



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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FROM THE STATE COORDINATOR



Shawn Talmadge
*State Coordinator of
Emergency Management*

In my first year as the State Coordinator of Emergency Management I have time and time again been inspired by the dedication and resiliency of the team at the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM).

After over two years of serving the Commonwealth virtually, the VDEM team came together in person this year at the summer all-hands meeting to celebrate achievements and plan for the future.

Team members who previously only communicated virtually were finally able to share an in-person lunch and a well-deserved congratulations.

The tone and tenor of the discussions our team had two years ago were markedly different than the conversations that took place at this year's event. The last time our team was together we were confronting the realization that a global pandemic was on our doorstep; we were in a dogfight and those next to us had our backs through what seemed like endless days. As I've heard it described here at VDEM, it felt like we were hugging a ghost. We couldn't wrap our arms around it at the beginning, but due to the determination and commitment of everyone at VDEM, thousands of our fellow Virginians were protected. The efforts of the VDEM team are why we are able to meet in person, and we are able to begin to normalize our lives again.

Our small but mighty team is the backbone of the Commonwealth, and I take great pride knowing that we are nationally-recognized emergency managers wearing the VDEM logo. That logo represents something: it represents the blood, sweat, and tears that the team, their family, friends, and loved ones sacrificed over countless events. That logo represents the whole of government. That logo represents a disaster-capable Commonwealth. Without VDEM, without this team, there is nobody to call when the big one hits.

The numerous, high-profile incidents in which we have been engaged, validated the force-multiplying effect of a whole-of-government approach. The current disaster management landscape has been shaped in the wake of a global virus and has required us to conceptualize how to leverage the state's physical and personnel assets to expand capacity in the maintenance of the welfare of our neighbors and our communities.

Over the past four years, our agency worked just shy of one million hours, and last year alone, our small but mighty team worked an additional 28,000 hours in overtime. These hours could be spent on other endeavors, but VDEM chose public service because this team believes in the greater good. They believe in lending a hand and in putting that oxygen mask on the person next to them instead of putting it on themselves first.

Since 2020, the VDEM team has played key roles in the following events, some of which were record-breaking and historic. We also coordinated numerous multi-concurrent disaster declarations, which is a first in Virginia's history.

- 2nd Amendment protest of 22,000 demonstrators at the Virginia Capitol
- COVID-19 pandemic (PPE, testing, vaccinations)
- More than 500 1st Amendment protests
- Two of the busiest hurricane seasons on record
- A cyber-attack on critical infrastructure
- Severe winter weather events
- Election security
- Capitol riots in Washington, D.C.
- Operation Allies Welcome and Afghan Repatriation
- Severe flooding across the Commonwealth, with significant impacts in SW Virginia
- Tornadoes
- Avian influenza
- Trucker convoys
- National Special Security Events

During all of this, VDEM managed the transition of three state coordinators, facilitated two re-organizations, integrated a new chief deputy, and completed an executive branch transition. VDEM also on-boarded SharePoint, successfully transitioned to the Microsoft platform, updated more than 300 policies/procedures/job aids/and documents, shepherded several bills through the General Assembly, merged and integrated the NGS bureau, managed a billion dollars in disaster funding and grants, and did our regular day jobs.

This year's annual report is a celebration of the accomplishments of the VDEM team. It's an opportunity for us to reflect and take pride in our efforts to protect the Commonwealth. This report is also an opportunity to provide a better understanding of VDEM's enormous contribution so we can continue bringing the Commonwealth to bear on any incident that arises.

This report reflects the work VDEM has undertaken in the last year. It is not only a summary of current data sets and information but also the dedicated work of the more than 200 members who comprise the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. Although VDEM is a small agency, we stand ready to support our local, state, tribal, and federal partners as we work collaboratively to ensure the safety and well-being of all Virginians. Our efforts continue beyond the scope of one single incident, threat, or disaster to develop the resources that expand our capabilities to meet the ever-expanding scope of emergency management. It is a challenge we are proud to meet to support a resilient and ready Virginia.



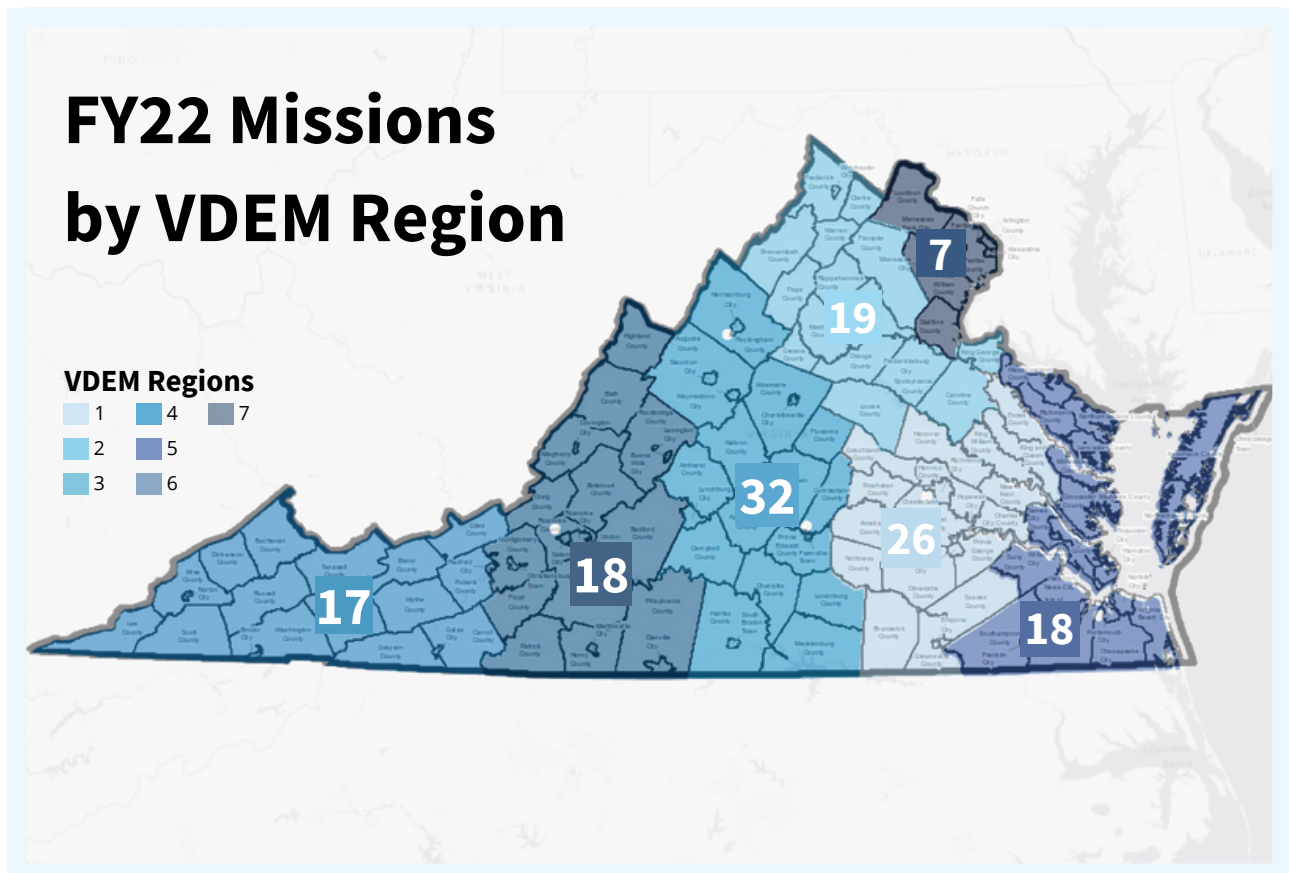
SEARCH AND RESCUE

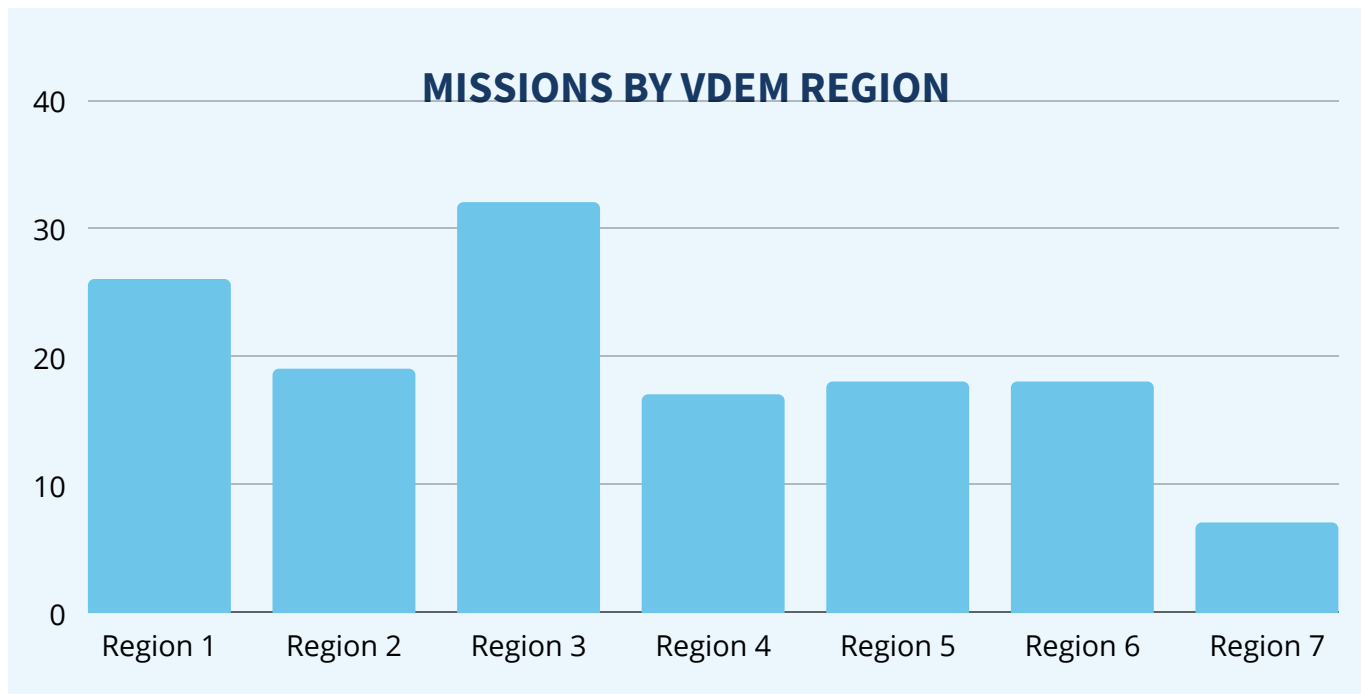
The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) submits this report pursuant to § 44-146.18:4.1:

1. The current readiness of Virginia's search and rescue efforts.

VDEM has coordinated with the Virginia Search and Rescue Council (VASARCO) to provide wilderness and lost person search and rescue (SAR) since 1985. The program by VASARCO has 20 recognized volunteer search and rescue teams, with 500 members across the Commonwealth. VDEM supports the program with three professional SAR officers. SAR personnel also assist law enforcement with the search for evidence and missing homicide victims.

In FY22, the program executed 138 missions at the request of localities, who asked for specialized SAR resources coordinated through VDEM. VDEM's ability to utilize volunteer resources is critical to the success of the SAR program and missions across the Commonwealth. Virginia's SAR Program is highly regarded throughout the nation for best-in-class quality in the training and coordination of search and rescue efforts.



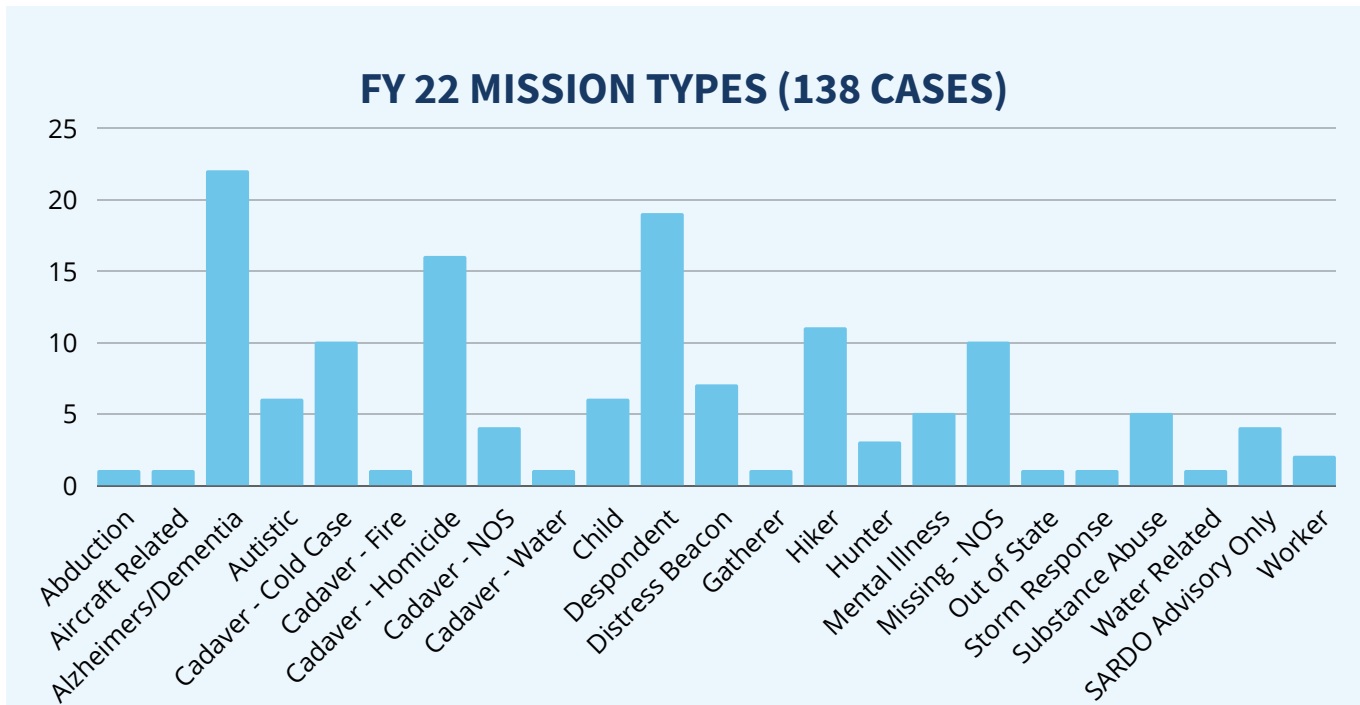


The SAR Program provides training, administrative support, and operational coordination to search and rescue efforts statewide.

The SAR program provides specialized expertise in search theory, search management, and specialized resources such as search canines and operations in wilderness and austere environments throughout the Commonwealth. Training is provided to stakeholders by highly experienced SAR practitioners. Administrative support and training content are based on consensus standards aligned with best practices and national standards and are developed in coordination with the VASARCO before being adopted by VDEM. Operational coordination is provided through SAR coordinators and volunteer search mission coordinators on search incidents upon request of the locality.

Search and rescue operations are divided into four mission specialties, according to the conditions and environment of where or how the incident has occurred:

- **Aeronautical missions** – include downed or missing/overdue civil aviation aircraft missions, and emergency calls for help broadcast through an emergency distress beacon (EDB). An EDB might originate from aircraft, marine craft, or a personal locator beacon.
- **Inland/wilderness missions** – comprise the bulk of the agency's response in support of local jurisdictions to help locate a lost or missing person. On average, the agency will support 80 to 90 missions per year throughout the Commonwealth. Missing children and wandering Alzheimer's/dementia subjects comprise the top two demographics of missing person missions.
- **Marine/waterborne missions** – include distressed/sinking vessels, boating incidents, flooding, and swiftwater rescue incidents, which often result in a drowning.
- **Urban search and rescue/technical rescue** – include major events with significant impact to multiple citizens, which may result in victims being stranded or trapped in collapsed structures or fallen debris. These events may include wide-area searches such as in the aftermath of a hurricane.



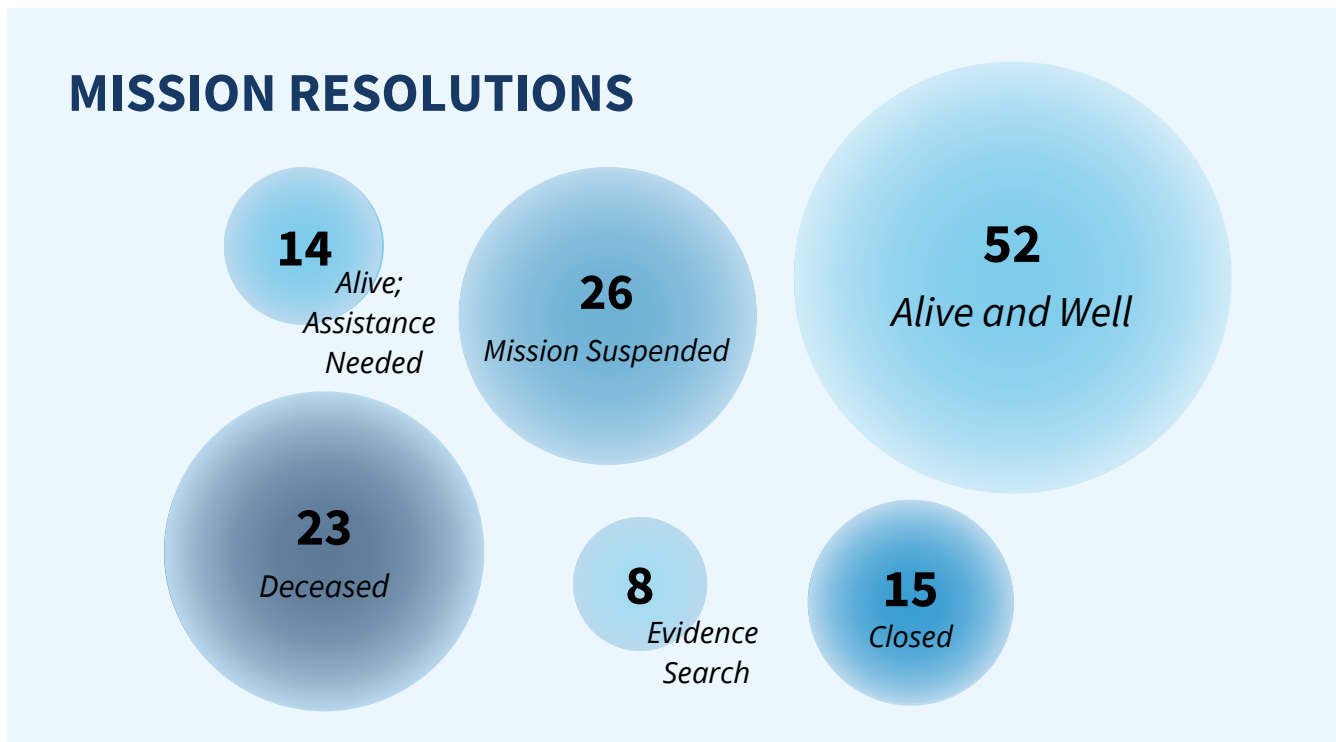
SAR PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

VDEM's SAR program consists of a Chief of Search and Rescue who serves as the program manager, as well as two regionally based search and rescue officers in the eastern and western parts of the Commonwealth. Additionally, the agency employs 25 highly skilled adjunct instructors who assist in the delivery of training classes statewide.

The SAR Program is organized into 11 program areas:

- **Program Management** – VDEM ensures that the normal operations of the program, including response to missions, are timely and appropriate to the needs of the localities.
- **Training (supported by the VDEM Training, Education, and Exercise Department)** – VDEM provides specialized training to police, fire-rescue, EMS, emergency managers, volunteer search and rescue responders, and others who might have a duty to respond to a search and rescue emergency.
- **Virginia Emergency Support Team (Team (Emergency Support Function #9 Search and Rescue) –** VDEM coordinates with local, state, and federal agencies to form a response to both man-made and natural disasters.
- **Search and Rescue** – The search and rescue program provides a coordinated response to lost or missing persons throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia, utilizing approximately 500 trained volunteers.
- **Search Management** – VDEM and its member search and rescue groups provide mission management to search and rescue events as requested.
- **Search and Rescue Canine** – The search and rescue program provides canine teams for every mission, including live find and human remains detection missions.
- **Search and Rescue Equine** – The equine search and rescue teams provide a means to search large areas quickly and efficiently and can be used to evacuate a subject if they are able to sit in a saddle.

- **Search and Rescue Tracking** – Trackers, or human-trackers, are used throughout SAR missions to follow a path made by the subject, or to simply age a clue for its appropriateness to the mission.
- **Wilderness Rescue** – Several teams within the search and rescue program provide expertise on technical rescues involving the rescue of rock climbers or an evacuation over technical terrain.
- **Cave Search and Rescue** – The program’s cave rescue teams respond to those requests for assistance when subjects are lost underground, or need to be extricated from a cave.
- **Vehicle Based Search** - Vehicle based searches are comprised of UTVs and ATVs to be used during the search for lost or missing persons, and the evacuation of those persons.



VASARCO, VOLUNTEER GROUPS AND OTHER AGENCIES

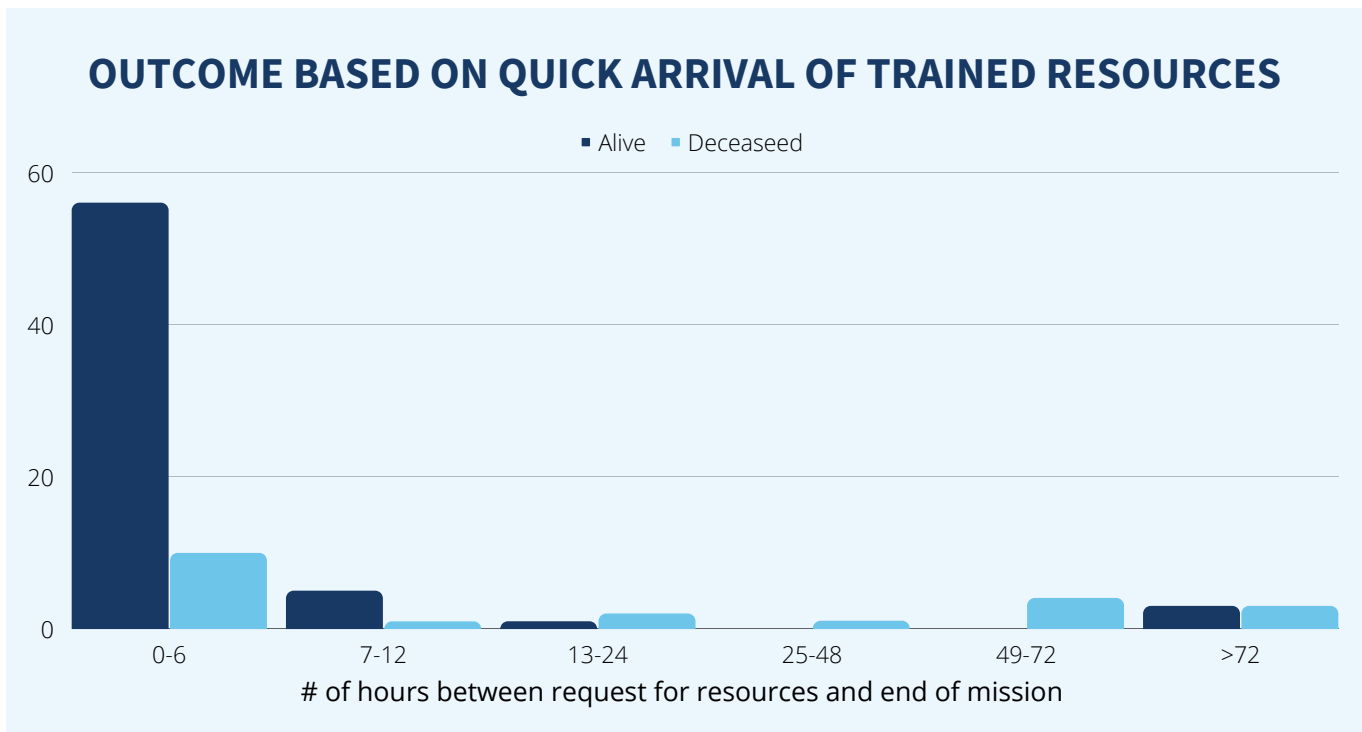
The Virginia SAR Program has an active relationship with Virginia Search and Rescue Council (VASARCO). The Virginia Search and Rescue Council is a non-governmental, non-profit organization representing the collective voice of the Virginia SAR community. VASARCO fosters communication between its volunteer organizations and VDEM. VASARCO also helps develop and coordinate the SAR system in Virginia by interpreting guidance from VDEM and ensuring compliance within volunteer teams. Membership within VASARCO is mandatory for teams who seek and maintain a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with VDEM. Quarterly VASARCO meetings, regular committee meetings, and monthly VASARCO Board/VDEM SAR Program conference calls promote a cooperative environment and provide an avenue for teams to share information and work collaboratively to address and resolve issues that affect the teams. VASARCO membership is diverse and encompasses teams seeking a new MOU, SAR groups that have a long history of service to the Commonwealth, as well as authorities that have jurisdiction over SAR and other response partners.

STATE SAR STANDARDS

The Virginia SAR standards outline the process and procedures for achieving and maintaining necessary certifications. As outlined in Code of Virginia § 44-146.18 (G) (4)(7), trained SAR assets must have obtained a minimum level of training in order to respond for a certain function, whether it be ground searcher or a management asset. The standards also detail what is required of teams of practitioners seeking a new MOU.

A major reorganization and revision of the current standards continued in FY22 to ensure all standards are current and align with industry standards such as American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the standards of response partners within the Commonwealth and national partners such as National Park Service and the National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR).

The Commonwealth’s SAR standards are based on core capabilities that address the functions that each team is expected to perform. Certifications and courses are based on competencies, behaviors, and tasks for individual practitioners



TRAINING PROGRAM

Training programs were significantly increased in FY22 due to funding for the SAR Training Program. Due to its success, the SAR program often receives requests for Virginia’s training materials and practices from other states, localities, other organizations throughout the United States and some international locations. The SAR program employs capable instructors who are respected, highly skilled leaders and practitioners within the Virginia SAR community. The training program provides a tiered system of classes and certifications for first responders and SAR practitioners, as well as other courses and workshops that support certification. Best practices and lessons learned are implemented into training with recent and relevant training content for all levels.

LOCAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) submits this report pursuant to § 44-146.18:4.2:

2. The jurisdictions that received financial assistance during the prior fiscal year because they were located in an area declared to be in a state of emergency, but not declared to be a major disaster area for which federal assistance was provided, and the amount each such jurisdiction received.

SUMMARY

The following localities received financial assistance in FY22.

LOCALITY	DISASTER	PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENT	HAZARD MITIGATION PAYMENT	TOTAL
Accomack County	Hurricane Matthew 2016	\$0	\$9,655	\$9,655
Accomack-Northampton PDC	Hurricane Michael 2018	\$0	\$7,760	\$7,760
Blackstone, Town of	Winter Storm Feb 2021	\$65,370	\$0	\$65,370
Bedford County	Hurley Flood 2021	\$16,174	\$0	\$16,174
Boones Mill, Town of	Hurricane Michael 2018	\$5,402	\$0	\$5,402
Bristol, City of	Hurley Flood 2021	\$20,959	\$0	\$20,959
Chase City, Town of	Winter Storm Feb 2021	\$11,540	\$0	\$11,540
Chesapeake, City of	Hurricane Matthew 2016	\$23,295	\$4,186	\$56,127
	Hurricane Isaias 2020	\$5,455	\$0	
	First Amendment Events 2020	\$23,191	\$0	

LOCALITY	DISASTER	PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENT	HAZARD MITIGATION PAYMENT	TOTAL
Chesterfield County	Civil Unrest January 2021	\$6,793	\$0	\$13,213
	Winter Storm Feb 2021	\$6,420	\$0	
Danville, City of	Hurricane Michael 2018	\$94,549	\$0	\$94,549
Dinwiddie County	Winter Storm Feb 2021	\$19,573	\$0	\$19,573
Emporia, City of	Snow Storm 2016	\$0	\$16,914	\$16,914
Gloucester County	Hurricane Matthew 2016	\$0	\$8,073	\$9,179
	Hurricane Michael 2018	\$0	\$1,106	
Greene County	Hurricane Michael 2018	\$0	\$48,212	\$48,212
Henry County	Hurricane Florence 2018	\$55,970	\$0	\$55,970
Kenbridge, Town of	Winter Storm Feb 2021	\$9,098	\$0	\$9,098
King George County	Snow Storm 2016	\$0	\$2,799	\$2,799
LENOWISCO PDC	Hurricane Florence	\$0	\$12,421	\$12,421
Lynchburg, City of	Hurley Flood 2021	\$15,161	\$0	\$15,161
Marion, Town of	Hurricane Michael 2018	\$0	\$11,456	\$11,456
Martinsville, City of	Winter Storm Feb 2021	\$13,387	\$0	\$71,507
	Civil Unrest January 2021	\$4,447	\$0	
	Hurley Flood 2021	\$6,351	\$0	
	Hurricane Michael 2018	\$47,321	\$0	

LOCALITY	DISASTER	PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENT	HAZARD MITIGATION PAYMENT	TOTAL
Middle Peninsula PDC	Hurricane Florence 2018	\$0	\$19,143	\$19,143
Norfolk, City of	Hurricane Matthew 2016	\$601,247	\$0	\$601,247
Pittsylvania County	Hurricane Michael 2018	\$66,949	\$0	\$66,949
Richmond Regional PDC	Hurricane Michael 2018	\$0	\$12,620	\$12,620
Roanoke, City of	Hurley Flood 2021	\$18,241	\$0	\$18,241
Rocky Mount, Town of	Hurricane Michael 2018	\$0	\$27,085	\$27,085
Salem, City of	Hurley Flood 2021	\$5,741	\$0	\$5,741
South Hill, Town of	Winter Storm Feb 2021	\$6,364	\$0	\$6,364
Thomas Jefferson PDC	Hurricane Michael 2018	\$0	\$4,013	\$4,013
Victoria, Town of	Winter Storm Feb 2021	\$4,770	\$0	\$4,770
Virginia Beach, City of	Hurricane Matthew 2016	\$135,025	\$0	\$135,025
Wise County	Hurley Flood 2021	\$10,815	\$0	\$10,815
Wise, Town of	Snow Storm Jan 2016	\$0	\$17,886	\$17,886
TOTALS		\$1,299,608	\$203,329	\$1,502,938

EMERGENCY SHELTERS

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) submits this report pursuant to § 44-146.18:4.3:

3. The status of the Commonwealth's emergency shelter capabilities and readiness;

RECENT CHANGES IN RESPONSIBILITY AND REPORTING

The Shelter Coordinating position, funding and responsibilities for state-level shelters were transferred from VDEM to VDSS during the 2019/2020 fiscal year. The following VDSS reports replace this tab, since the budget language was adopted after the comprehensive report was originally codified. These reports are due October 15, 2022.

2022 Appropriation Act Item 349 A.

Description: Annual report on the Commonwealth's emergency shelter capabilities and readiness.

2022 Appropriation Act Item 349 B.1.

Description: Report on the recommendations and challenges of implementing a model state shelter plan, include but not limited to the process of mobilization and demobilization of the shelter; relocation of residents when a state shelter is de-activated; warehousing of pre-positioned supplies; potential use of existing resources and vendors already under contract with institutions of higher education; and cost estimates for resources that would be reimbursed by the Commonwealth.

BACKGROUND

Emergency sheltering capabilities and readiness is a shared responsibility across state agencies and localities in the Commonwealth. By code, localities are required to provide emergency sheltering capabilities for their residents. State sheltering capabilities may become necessary if sheltering needs exceed the localities' capacity and capability.

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) is the lead agency responsible for state managed sheltering in the Commonwealth. Other state agencies supporting VDSS include state universities, the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, the Virginia State Police, the Virginia Information and Technology Agency, and VDEM in carrying out these responsibilities as designated in the COVEOP. The Department of General Services (DGS) supports both VDEM and VDSS with statewide contracts for site-specific goods and services necessary to operate state shelters. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) is responsible for engaging with and supporting localities in their emergency shelter planning and preparedness efforts.

STATUS OF LOCAL SHELTER CAPABILITIES

All localities are required to provide to VDEM an annually updated emergency management assessment, which encompass localities' shelter information, including shelter location, capacity, capability, and presence of backup power.

In May, FEMA and VDEM hosted a Hampton Roads Mass Care Workshop to discuss and begin the process to update plans, policies, and procedures describing how the localities, region, and the Commonwealth will provide feeding and sheltering, pets/animal services, and reunification support following an incident. The discussion also included specific plans, policies, and procedures that identify the unified and coordinated structure used to resolve sheltering and housing needs, including accessible housing necessary following an incident. Hampton Roads localities, Institutions of Higher Education, VDEM, VDSS, and the American Red Cross participated in the two-day workshop. Several action items were identified, and in-progress reviews are occurring to eliminate the gaps found during the workshop.

ASSETS FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) submits this report pursuant to § 44-146.18:4.4:

4. All assets received during the prior fiscal year as a result of a law-enforcement seizure and subsequent forfeiture by either a state or federal court and their estimated net worth.

SUMMARY

In FY22, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) did not receive any assets as a result of a law-enforcement seizure or subsequent forfeiture by either a state or federal court

FEDERAL GRANT FORFEITURE BY AGENCIES

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) submits this report pursuant to § 44-146.18:4.5:

5. The forfeiture of federal grant funding by any state agency that is required to return such funding as a result of not fulfilling the specifications of a grant.

Summary

In FY22, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) did not collect any grant funding that was forfeited by a state agency due to not fulfilling the specifications of a grant

ANNUAL STATEWIDE EXERCISE

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) submits this report pursuant to § 44-146.18:4.5:

5. The forfeiture of federal grant funding by any state agency that is required to return such funding as a result of not fulfilling the specifications of a grant.

INTRODUCTION

VDEM conducted the annual statewide Virginia Emergency Support Team Exercise (VESTEX) in a hybrid environment with both in-person staff at the Virginia Emergency Operations Center and virtual staff to increase participation throughout the State. VDEM's Training, Education, and Exercise Division (TEED) in coordination with the VEST Training and Exercise Coordinator, conducted additional exercises including VOPEX22, a Cabinet Level exercises, and, later in August, HURREX. These exercises challenged state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private industry to protect against, respond to, recover from, and implement continuity plans related to an issue at the North Anna Power Station (VOPEX) and Hurricanes (CABEX). These exercises – combined with statewide response and recovery operations between the state partners, local partners, tribal partners, federal partners, nongovernmental organizations, and private industry – have developed a strong working relationship at all levels while developing new/updating procedures and operations. Additionally, these exercises, along with the response to COVID-19, tested the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan (COVEOP). Participants included the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST), which consists of more than 40 state agencies, seven VDEM Regions and numerous localities.

VESTEX

On April 28, 2022, VDEM conducted the VESTEX 22 Complex Coordinated Attack (CCA) Functional Exercise (FE) to exercise the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan (COVEOP) CCA Support Annex as it pertains to a statewide response to a CCA while responding to a widespread power outage. The purpose of the functional exercise was to evaluate a multi-agency statewide response to multiple events across the state in accordance with the COVEOP, CCA Annex, and other relevant plans and procedures. VESTEX exercised the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan (COVEOP), in compliance with Section 44-146 17:2 of the Code of Virginia. Participants included the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST), which consists of over 40 state agencies, VDEM Regions 4, 5, and 6 staffs, and two localities.

The exercise was designed to examine the ability of all levels of government, private industry, nongovernmental organizations, communities, and individuals to respond to a coordinated mass shootings at the Virginia Credit Union Stadium in Fredericksburg (Region 2), Wytheville Commons Shopping Center in Wytheville (Region 4), and the Valley View Mall in Roanoke (Region 6) as well as a cyber-attack in the Northern Neck (Region 5) causing widespread power outages. Exercise participants utilized protocols and plans of regional and local emergency operations, the COVEOP, CCA Annex, and additional departmental and agency plans to respond to a Complex Coordinated Attack and a widespread power outage incident simultaneously.

Participants were actively engaged in the simulated response operations. Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) worked together to coordinate response and reduce the impact of cascading effects across the region.

The functional exercise was sponsored by VDEM under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack (CCTA) grant program and followed guidance set forth by the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP).

The following exercise-specific objectives were evaluated and successfully completed:

- Evaluate the ability of the VEST and other participants to share information (locally, regionally, and state agencies) during a multi-agency response to coordinated attacks across Virginia.
- Demonstrate the ability of the VEST Operations Section to coordinate the management of Emergency Support Function (ESF) operations in response to a CCA in accordance with existing plans, VEST Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs), policies and procedures, including Family Assistance Centers (FACs).
- Demonstrate the ability of the Joint Information Center (JIC) to deliver coordinated, prompt and actionable incident information in response to a CCA in accordance with existing plans, VEST Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs), policies and procedures.

STRENGTHS

The major strengths identified during this exercise included:

- Active participation by localities was of tremendous benefit to the exercise. Localities should be encouraged to participate in future VESTEX/state-level exercises.
- Overall, effective and consistent information sharing was observed between participating localities, Regional Staff, Regional Directors, VEST leadership, and other state agencies, including the Situational Awareness Unit (SAU).
- Participants noted that the exercise scenario was challenging and dynamic, with constantly-changing situations developing across the Commonwealth. A no-notice event/active threat scenario presented different challenges than the traditional hurricane scenario.
- The Joint Information Center (JIC) provided effective public information support during the exercise and effectively assisted in the public affairs function.

NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS

Several opportunities for improvement were identified, including the following:

- At times, there appeared to be a lack of overall situational awareness, with participants unaware of the current VEST status, slow situation reports (SITREPS), the timing and purpose of VEST calls, setting expectations after VEST activation, and the slow development of a VEST battle rhythm.
- The title, purpose, and attendees of VEST calls requires clarification (size-up call vs. initial startup call, etc.). This confusion contributed to the perceived lack of situational awareness.
- While FAC discussion and planning efforts took place among localities, there was limited discussion at the State level on recovery efforts and FACs.

EXERCISE OUTCOME

The VESTEX 22 CCA FE successfully captured strengths and areas for improvement that will be used to improve plans, policies, and procedures, and develop future training and exercise efforts. Participant feedback indicated that the exercise scenario was plausible and realistic, and that the complexity of the scenario was challenging and a welcomed change to the traditional VESTEX exercise scenarios. Participating localities noted the benefit of real-life communication with state agencies and working with multiple agencies with different missions. The exercise also demonstrated a need for future training and exercises with a focus on notifications drills and the continuation of statewide FAC efforts. The VEST Chief has directed the design and conduct of “Back to Basics” training and exercises, with a hurricane exercise to be conducted later in 2022.

Participants in the 2022 Virginia Emergency Support Team Exercise (VESTEX) Complex Coordinated Attack Functional Exercise

STATE
Virginia Department of Military Affairs (DMA)
Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)
Virginia State Patrol (VSP)
Virginia Army National Guard (VANG)
Virginia Department of Health – Office of Emergency Medical Services (VDH - OEMS)
Virginia Department of Health – Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (VDH - OCME)
Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)
Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
State Corporation Commission (SCC)
Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST) and Emergency Support Functions (ESFs)
REGION 2
City of Fredericksburg
REGION 4
Wythe County

Participants in the 2022 Virginia Emergency Support Team Exercise (VESTEX) Complex Coordinated Attack Functional Exercise continued

FEDERAL

FEMA

OTHER AGENCIES

Olson Group

CABINET EXERCISE 22

On May 6th, 2022, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management conducted a Tabletop Exercise (TTX) with Cabinet members of Governor Youngkin’s administration. This event intended to provide an orientation to the emergency management system in Virginia. Cabinet Secretaries and their staffs participated in a 3-hour event at the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC), and they were joined by representatives from the various State Agencies that lead ESFs in the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST).

The first module of the exercise covered the tenets of emergency management, with a detailed description of how these tenets are applied in Virginia under the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan (COVEOP). Cabinet members were briefed in detail on their Secretariat’s specific responsibilities under the COVEOP and provided with the references and points of contact to ensure their success. The ‘whole-of-government’ approach to disaster response in Virginia was also discussed as it is specified in the Governor’s Executive Order-41 (2019).

The second module consisted of a notional hurricane scenario aimed at introducing Cabinet members to the timing and the types of decisions they might confront during the onset and after the arrival of a major storm. Participants came away from this module understanding the importance of timely and effective policy decisions and how these can support the actions of emergency management practitioners at the local and state levels.

Governor Youngkin concluded the exercises with a Q&A and briefed the audience on his priorities for public safety in Virginia.



▶ TRAINING & EXERCISES

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) submits this report pursuant to § 44-146.18:4.7:

7. The number and types of training and exercises related to man-made and natural disaster preparedness that were conducted by the Department, the costs associated with such training and exercises, and the challenges and barriers to ensuring that state and local agencies are able and ready to respond to emergencies and natural disasters.

VDEM's Training, Education, and Exercise Division (TEED) is back in a revitalized fashion in FY2022, which allows us to offer both virtual and in-person training modalities. As such, the request for VDEM-provided emergency management training has exponentially increased this year after COVID-19 severely impacted our training availability in 2020-2021. In addition to our increased avenues of learning, TEED has enhanced its automated processes through a new course request form and use of Microsoft Teams thereby providing us better abilities to track, administrate, and deliver training and exercises.

TEED and its partners in the programs of Search and Rescue, Hazardous Materials, and the Commonwealth Coordination Bureau have worked to create and host virtual synchronous courses and asynchronous courses, hybrid and in-person courses to help support training efforts across the state. During this reporting period, TEED in conjunction with Search and Rescue and Hazardous Materials coordinated, facilitated, or conducted 152 training sessions across the state, which were attended by 2,835 students. More than doubling last year's total trainings of 53 and total number of participants 1,028, Topics included Incident Management, Hazardous Materials Response, Search and Rescue (SAR), and Virginia Emergency Support Team training. Due to receiving additional program funding, the SAR training program was able to conduct an additional third SAR academy as well as multiple offerings of SAR for first responder courses and lost person behavior courses over 2021-2022 to local and state partners.

As mentioned in our last report, TEED staff revamped the Adjunct Instructor Program. The program, which relies on the services of a cadre of more than 60 certified instructors across TEED, SAR and Hazmat programs, delivers training courses for the benefit of local governments, first responders and other partners throughout the Commonwealth. We recently added incident management team instructors to our cadre to assist with incident command system and all-hazard position specific courses to further support local governments, first responders and our regional incident management teams.

TEED is actively seeking to expand participation in the program by qualified minority instructors to reflect the composition of the community we serve. Moreover, TEED is matching instructors with their strengths in areas that provide them the ability to use their local and subject matter knowledge as a tool to instruct students.

In addition to VEST exercise support, TEED also coordinated and/or conducted, in conjunction with contractor support, 41 disaster-related exercises and workshops with more than 2,836 participants, evaluators, and controllers. The annual FEMA-evaluated Virginia Operations Plan Exercise (VOPEX) was conducted in October 2021 for Surry Power Station which had been rescheduled due to conducting VOPEX 2020 earlier in 2021. For VOPEX 2022, we started the new eight year exercise cycle for North Anna Power Station along with validating the State Radiological Plan which had been updated due to new regulations by FEMA and Nuclear Regulatory Commission, NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1, Revision 2).

FY 22 TRAINING

Training Category- Emergency Management Preparedness Program Basic Academy

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	IN-PERSON OFFERINGS	VIRTUAL OFFERINGS	TOTAL OFFERINGS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS TRAINED
L0102	Science of Disasters	4	0	4	74
L0146	Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program	6	0	6	120
L0101	Foundations of Emergency Management	2	0	2	39
L0103	Planning Emergency Operations	4	0	4	64
L0105	Public Information Basics	5	0	5	91
G290	Basic Public Information Officer	2	0	2	42
TOTALS		23	0	23	430

Training Category- Advanced Professional Series

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	IN-PERSON OFFERINGS	VIRTUAL OFFERINGS	TOTAL OFFERINGS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS TRAINED
G205	Recovery Local Govt Role	1	0	1	13
G291	Joint Information System/Center Planning for Public Information Officer	1	0	1	20
TOTALS		2	0	2	33

Training Category- Incident Command System

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	IN-PERSON OFFERINGS	VIRTUAL OFFERINGS	TOTAL OFFERINGS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS TRAINED
ICS402	Incident Command System For Elected Officials	1	0	1	15
ICS400	Advanced Incident Command System	26	5	31	507
G191	Incident Command System/Emergency Operations Center Interface	4	3	7	118
ICS300	Intermediate Incident Command System	38	5	43	769
V450	Incident Command System Train-the-Trainer	4	0	4	58
TOTALS		73	13	86	1,467

Training Category- Search and Rescue

COURSE NAME	IN-PERSON OFFERINGS	VIRTUAL OFFERINGS	TOTAL OFFERINGS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS TRAINED
Search Team Operations	3	n/a	3	81
Search Team Leader	3	n/a	3	18
Tracking Team Operations	3	n/a	3	24
Management Team Member	3	n/a	3	18
Lost Person Behavior	3	n/a	3	56
SAR Management	1	n/a	1	24
SAR Skills for First Responder	2	n/a	2	60
SAR First Responder Module 1	3	n/a	3	58
SAR First Responder Module 2	3	n/a	3	54
SAR First Responder Module 3	3	n/a	3	48
Management Team Operations	1	n/a	1	8
TOTALS			28	449

Training Category- Hazardous Materials

COURSE NAME	IN-PERSON OFFERINGS	VIRTUAL OFFERINGS	TOTAL OFFERINGS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS TRAINED
Hazardous Materials Technician Instructor Development	1	n/a	1	5
Hazardous Materials Conference	1	n/a	1	237
Hazardous Materials Technician	7	n/a	7	138
Hazardous Materials Advanced Tactical Control	2	n/a	2	37
Chemistry of Hazardous Materials	2	n/a	2	39
TOTALS			13	456

TRAINING BY THE NUMBERS



FY 22 EXERCISES

Date	Exercise Name	Locality(s) Involved	Region	Type	Hazard Type	Mission Area	Core Capabilities Evaluated
07/16/21	VOPEX Out of Sequence (Warhill EAC Dress Rehearsal)	James City County	5	Functional Exercise	Nuclear Hazard	Response	Radiological Evaluation
08/17/21	VOPEX Out of Sequence (Warhill EAC)	James City County	5	Functional Exercise	Nuclear Hazard	Response	Radiological Evaluation
08/17/21	VOPEX Out of Sequence (Gildersleeve Middle School EAC)	Newport News	5	Functional Exercise	Nuclear Hazard	Response	Radiological Evaluation
08/24/21	VOPEX Out of Sequence (Poquoson High School EAC)	Poquoson	5	Functional Exercise	Nuclear Hazard	Response	Radiological Evaluation
08/25/21	VOPEX Out of Sequence (York County School and Transpiration)	York	5	Functional Exercise	Nuclear Hazard	Response	Radiological Evaluation
08/26/21	VOPEX Out of Sequence (Williamsburg / Riverside / VCU MS-1)	York	5	Functional Exercise	Nuclear Hazard	Response	Radiological Evaluation
10/14/21	VOPEX Surry Power Station Dress Rehearsal	VEST, Isle of Wright, James City County, Newport News, Surry, Williamsburg, York, New Kent, Poquoson	VEST, 5	Functional Exercise	Nuclear Hazard	Response	Radiological Evaluation
10/26/21	VOPEX Surry Power Station	VEST, Isle of Wright, James City County, Newport News, Surry, Williamsburg, York, New Kent, Poquoson	VEST, 5	Functional Exercise	Nuclear Hazard	Response	Radiological Evaluation
11/04/21	Blue Ridge Community College TTX	BRCC faculty, staff, and Incident Command Team	3	Tabletop	Tornado/ Severe Weather	Response and Recovery	Planning, Operational Coordination, Operational Communication, Public Information and Warning

Date	Exercise Name	Locality(s) Involved	Region	Type	Hazard Type	Mission Area	Core Capabilities Evaluated
03/11/22	University of Virginia Critical Incident FSE	Albemarle County, Charlottesville, UVA, Virginia State Police	3	Full Scale Exercise	Active Threat	Response and Recovery	On-Scene Security Protection and Law Enforcement; Public Health, Healthcare, and EMS; Operational Coordination; Operational Communications
03/17/22	Region 5 CCA Plan Seminar	All localities within Region 5	5	Seminar	Complex Coordinated Attack	Response	None
03/18/22	Roanoke City Public Schools Tabletop	Roanoke City	6	Tabletop	Toxic Gas Release	Response	Planning, Operational Coordination, Public Information and Warning, Environmental Response / Health and Safety, Mass Care Services
03/29/22	Region 3 CCA Plan Seminar	All localities within Region 3	3	Seminar	Complex Coordinated Attack	Response	None
03/30/22	Region 7CCA Plan Seminar	All localities within Region 7	7	Seminar	Complex Coordinated Attack	Response	None
04/04/22	City of Bristol Post Active Shooter Seminar	VDEM, VDH, VSP, City of Bristol, Red Cross	4	Seminar	Post Active Shooter	Response	Planning
04/07/22	Regional CCA Seminar	All localities within Region 2	2	Seminar	Complex Coordinated Attack	Response	None
04/12/22	Regional CCA TTX	Caroline County, Madison County Culpeper County, Fauquier County, City of Fredericksburg, Louisa County, Fauquier County, Northern Virginia Hospital Alliance, Shenandoah County, University of Mary Washington, Valley Health, VDEM Region 2, Virginia Department of Health (Rappahannock), Virginia Department of Transportation, Warrenton, City of Winchester	2	Tabletop	Complex Coordinated Attack	Response	Information and Intelligence Sharing, Operational Coordination, Operational Coordination

Date	Exercise Name	Locality(s) Involved	Region	Type	Hazard Type	Mission Area	Core Capabilities Evaluated
04/13/22	Regional CCA Seminar	All localities within Region 4	4	Seminar	Complex Coordinated Attack	Response	None
04/13/22	VEST CCA Seminar	VEST	VEST	Seminar	Complex Coordinated Attack	Response	None
04/14/22	Regional CCA Seminar	All localities within Region 1	1	Seminar	Complex Coordinated Attack	Response	None
04/18/22	Regional CCA Seminar	All localities within Region 6	6	Seminar	Complex Coordinated Attack	Response	None
04/20/22	Regional CCA TTX	Chesapeake Regional Healthcare, City of Chesapeake, City of Newport News, City of Norfolk, City of Suffolk, City of Virginia Beach , Eastern Virginia Healthcare Coalition, James City County Tidewater EMS Council, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Virginia Department of Health, Virginia State Police	5	Tabletop	Complex Coordinated Attack	Response	Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Operational Coordination, Public
04/25/22	Regional CCA TTX	Albemarle County, Appomattox County, Bridgewater College, Campbell County, Central Shenandoah Health District, Central Virginia Community College, Central Virginia Healthcare Coalition, Charlottesville, Halifax County, Harrisonburg, James Madison University, Liberty University, Longwood University, Lunenburg County, Lynchburg Department, Near Southwest Preparedness Alliance, Northwest Region Healthcare Coalition, Pittsylvania County, Prince Edward County, South Boston	3	Tabletop	Complex Coordinated Attack	Response	Information and Warning

Date	Exercise Name	Locality(s) Involved	Region	Type	Hazard Type	Mission Area	Core Capabilities Evaluated
04/26/22	Regional CCA TTX	Arlington County, City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, Northern Virginia Emergency Response System (NVERS), Northern Virginia High Threat Response Group (HTR), Northern Virginia Hospital Alliance (NVHA), Northern Virginia Regional Intelligence Center (NVRIC), Prince William County, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Virginia Department of Health, Office , Virginia State Police	7	Tabletop	Complex Coordinated Attack	Response	Intelligence and Information Sharing, Operational Coordination, Operational Communications
04/28/22	VESTEX- CCA Functional Exercise	VDEM, VDMA, VEST, Emergency Support Functions (ESFs), VSP, City of Fredericksburg, Wythe County	2, 4, 5 and VEST	Functional Exercise	Complex Coordinated Attack	Response	Intelligence and Information Sharing, Operational Coordination, Public Information and Warning
05/03/22	Regional CCA TTX	Bland County, City of Bristol, Carroll County, Giles County, Grayson County, Marion, Pulaski County, City of Radford, Radford University, Smyth County, VDEM, Virginia Department of Health, Virginia State Police, Washington County, Wytheville Community College, Wytheville	4	Tabletop	Complex Coordinated Attack	Response	Intelligence and Information Sharing, Mass Care Services
05/09/22	Regional CCA TTX	2-1-1 Virginia; Central Virginia Healthcare Coalition, Chesterfield County, Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie County, Henrico County, Hopewell, King William County, Nottoway County, PlanRVA, Prince George County, Richmond, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Virginia Department of Health, Virginia State Police, Virginia Fusion Center	1	Tabletop	Complex Coordinated Attack	Response	Information and Intelligence Sharing, Operational Coordination, Logistics and Supply Chain Management/ Resource Management, Public Information and Warning

Date	Exercise Name	Locality(s) Involved	Region	Type	Hazard Type	Mission Area	Core Capabilities Evaluated
05/10/22	Regional CCA TTX	Buena Vista, Danville, Near Southwest Preparedness Alliance (NSPA), New River Valley, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Virginia Communications Cache, VDEM, Virginia Fusion Center (VFC), Virginia State Police, Virginia Tech, 2-1-1 Virginia	6	Tabletop	Complex Coordinated Attack	Response	Intelligence and Information Sharing, Operational Coordination, Operational Communications
05/19/22	VOPEX Lite II North Anna Power Station	VEST	VEST	Functional Exercise	Nuclear Hazard	Response	Radiological Evaluation
05/25/22	Air Ops Workshop	VEST	VEST	Workshop	Flooding	Response	Planning
05/25/22	FERP Seminar	VEST, VDH, VDACS, FBI	State Level	Seminar	Food Emergency	Response	Planning
06/02/22	Rapp County Public Schools Tabletop	Rappahannock County	2	Tabletop	Active Shooter	Response	Planning, Public Information and Warning, Operational Coordination, On-Scene Security, Protection, and Law Enforcement, Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services
06/07/22	VOPEX OOS-EAC Rehearsal Spotsylvania	Spotsylvania County	2	Functional Exercise	Nuclear Hazard	Response	Radiological Evaluation
06/14/22	Lynchburg Functional Exercise	Lynchburg & Liberty University	3	Functional Exercise	Active Shooter and Water Contamination	Response	Planning, Public Information and Warning, Operational Coordination, On-Scene Security, Protection, and Law Enforcement
06/15/22	Smyth Co Workshop	Smyth County, City of Marion, Chilhowie	4	Workshop	Rescue Task Force	Response	Planning

Date	Exercise Name	Locality(s) Involved	Region	Type	Hazard Type	Mission Area	Core Capabilities Evaluated
06/21/22	VOPEX Dress Rehearsal North Anna Power Station	VEST, Caroline, Hanover, Louisa, Orange, and Spotsylvania	1,2, VEST	Full Scale	Nuclear Hazard	Response	Radiological Evaluation
06/27/22	ANS Testing North Ann	VEST, Caroline, Hanover, Louisa, Orange, and Spotsylvania	1,2, VEST	Functional Exercise	Alert Notification System	Response	Radiological Evaluation
06/27/22	ANS Testing Surry	VEST, Isle of Wright, James City County, Newport News, Surry, Williamsburg, York, New Kent, Poquoson	VEST, 5	Functional Exercise	Alert Notification System	Response	Radiological Evaluation
06/29/22	VOPEX OOS-EAC drill Spotsylvania	Spotsylvania County	2	Functional Exercise	Nuclear Hazard	Response	Radiological Evaluation
06/30/22	VOPEX OOS-MS 1 drill Hanover	Hanover County	1	Functional Exercise	Nuclear Hazard	Response	Radiological Evaluation
06/30/22	VOPEX OOS-MS 1 drill	Mary Washington Hospital	2	Functional Exercise	Nuclear Hazard	Response	Radiological Evaluation

EXERCISES BY THE NUMBERS



CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS TO TRAINING AND EXERCISES

Concurrent FEMA Curricula Updates to NIMS

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Emergency Management Institute (EMI) establishes the curricula for the National Incident Management System (NIMS). VDEM continues to implement NIMS and ICS changes that EMI develops and publishes on a regular and recurrent schedule, and VDEM works to ensure our instructors have the most up-to-date curriculum.

Lack of Instructors and Students to Fill Available Classes in Rural Areas

VDEM faces ongoing challenges in finding enough instructors and participants to fill classes, especially in rural regions. Small localities have a difficult time being able to break away for a two-day course due to limited staffing. Additionally, training often requires back-fill and overtime costs within respective departments. To support the needs of every locality, TEED is working with local teams to develop a regional cadre of instructors and leveraging virtual tools to connect smaller course groups.

Ongoing Response Operations Result in Cancellations or Postponements

When real-world emergencies occur at the local and state level, VDEM's courses are subject to cancellation. Disaster operations, especially during hurricane season, can result in training staff being reassigned to field operations or to functions within the Virginia Emergency Support Team in the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC). For example, during the COVID response, all trainings and exercises were canceled or postponed. As response operations transitioned to a more steady state, we were able to return to training and exercises utilizing virtual meetings and small class sizes until we were able to return to in-person training and exercises later in 2021.

Reduced Federal Grant Support

FEMA has significantly reduced the amount of grant support for state and local governments, resulting in cuts to training and exercise programs in the Commonwealth, particularly over the last six years. Due to no sustainable increases in recent FEMA funding, our ability to expand training and exercises has been limited.

➤ STATE AGENCY MANDATES

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) submits this report pursuant to § 44-146.18:4.8:

8. The mandates administered by state agencies and imposed on local governments, an estimate of the fiscal impact of the mandates on the affected local governments, and a written justification as to why the mandate should or should not be eliminated

SUMMARY

In FY22, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) reviewed VDEM-specific mandates on local governments and found only one change which updated an existing mandate and has no fiscal impact.

“Local governments are required to provide the Virginia Department of Emergency Management an annual emergency management assessment for local emergency management status measurement. Local governments must also provide certain data related to emergency sheltering capabilities on or before August 1 of each year to the State Coordinator of Emergency Management.”

The update shifted the due date of the report from May 1 to August 1 to allow localities more time to complete the report and with a full year's worth of data. This updated mandate was published in the Catalog of State and Federal Mandates on Local Government (Catalog).

The catalog can be found at: <https://dmz1.dhcd.virginia.gov/MandatesSearch/MandatesSearch.aspx>, and contains VDEM-specific mandates on local governments, fiscal impacts, and justifications.

CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) submits this report pursuant to § 44-146.18:4.9:

9. The status of continuity of operations programs, plans, and systems of the Commonwealth's executive branch agencies. Such plans shall include a description of how the agency or institution of higher education will continue to provide essential services or perform mission essential functions during a disaster or other event that disrupts normal operations.

SUMMARY

As of September 2019, Executive Order 41 (2019) requires each state agency to:

include emergency preparedness planning, training, and exercises as basic responsibilities. Additionally, each State Agency shall include emergency preparedness in its strategic planning and performance management process. All state agencies shall support cabinet-level continuity of government efforts, develop and maintain a continuity of operations plan, use all resources and capabilities to support statewide response and recovery efforts, and provide emergency public information resources.

VDEM leadership and staff recognize the significance that EO 41 places on Continuity of Operations (COOP) as an emergency management initiative. Continuity planning addresses the ability of an organization to maintain normal business operations during or soon after an emergency that disrupts operations. More importantly, it underlies continuity of government (COG) as a whole and maintains public trust, along with many other benefits that reach beyond the operations of a single entity. For these reasons, COOP remains a priority within the agency, whether engaged in steady-state, emergency response, or recovery efforts.

The VDEM Planning Division is responsible for developing and maintaining the Agency's COOP and is in the final stages of completing this effort for 2022. Over the second part of the calendar year, the Planning Division's Strategic Planning Branch developed training materials and workshops for other VDEM Divisions to make team members more familiar with the development of their division's portion of the plan.

EO 41 and the Code of Virginia also charges VDEM with the responsibility to provide support to state agencies in the development and maintenance of COOP plans, including the provision of templates to develop agency specific occupant emergency action plans, state agency continuity of operations plans, and crisis and emergency management plans. The Planning Division will provide the training and create a template, which will then be provided to the state agency emergency management coordinators (EMCs). Additional technical support is available from the VDEM continuity of operations coordinator by request.

As a result of the most recent version of EO 41 in 2019, state agencies and institutions of higher education (IHE) are required to develop continuity of operations plans but are no longer required to submit such plans to VDEM for review.

PLANNING EFFORTS & UPDATES

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) submits this report pursuant to § 44-146.18:4.10:

10. The state of the Commonwealth's emergency prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts and the resources necessary to implement them.

SUMMARY

The Commonwealth's evolving risk environment includes pandemics, the opioid crisis, recurrent inland and coastal flooding, cybersecurity threats, tornado activity, hurricanes, domestic terrorism, civil unrest, election security, severe winter weather, and myriad other challenges. Over the past year, the Commonwealth of Virginia experienced a pandemic/public health emergency, severe winter weather incidents, flash flooding and subsequent flood incidents, large-scale protests/civil unrest, and emergency repatriation operations. Each effort challenged us to evaluate how the Commonwealth prevents, protects against, mitigates, responds to, and recovers from man-made and natural disasters.

PREVENTION

Prevention efforts include activities designed to proactively interdict events that may lead up to an emergency or disaster event. VDEM's prevention efforts consist of preparedness efforts to plan, organize, equip, train, and exercise before an emergency or disaster occurs.

PLANNING

The following list represents planning updates that VDEM undertook in FY22 (with further updates listed as well):

Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR)

The THIRA/SPR process sets a strategic foundation for putting the National Preparedness System into action for grant funding, exercise planning, and strategic planning.

THIRA

VDEM completes the THIRA every three years. This report is currently being prepared and will be completed by the end of 2022.

SPR

While the THIRA is completed every three years, the SPR is reviewed annually. This report is currently being prepared and will be complete by the end of 2022. It is important that VDEM completes the SPR every year, as it enables the organization to assess year-to-year trends in changes to their capabilities and capability gaps. These trends subsequently inform grant funding priorities of effort.

Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA)

This section of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is currently being reviewed by FEMA Region III as part of the 2023 update. During the planning process, stakeholders participated in four workshops to determine revisions and updates to previous submissions and the addition and analysis of new information. These workshops were a collaborative effort between a variety of stakeholders, including federal, state, local, and tribal governmental agencies, planning district commissions, private and non-profit organizations, and institutes of higher education (IHE). The HIRA describes 17 natural hazards that pose a threat to the Commonwealth. A VDEM-developed standardized methodology comparing the risks of different hazards across jurisdictions was used to rank and prioritize these natural hazards. As part of this methodology, several parameters were considered, including history of occurrence, vulnerability of people in the hazard area, probable geographic extent of the hazard area, and historical crop and property damage. A blend of quantitative factors is used for hazards with more complete and available impact data and/or precise probability. For hazards that lacked precise probability or impact data, a semi-quantitative scoring system was used. The State HMP is expected to be completed by early spring of 2023.

Local Capability Assessment for Readiness (LCAR)

The LCAR is an annual survey conducted in the spring to attain an understanding of local preparedness. The most recent LCAR surveys were completed in August 2022 and analysis will be completed by late fall of 2022. The LCAR assists VDEM, VDEM regions, and localities with the ability to assess year-to-year trends in changes to their capabilities and capability gaps. These trends subsequently inform grant-funding priorities of effort.

ADDRESSING CAPABILITY GAPS

Addressing capability gaps for localities, state agencies, and non-profit organizations involves pass-through grants from the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), Hampton Roads Urban Area Security Initiative (HRUASI), and the Non-Profit Security Grant (NSGP). The table below provides a status of efforts in each of those funding opportunities to enhance readiness throughout the Commonwealth.

ACRONYM	GRANT TITLE	FY	PASS-THROUGH
HRUASI	Hampton Roads Urban Area Security Initiative	State FY 22/Grant FY 21	\$3,040,000
SHSP	State Homeland Security Program	State FY 22/Grant FY 21	\$5,251,178
EMPG	Emergency Management Performance Grant	State FY 22/Grant FY 21	\$2,684,351
NSGP	Nonprofit Security Grant Program	State FY 22/Grant FY 21	\$2,693,315
			\$13,669,124

STATUS OF PLANS

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) submits this report pursuant to § 44-146.18:4.9:

11. The status of emergency management response plans throughout the Commonwealth and other measures taken or recommended to prevent, respond to, or recover from disasters, including acts of terrorism.

As of October 1, 2022, 129 of the 140 jurisdictions (92%) have current EOPs. Many of the jurisdictions with expired plans are currently in the final phase of revising and promulgating updates. Many jurisdictions paused their EOP revision efforts due to the prolonged and resource-intensive COVID-19 operational period; as well as the difficulty of organizing and implementing collaborative planning sessions during public health emergency mandates.

STATE PLANS FOR COLLEGES

Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) Crisis and Emergency Management Plans (CEMP).

There are 40 public institutions of higher education (IHEs) within the Commonwealth and all must meet the requirements of §23.1-804 of the Code of Virginia. These requirements include:

- The governing boards of each public IHE are to develop, adopt, and keep current a crisis and emergency management plan.
- Each public IHE is to conduct a comprehensive review and revision of its crisis and emergency management plan to ensure that the plan remains current. The governing board shall adopt the revised plan formally every four years and the adoption will be certified in writing to VDEM.
- Annually, the chief executive officer of each public institution of higher education is to review the institution's crisis and emergency management plan, certify in writing to VDEM that a review has been completed, and make recommendations to the institution for appropriate changes to the plan.
- Each public institution is to conduct a test or exercise of the plan annually and certify in writing to VDEM that it was conducted. Activation of the crisis and emergency management plan and completion of an after-action report by the IHE in response to an actual event or incident satisfies the requirement to conduct such a test or exercise.

Currently, 33 (83%) of state IHEs are compliant with these requirements. Many IHEs with expired plans are currently in the final phase of revising and promulgating updates. Many IHEs, similar to local jurisdictions, paused their EOP revision efforts due to the prolonged and resource-intensive COVID-19 operational period; as well as the difficulty of organizing and implementing collaborative planning sessions during public health emergency mandates.

STATE AND LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

The following table provides the status of state and local Hazard Mitigation Plans for each planning district commission.

PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION (PDC)	PLAN EXPIRATION DATE	COMMENTS
Accomack-Northampton PDC (22)	4/25/2027	Plan Approved
Central Shenandoah PDC (6)	5/3/2026	Plan Approved
Commonwealth Regional Council (14)	1/8/2023	Plan Update in Progress
Cumberland Plateau PDC (2)	2/9/2025	Plan Approved
George Washington Regional Commission (16)	10/4/2022	Plan Approved; Update in Progress
Hampton Roads PDC	4/11/2027	Plan Approved
LENOWISCO PDC (1)	5/17/2026	Plan Update in Progress
Middle Peninsula PDC (18)	4/11/2027	Plan Approved
Mount Rogers PDC (3)	2/25/2024	Plan Approved
New River Valley PDC (4)	11/27/2022	Plan Expired; Update in Progress
Northern Neck PDC (17)	2/7/2023	Plan Update in Progress
Northern Shenandoah Valley PDC (7)	9/12/2023	Plan Approved
Northern Virginia RC (8)	3/26/2022	Plan Expired; Plan Update in Progress
Rappahannock-Rapidan RC (9)	12/10/2023	Plan Approved
Central Virginia PDC	2/8/2026	Plan Approved
Richmond Regional and Crater PDCs (15 & 19)	8/8/2027	Plan Approved
Roanoke Valley-Allegheny PDC (5)	9/2/2024	Plan Approved
Southside PDC (13)	9/1/2025	Plan Approved
Thomas Jefferson PDC	3/18/2023	Plan Approved; Update in Progress
West Piedmont PDC (12)	4/10/2027	Plan Approved
State Plan	3/13/2023	Plan Approved; Update in Progress

CHALLENGES AND GAPS IDENTIFIED

This year's review of plans discovered the Commonwealth lacks a current statewide Homeland Security Strategy addressing how the state will prepare, prevent, plan, train, and respond to threats such as terrorism, impacts to critical infrastructure, and cyber related incidents.

While VDEM is responsible for managing emergency response planning and operations under the all-hazard approach, neither VDEM, nor any other Virginia agency, is currently staffed or resourced to adequately fill gaps in emergency communications planning, critical infrastructure protection, cyber security, prevention programs, and strategy development/maintenance. Recognizing this risk, the agency will leverage existing capabilities to meet urgent needs and encourage reengagement by state partners in the maintenance of a robust stakeholder lead statewide Homeland Security Strategy.