

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

2012-10 Hurricane Sandy

Situation Report #5

October 28 1730 hours

Updates since last State Situation Report

SUMMARY

The VEOC is at Response Operations and Hurricane Readiness Condition 1 and continues to monitor National Hurricane Center and National Weather Service products related to storm impacts.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

Governor Bob McDonnell declared a State of Emergency at 0950 hours on 26 October due to the anticipation of severe weather impacting the Commonwealth as a result of Hurricane Sandy to include a limited mandatory evacuation for low lying areas along the Virginia coast and Chesapeake Bay.

WEATHER FORECAST

Hurricane Sandy continues on a northeast track from off the coast of North Carolina this afternoon. Sandy is expected to transition into a Nor'easter prior to landfall. This transition will not be accompanied by a weakening of the system, and in fact some strengthening is possible during this process. Hurricane force winds extend out 175 miles from center with Tropical Storm force winds extending out 520 miles.

Rainfall amounts are forecasted to range from 5-7" in Hampton Roads, 8-10" in the Eastern Shore, 3-6' in Interior SE VA, and 1-6" in areas west of I-95. Storm surge amounts will range from 3-4' on the bay side of Southside Hampton Roads, and 4' on the ocean side with moderate to severe flooding expected through Monday. Storm surge amounts will range from 3-4' on the Peninsula with moderate to severe flooding expected through Monday. Storm surge amounts on the bay side of the Eastern Shore will range from 2.5-3', and near 4' on the ocean side, with moderate to severe flooding expected through Tuesday. A Coastal Flood Warning is in effect for coastal Virginia until 6am Tuesday. A High Wind Warning is in effect for coastal VA until 6am Tuesday. A Flood Watches are in effect through Monday evening for areas of Northern, Central, and Eastern VA. A Coastal Flood Warning is in effect for Northern VA from midnight Monday thru 8am Wednesday.

A Blizzard Warning is in effect for Dickenson and Buchanan counties from noon tomorrow until Wednesday afternoon. Snow accumulations of up to 6 inches are possible with winds gusting up to 50 mph.

Winter Storm Warnings and Watches are in effect for areas of far-Southwest VA from midnight tonight until Wednesday morning. Snow accumulations of 4 to 12 inches will be possible, primarily for elevations above 3,000 feet.

A High Wind Warning is in effect from midnight tonight until midnight Tuesday for areas along and west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and areas of Northern VA. Winds will range from 25 to 40 mph with gusts as high as 60 mph.

Local Emergencies Declared (36)

Accomack County

Arlington County

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Charles City County
Chesapeake, City of
Chincoteague, Town of
Colonial Heights, City of
Essex County
Fairfax County
Falls Church, City of
Fauquier County
Gloucester County
Hampton, City of
Henrico County
Isle of Wight County
King George County
King and Queen County
King William County
Lancaster County
Mathews County

Local Emergency Operation Centers Open (31)

Accomack County
Caroline County
Charles City County
Chesapeake, City of
Chincoteague, Town of
Colonial Heights, City of
Gloucester County
Greensville County
Hampton, City of
Henrico County
Isle of Wight County
King and Queen County
King George County
King William County
Lancaster County
Mathews County

Local Shelters Open (15)

Accomack County
Chesapeake, City of
Chincoteague, Town of
Colonial Heights, City of
Hampton, City of
Lancaster County
Mathews County
Newport News, City of

Voluntary Evacuations

Accomack County
Chincoteague, Town of

Middlesex County
New Kent County
Newport News, City of
Norfolk, City of
Northampton County
Northumberland County
Poquoson, City of
Portsmouth, City of
Prince George County
Richmond, City of
Richmond County
Suffolk, City of
Surry County
Sussex County
Virginia Beach, City of
Westmoreland County
York County

Middlesex County
New Kent County
Newport News, City of
Norfolk, City of
Northampton County
Northumberland County
Poquoson, City of
Portsmouth, City of
Richmond, City of
Stafford County
Suffolk, City of
Surry County
Westmoreland County
Virginia Beach, City of
York County

Norfolk, City of
Northampton County
Northumberland County
Poquoson, City of
Portsmouth, City of
Surry County
Westmoreland County (opens Monday)

Essex County
Gloucester County

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Hampton, City of
King and Queen County
Lancaster County
New Kent County
Northumberland County

Richmond County
Surry County (Town of Claremont Beach)
Westmoreland County
Virginia Beach, City of

Mandatory Evacuations

Mathews County – low-lying areas
Northampton County –low-lying areas

Tangier, Town of

Other Actions

- College and University Closings:
 - Christopher Newport University-Sunday October 28 through Monday October 29.
 - Old Dominion University-Sunday October 28 through Monday October 29.
 - Virginia State University-Monday October 29 through Tuesday October 30.
 - Norfolk State University-Sunday October 28 through Tuesday October 30.

Federal Response Efforts

- Federal Response Teams from FEMA, Coast Guard, and DOD are staffing the VEOC.

ESF #1 – Transportation

- CSX will cease operation from Norfolk to Northern Virginia at 0300 hours 29 October.
- Amtrak is ceasing operation through Richmond, Norfolk, and Lynchburg through the end of the event.
- Port of Hampton Roads is at Condition Zulu.
- The Sunnybank Ferry (Northumberland County) and Merry Point Ferry (Lancaster County) have suspended service until further notice.
- Road Closure Report:
 - 14 Secondary roads are closed

ESF #4 – Firefighting

- 1 mobile water rescue trailer with equipment and generator to handle 20+ personnel is staged in Richmond.
- VDOF has pre positioned 8 - 2 person chain saw crews in Richmond. 2 Skid Steers have been rented along with trailers to support the saw crews.

ESF #5 – Emergency Management

- Coordinating 20 requests for assistance across the Commonwealth.
 - Accepted/In Use – 18
 - Completed/Withdrawn – 2

ESF #6 – Mass Care

- 2-1-1 Virginia is serving as VDEM's public inquiry number for all Virginia residents.

ESF #7 – Logistics Management & Resource Support

- Monitoring numerous EMAC requests from Mid-Atlantic States

ESF #8 – Public Health and Medical Services

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- **Medical Reserve Corp activated. In City of Norfolk for special needs registry and in the City of Alexandria for public health awareness (flyer distribution).**

ESF #9 – Urban Search and Rescue

- FEMA has placed VATF-1 and VATF-2 on standby.

ESF #11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources

- **4 local pet shelters are open in Eastern Virginia, one each in Mathews County and the cities of Hampton, Virginia Beach, and Newport News**
- **Food Safety and Security Inspectors are pre-staging in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia to conduct post storm inspections.**

ESF #12 – Energy

- **There are no significant power outages as of 1500 hours 28 October.**

ESF #13 – Public Safety

- **VSP has staged 5 boat teams at the following areas: Eastern Shore, Richmond, Tidewater, and Northern Virginia (2 teams).**

ESF #15 – External Affairs

- Developing talking points and news releases to be distributed to state agencies and local emergency managers.
- Responding to inquiries from news media and posting emergency preparedness information on social media sites.
- **Joint Information Center is staffed with PIOs from VDEM, VDOT, and VDH.**

ESF #16 – Military Affairs

- Department of Military Affairs is pre-positioning forces to the Eastern Shore (Onancock), Richmond, West Point, Tidewater and Fredericksburg.
- **415 of 750 authorized Guardsmen on state active duty.**

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All Situation Reports for this event can be found on the VDEM website at:

http://www.vaemergency.gov/content/sitreps#hurricane_sandy