

## **Workshop Descriptions – VEMS 2012**

### **GS-1 – Keynote Address**

Governor Bob McDonnell (invited) will address the symposium attendees in this welcoming session. You can expect to hear him discuss the impact the Commonwealth experienced during 2011 with the various disasters, and his appreciation of all who worked to bring relief to those who suffered.

### **GS-2 – 2011 Virginia Earthquake Overview**

This session will feature Martin Chapman, the State Geologist, and Scott Keim, the Louisa Fire Chief/EM Coordinator. Mr. Chapman will give an overview on the scientific aspect of the earthquake that struck Louisa County on August 23, 2011, and will address the vulnerability of the Commonwealth to earthquakes. Chief Keim will give a snapshot of the impact the earthquake had on Louisa County and discuss initial response efforts.

### **A-1 – Earthquake and Local Response**

Local officials will give a more in-depth look into how the earthquake impacted the counties of Louisa and Culpeper. Hear about the response and recovery efforts in Louisa County, and many of the challenges they experienced, including the unique aspect of damage assessment as a result of an earthquake. Culpeper County will share their experience with the demolition of a prominent building on Main Street, which was deemed a safety hazard.

### **A-2 – Damage Assessment – What’s Important and Why?**

Oftentimes, damage assessment teams may be too focused on their tasks and overlook important components of the damage assessment process. They may come across damage that the NWS could use to document the meteorological aspect of the event, or significant agriculture damage that extension agents need to know about. This session will discuss some of the important aspects of damage assessment you may not have considered before.

### **A-3 – Cyber Terrorism**

Our dependability on the internet allows us to retrieve information instantaneously, shop, manage our finances, and communicate more efficiently with people around the world. Cyber terrorism may be one of the most unassuming threats that we face, but is very realistic. The FBI will give you a better understanding of the threats we face, and how to mitigate them as much as possible.

### **A-4 – Integrating Access and Functional Needs into Planning, Response, and Recovery**

When communities integrate individuals with access and functional needs into their community wide planning initiatives, they maximize resources, meet their obligations, strengthen their community relationships and are better prepared for any emergency event. This workshop is an introduction to some of the issues associated with “inclusive planning” and will provide some suggestions to help emergency management planners develop more comprehensive plans.

#### **A-5 – Caroline Bus Accident – Incident Response**

On May 31, 2011, a tour bus overturned on I-95 in Caroline County before daybreak, resulting in 4 fatalities and 53 patients transported to 10 hospitals. Nearly 100 responders from 15 agencies were involved in the response. Hear about the numerous challenges ranging from coordination to communications to regional borders.

#### **A-6 – VDEM Orientation – Part 1**

Meet the State Coordinator, Director of Recovery & Mitigation, and the Public Affairs and Grants Office Managers. These officials will explain their roles and how their program contributes to VDEM's mission.

#### **B-1 – Dominion Response to Surry & North Anna Nuclear Power Plants**

Both of Dominion's nuclear power plants were impacted during the unusually active 2011 season. Surry NPP had a near miss from a tornado, and North Anna NPP experienced damage from the earthquake. Dominion officials will talk about actions each plant took in response to each event.

#### **B-2 – Use of Social Media in Disaster**

During Hurricane Irene, the City of Hampton found success in communicating with citizens through the various methods of social media. The presenters of this session will discuss the methods used to reach out to the public, as well as new trends in social media.

#### **B-3 – Statewide Hospital Water & Electricity Resiliency Plan**

The Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health, has developed a water and electricity resiliency plan for hospitals statewide. The presenter will describe the process used to identify resiliency shortfalls and provide workable solutions, identify regulatory and operational issues, and provide examples of solutions developed to improve the capabilities of facilities by providing backup water and electrical system augmentation.

#### **B-4 – Earthquake Planning – Developing a Local EOP Annex**

In the moments after the Louisa earthquake, localities across the Commonwealth were faced with various decisions such as whether to evacuate buildings, determining the safety of structures, and communicating with the public. The lack of guidance to an earthquake specific scenario highlighted the need for an earthquake annex for local EOPs. The presenter for this session is the Director of Emergency Services in San Francisco, CA, and will share his expertise in earthquake planning.

#### **B-5 – Caroline Bus Accident – Beyond the Scene**

The crash of the tour bus on I-95 in Caroline County sent 53 people to 10 different hospitals, separated by 97 miles between the farthest. Some of the challenges included tracking of patients between the large area that encompassed the hospitals, family reunification, and coordination of hospitals in two separate hospital regions. Lessons learned in this session can apply to any type of large scale transportation incident.

## **B-6 – VDEM Orientation – Part 2**

Meet the Directors of Preparedness, Local Support Services, Operations, and Technical Hazards Divisions, as well as the Office of Training and Exercises. The division directors will explain the roles of their divisions, which contribute to VDEM's mission.

## **C-1 – Tornado and Earthquake Impact to Schools**

The tornado that impacted Gloucester County on April 16, 2011 caused major damage to Page Middle School, resulting in permanent closure. Similarly, the earthquake in Louisa caused major damage to Louisa County High School and Thomas Jefferson Elementary School on the first week of school, closing both schools for at least the school year. Find out from the school administrators from each county how they quickly developed a plan for uninterrupted service.

## **C-2 – Advanced Mobile Data Communications for Virginia Public Safety, Interoperable Nationwide**

The public safety community, the nation's governors, both parties in Congress, and the President's Administration are all pushing to make a nationwide, interoperable, wireless broadband network for public safety a reality. From spectrum to funding to governance, everything is in play. When and how will the issues be resolved? How will Virginia participate in this national priority initiative? How will state and local public safety personnel in Virginia use this advanced capability to accomplish their missions? This presentation will describe the technology, the policy, and the process that is underway across the country, as well as the groundbreaking efforts of Virginia and its neighboring states to maximize buying power and interoperability as they work together to bring the nationwide necessary to the mid-Atlantic region.

## **C-3 – April Tornadoes**

Virginia experienced 3 significant rounds of tornadoes in April 2011, which resulted in EF3 tornadoes in Pulaski, Gloucester, and Washington Counties. This session will include an overview of the climatology and meteorology associated with the tornadoes, as well as the top lessons learned from the emergency managers.

## **C-5 – Overview of Virginia IMT and EOC Resources**

When a locality gets stretched too thin in the hours or days after a disaster, valuable resources exist within the Commonwealth that can supplement key positions. Through Statewide Mutual Aid or EMAC, key EOC staff can be assembled to augment the locality's current staff. Also, there are several Incident Management Teams comprised of local staff who are available to deploy to a stricken locality and assist. Hear about the capabilities of these critical resources and what you need to do to access them.

## **C-6 – WebEOC Mapper Overview**

The Commonwealth's WebEOC has just introduced a new feature called "Mapper", which allows a user to create real time mapping, which could be displayed in the EOC or at the incident site, thereby creating a common operating picture for all of the responders, regardless of their location. The WebEOC project manager will give an overview of the capabilities and provide a tutorial on its use.

### **D-1 – Communications During Emergency Incidents**

Communications during large scale emergencies or disasters is a common challenge. After 9/11 and the Louisa earthquake, cell phone towers were overloaded and many found their cell phones worked sporadically, if at all. One of the presentations in this session will give an overview of why this occurs, and will discuss the Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) and Wireless Priority Service (WPS), which allows certain emergency responders to have priority on busy circuits, and the process for having access to the system. Also this session will highlight King William County's E911 Center and how they took over the 911 systems for two neighboring counties when their systems failed during Hurricane Irene.

### **D-2 – Wildfires in Virginia, Lessons Learned**

February 2011 saw an outbreak in wildfires in several localities across the Commonwealth. Subsequently, the localities in VDEM Region 2 held a regional wildfire exercise in September 2011 to test the communication and coordination between local, state, and federal agencies during multiple concurrent wildfires. This workshop will address the coordination issues that were experienced in the wildfires, as well as best practices for logistics coordination, which have coordination channels that many other emergencies don't have.

### **D-3 – Hurricane Irene**

On the heels of the earthquake in August, Hurricane Irene impacted Virginia. While the center of Irene stayed off of the Virginia coast, its impact reached as far inland as Central Virginia. The NWS will give an overview on the meteorology associated with the storm, and emergency managers from coastal and central Virginia will discuss their experiences.

### **D-5 – Hanover Search & Rescue Incident**

In October 2011, a search for a missing autistic 8 year old boy turned into one of the largest searches in the Commonwealth. The six day search resulted in finding the boy alive. This session will talk about the logistics that occurred to support the large scale search.

### **D-6 – Legal Concerns for Emergency Managers**

This session, popular the past two years, will feature an attorney from the Office of Attorney General and a local attorney to discuss emergency management issues facing state agencies and localities.

### **E-1 – Determining Flood Impacts to Communities**

Determining the potential impacts of flooding can be tricky. The collection of information and the development of flood impact statements in locations where stream gauges exist supports a frame of reference for communities to identify what's at risk and the degree of risk. The collection of information can support long-term objectives such as mitigation or inundation mapping. Providing information back to the NWS during an event will support better watch and warning statements. Collectively, this supports better preparation and response to flood events.

### **E-2 – Individual Assistance – A Case Study in Louisa**

After an aggressive damage assessment and preliminary damage assessment process following the Louisa earthquake, Governor Bob McDonnell requested Individual Assistance for Louisa. The request was denied by FEMA, and further inspection turned up additional damages. Upon appeal, FEMA approved IA for Louisa County. This workshop will highlight the uniqueness of the damage sustained, and the methods that were employed to arrive at a successful outcome.

### **E-3 – FEMA Town Hall Meeting**

The Deputy Regional Administrator from FEMA Region III will lead a discussion on current emergency management issues. This informal session will allow the audience to interact with the Deputy Regional Administrator.

### **E-4 – Public Affairs Disaster Overview**

The numerous emergency events and disaster during 2011 gave public affairs officials at both the state and local levels ample opportunity to engage in emergency public information. This session will describe some of the methods used, lessons learned, and best practices.

### **E-5 – Public-Private Partnerships in Emergency Management**

Corporate representatives from Lowes, Wal-Mart, and Target will discuss programs that are in place to allow the private sector to interact with public entities. They will discuss the importance of the relationship between the public and private sectors during disasters. The VDEM private sector liaison will discuss programs that the Virginia EOC has in place to foster the relationships.

### **E-6 – (Mitre)**

#### **Awards Dinner Speakers**

##### **Hui-Shan Walker – IAEM US President**

The President of IAEM US will give welcoming comments. Hui-Shan is a past President of VEMA.

##### **Dr. Russell Jones, Professor of Psychology, Virginia Tech**

Dr. Jones will talk about the capability that exists and is available for critical mental health of emergency and disaster victims. He will discuss case studies of past events to describe the program.

##### **GS-3(a) – FEMA Region III Update**

This annual session will give an insight to current issues as from the Region III Office. Robert Welch, the Deputy Regional Administrator, will discuss initiatives that will be important to local, state, and federal emergency management partners.

### **GS-3(b) – Post Incident Review Gabby Gifford Shooting**

The presentation will consist of a case study of the event to illustrate the effectiveness of regional collaboration and communications in response to a major incident. The focus will be on preparedness and efficient use of grant funding to create an environment that fosters multiagency and multi-discipline cooperation during an emergency response to a large incident. We will share the successes from the event, lessons learned, provide a forum to discuss response issues and provide a framework for pre-incident planning and coordination.

### **GS-4(a) – Emergency Response and Support Meteorologists**

As part of the National Weather Service's Weather Ready Initiative, the NWS Sterling Forecast Office has hired three Emergency Response and Support (ERS) meteorologist, as a possible on-site resource at the state and/or local level during significant weather events. This session will provide a brief overview on the project and how it can be used to improve coordination between NWS, the Commonwealth, and localities.

### **GS-4(b) – Hurricane Hunters**

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (53<sup>rd</sup> WRS), known as the Hurricane Hunters of the Air Force Reserve, is located at Kessler Air Force Base in Biloxi, MS. The primary mission is to conduct tropical storm reconnaissance. The crew of 5 each have specific roles in the aircraft. A member of the 53<sup>rd</sup> WRS will talk about the mission and the duties of the crew.