



Supplemental Emergency Assistance For Local Law Enforcement Agencies

Purpose

In the course of a major incident or extended emergency operations, local law enforcement agencies may need supplemental resources to ensure the continued safety and security of their respective communities. We realize that departments across the state daily make effective use of external resources to accomplish their mission and we have no intention of modifying such existing procedures in this document. Our objective is to provide law enforcement leaders with a concise reference for other sources of assistance during major disaster or emergency operations.

Mutual Aid Agreements

Many of the Commonwealth's law enforcement agencies have current agreements with adjoining jurisdictions or state agencies that provide the most likely choice for short-term assistance during incidents that do not have a wide regional impact. We encourage these mutual aid agreements and offer training in their construction as well as sample agreements.

Nearby State Assets

Short-term emergency assistance may also be available by directly contacting state agencies located within or nearby your jurisdiction having sworn police officers such as the Departments of State Police, Game and Inland Fisheries, Alcoholic Beverage Control, Motor Vehicles, and Conservation and Recreation, the Marine Resources Commission, the Virginia Port Authority, the Virginia State Capitol Police, or colleges and universities.

Tactical Communications

Two sources within the Commonwealth for significant tactical communications available for deployment include:

Virginia State Police

- Three mobile command posts in Northern, Central, and Western Virginia that can be enroute to an incident within two hours to create tactical interoperability.
- Fifteen radios at each of the seven division locations that can be deployed on scene to the incident management team and establish some tactical interoperability radio communications.

- Eight Incident Commander's Radio Interface (ICRI) units that can allow up to five public safety agencies to achieve radio interoperability. The ICRI units can also be linked together to increase this number to ten radios. These units can operate on battery power (24 hours on eight "AA" batteries) or an AC power source. A VSP radio technician is usually deployed with these units to provide on scene support.

To request tactical interoperability solutions from the Virginia State Police call (804) 674-2176 during normal business hours. After hours, contact the duty sergeant at (804) 674-2000.

Virginia Department of Emergency Management

- One mobile command post and one communications trailer located in the Richmond region that contain VHF High band, Very High Frequency (VHF) low band, Ultra High Frequency (UHF), VSP radio, VHF Marine, VHF Aircraft, Civil Air Patrol, cell phone, satellite communication capabilities, and the ACU-1000 Interoperability Communication System. The latter is capable of interconnecting diverse radio, telephone, and cellular units to allow multi-agency communication. These assets can be deployed within two hours of notification.
- Two portable 60-foot communications towers and one portable 75-foot tower located in the Richmond area; the 60 foot towers have shelters for equipment mounted on trailers and generators, the 75 foot tower does not have shelter or generator onboard. The towers can strengthen a repeater's signal to increase the communication footprint at an incident.
- Two briefcase satellite phones.

To request these resources or other communications assets contact the Virginia Emergency Operations Center at (804) 674-2400 or (800) 468-8892.

Governor's Declaration of a State of Emergency

Any incident of the magnitude requiring assistance from the remaining resources described herein would likely result in the Governor's Declaration of a State of Emergency, necessary for the sum sufficient funding of local and state disaster operations within the Commonwealth. The process to achieve a verbal declaration requires only minutes once all required information is available to the Virginia Emergency Operations Center.

Virginia Emergency Operations Center

The Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC), operational 24/7 and able to make contact with all appropriate decision making authorities, is the central and most efficient portal to submit requests for assistance during major disasters or emergencies. The Center's Resource Management Staff has identified sources for dozens of items likely to be required during emergency operations and is able to quickly determine the availability and delivery time for each. The VEOC may be reached at (804) 674-2400 or toll free (800) 468-8892. We strongly suggest

all requests for assistance, during large scale emergencies or those events resulting in a Governor's Declaration of a State of Emergency, flow through your emergency coordinator who has access to secure means of communication with the VEOC and has the responsibility to coordinate all resource requests for his or her jurisdiction.

Virginia State Police

The Department can deploy as many as 100 Troopers to be on the scene of a major incident within two hours and approximately 400 Troopers could be available within five hours. These assets, though self-supporting, may not always be available for extended response operations. A wide range of other resources, from rotary and fixed wing aircraft to mobile command posts, may also be requested in support of local law enforcement operations. You may contact the Superintendent of State Police 24 hours a day at (804) 674-2000 or through the nearest State Police office; however, during major emergencies, we suggest this be done concurrently with contacting the Virginia Emergency Operations Center.

Other State Law Enforcement Agencies

The Superintendent of State Police will consult with the respective Sheriff or Chief of Police to determine if sworn personnel of other state agencies are required to complement local and State Police forces and if needed, will coordinate with the appropriate state agency head to authorize the use of these resources.

Virginia National Guard

The Virginia National Guard may be called to active duty only by the Governor, customarily through the Declaration of a State of Emergency. The Superintendent of State Police will consult with the respective Sheriff or Chief of Police to determine if the National Guard is required to complement local and State Police forces and if needed, will coordinate with the Adjutant General to authorize the use of these resources.

Statewide Mutual Aid

The Statewide Mutual Aid (SMA) Program was developed to assist cities and counties to more quickly and efficiently provide assistance to each other in response to a major disaster. Common implementation procedures have been established and potentially problematic issues (such as those relating to insurance, liability coverage, law enforcement powers, and reimbursement) have been resolved in advance. The program, designed in cooperation with the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, has been adopted by each of the Commonwealth's counties and cities as well as the five eligible Towns of Chincoteague, Christiansburg, Farmville, South Boston, and Vinton.

The SMA program does not interfere with day-to-day agreements among nearby localities or other state agency sponsored mutual aid arrangements already in place. Unique among internal sources of assistance, the SMA Program can provide expertise, personnel, equipment or other resources that mirror the structure of the requesting jurisdiction. The support provided may be tailored in any manner agreed upon by both parties involved.

Although intended primarily for major disasters due to the potentially high costs involved, there is sufficient flexibility for SMA to be implemented for smaller events as well. Major disasters are usually characterized by both state and federal declarations of emergency that increase the likelihood of reimbursement to the requesting jurisdiction. Requests for assistance under the SMA Program may be made only by your Director of Emergency Management or representative authorized in writing specifically for purposes of Statewide Mutual Aid. Requests may be made directly to another local government or through the Virginia Emergency Operations Center. In the latter case, the VEOC staff will identify and make initial contact with a jurisdiction willing to provide the requested resources. The assisting jurisdiction must telephonically advise the requesting jurisdiction, within two hours of receipt of the request, the extent of assistance that can be provided. SMA Program details are available at

www.vaemergency.com/programs/sma/index.cfm.

Emergency Management Assistance Compact

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), established in 1996, is the cornerstone of interstate partnership and mutual aid. Each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands has enacted legislation to become members of the Compact. During the response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, more than 6,880 sheriff's deputies and police officers from 35 states and countless local jurisdictions provided law enforcement support across Louisiana and Mississippi - a total of 35% of all of EMAC resources deployed. EMAC is similar to the Statewide Mutual Aid Program in that any kind of resource may be requested and tailored in a manner agreed upon by both parties involved and common procedural issues have been addressed; however, all requests for assistance must be submitted through the Virginia Emergency Operations Center. Reimbursement to assisting states is provided by the requesting state. Recent legislation passed by the Virginia General Assembly would authorize the Governor to reimburse state agencies and local governments that provide emergency aid to other states. EMAC details are available at

www.emacweb.org/.

Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan

A brief discussion of the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan (COVEOP) is included here to give an idea of state level planning ongoing in support of local emergency operations. The volumes noted under protected access may be of particular interest in describing available state and federal resources. The COVEOP provides for the state government's response to emergencies and disasters in support of affected local governments. The Plan consists of seven volumes including the *Basic Plan* which is an overview of the state's emergency response organization and six additional volumes organized by hazard or program. The majority of the COVEOP's volumes (*Basic Plan, Disaster Recovery, Hurricane Emergency Response, and Hazard Mitigation Management*) are available at

www.vaemergency.com/library/plans/index.cfm.

Access to the volumes titled *Radiological Emergency Response, Transportation Emergency Operations*, and portions of *Hazardous Materials and Terrorism Consequence Management* as well as the *COV Strategic National Stockpile Plan* is protected through password login to the **Virginia Online EOC** at

www.vaemergency.com/about/structure/ops/oeoc_access.cfm.

The Virginia Department of Health is responsible for maintaining a separate *Pandemic Influenza Response Plan* which may be found at

www.vdh.state.va.us/EPR/Planning/index.htm.

Point of Contact: Sam Hoffman, DCJS Homeland Security Coordinator at sam.hoffman@dcjs.virginia.gov .