts are confined to low lying agricultural land.
- Dan River at South Boston forecast to crest above moderate flood stage at 25.4 ft at 8PM 4 October. Flooding of low lying agricultural lands begins at 19ft.

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- Roanoke River at Randolph has crested just above the 21ft minor flood stage threshold and is forecast to remain at this level through 7 October. At this level, water approaches River Road (Route 607 in Charlotte County) south of Randolph.

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