

## **Virginia Emergency Operations Center**

Severe Weather/Flash Flooding

Situation Report #2

As of 1430 hours 3 January 2007

### **SITUATION:**

Very heavy rainfall of 4 to 5 inches impacted parts of south central Virginia on 1 January resulting in rapid rises along the Dan River. The Dan River at Danville has presently fallen below the flood stage of 17 feet. River flood warning continues for the Dan River near Paces until Thursday evening. Minor flood stage is 20 feet and moderate flood stage is 24 feet. The current stage is 25.1 feet and slowly falling and moderate flooding is occurring and is forecast to continue until early Thursday morning. River flood warning continues for the Dan River at South Boston until Friday afternoon. Minor flood stage there is 19 feet and moderate flood stage is 25 feet. The current stage is 28.3 feet and is forecast to crest this afternoon around 28.5 feet. Moderate flooding is forecast to continue until early Friday morning. A River flood warning is in effect for the Appomattox River at Mattoax beginning tonight until further notice. Minor flood stage is 21 feet and the river is forecast to rise above flood stage tonight and continue to rise to near 21.6 feet by late Friday morning. Minor flooding is forecast to flood agricultural and pasture land. Flash flooding on 1 January resulted in as many as 73 road closures at one time throughout the Commonwealth and caused some evacuations in the City of Danville.

### **WEATHER:**

Wednesday, 3 January: Sunny with high temperatures ranging from upper 50's to low 60's with overnight low temperatures ranging from low 30's to mid 30's. Winds will be variable 5 to 15 mph.

Thursday, 4 January: Mostly sunny then becoming mostly cloudy. 60% to 80% chance of rain in afternoon and evening and then rain likely after midnight. There is a chance of thunderstorms after midnight in SW Virginia. High temperatures will range from upper 50's to mid 60's with overnight low temperatures ranging from mid 40's to low 50's. Winds will be south-southwest 5 to 15 mph with possibility of strong winds across higher elevations in SW Virginia.

Friday, 5 January: Rain likely with chance of thunderstorms in SW Virginia during the morning. Probability of precipitation is 90% in SW Virginia and 60% across the rest of the Commonwealth. High temperatures will range from upper 50's to upper 60's with overnight lows ranging from mid 40's to mid 50's. Winds will be south-southwest 5 to 10 mph except in SW Virginia where winds will be south 15 to 25 mph with gusts up to 40 mph possible in the evening. NWS Blacksburg and Wakefield forecast rainfall amounts of ¼ inch to ½ inch and they do not forecast significant impact to rivers at this time.

### **LOCAL ACTIVITIES:**

Local Emergency Declarations: City of Danville declared 1 January 2007 at 1000 hours and withdrew the declaration 2 January 2007 at 1900 hours.

Local Emergency Operation Centers Activated: City of Danville opened 1 January at 1000 hours and assumed limited operations (0800-1700) on 3 January and is focusing on recovery phase. Citizen Emergency Response Team was activated on 1 January and assisted with shelter operations and staffing the local EOC. Special phone line (434-773-8126) set up for residents and businesses to call and report damage. Preliminary Damage Assessment teams were deployed on 2 January but assessments were limited due to the flooding from the Dan River and will be completed once the river recedes. Initial reports of residences and businesses surveyed on 2 January indicate minor damage.

Evacuations/Shelters: Local agreements with American Red Cross and Salvation Army were activated. City of Danville – 15 people evacuated; 2 shelters open on 1 January at 1000 hours and closed at 1615 hours 1 January with 5 evacuees sheltered in local motel. All evacuees returned to their homes on 2 January.

### **STATE ACTIVITIES:**

Department of Emergency Management: Virginia Emergency Operations Center coordinated with localities and National Weather Service and issued advisories to appropriate localities. VDEM Regional Coordinator Crigger and VDEM Regional Hazmat Officer Collins responded on 1 January to assist local emergency management and were returned to normal locations by 2 January. VDEM Regional Hazmat

## Virginia Emergency Operations Center

Officer Collins reported two facilities that need to be checked when flood waters recede. He will check the facilities and coordinate or follow up with the VA Department of Environmental Quality.

Department of Transportation: 1 Primary road (Rt. 501 in Halifax County) and 35 Secondary roads closed as of 1000 hours 2 January.

State Police: One Swift Water Rescue Team and VSP Medflight III completed missions on 2 January and have been released.

### **PROJECTED ACTIONS:**

- Monitor two new storm systems that are forecast to impact the Commonwealth later this week and beginning of next week
- Coordinate with National Weather Service on weather and hydrologic conditions on potential storm impacts
- Coordinate with State Agencies

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