



Virginia Department of
Emergency Management

Local Preparedness

Date: June 5, 2025

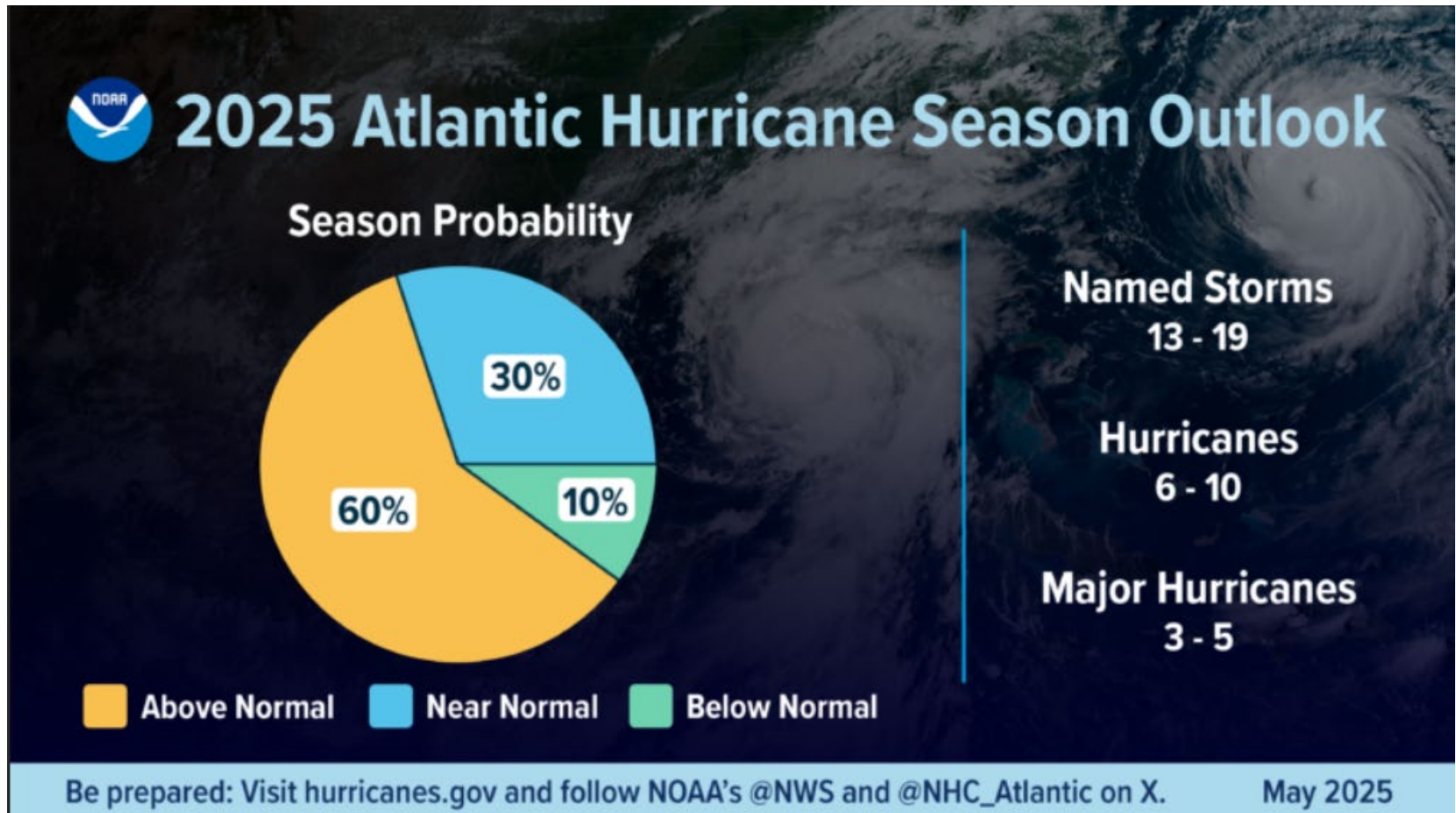
Overview

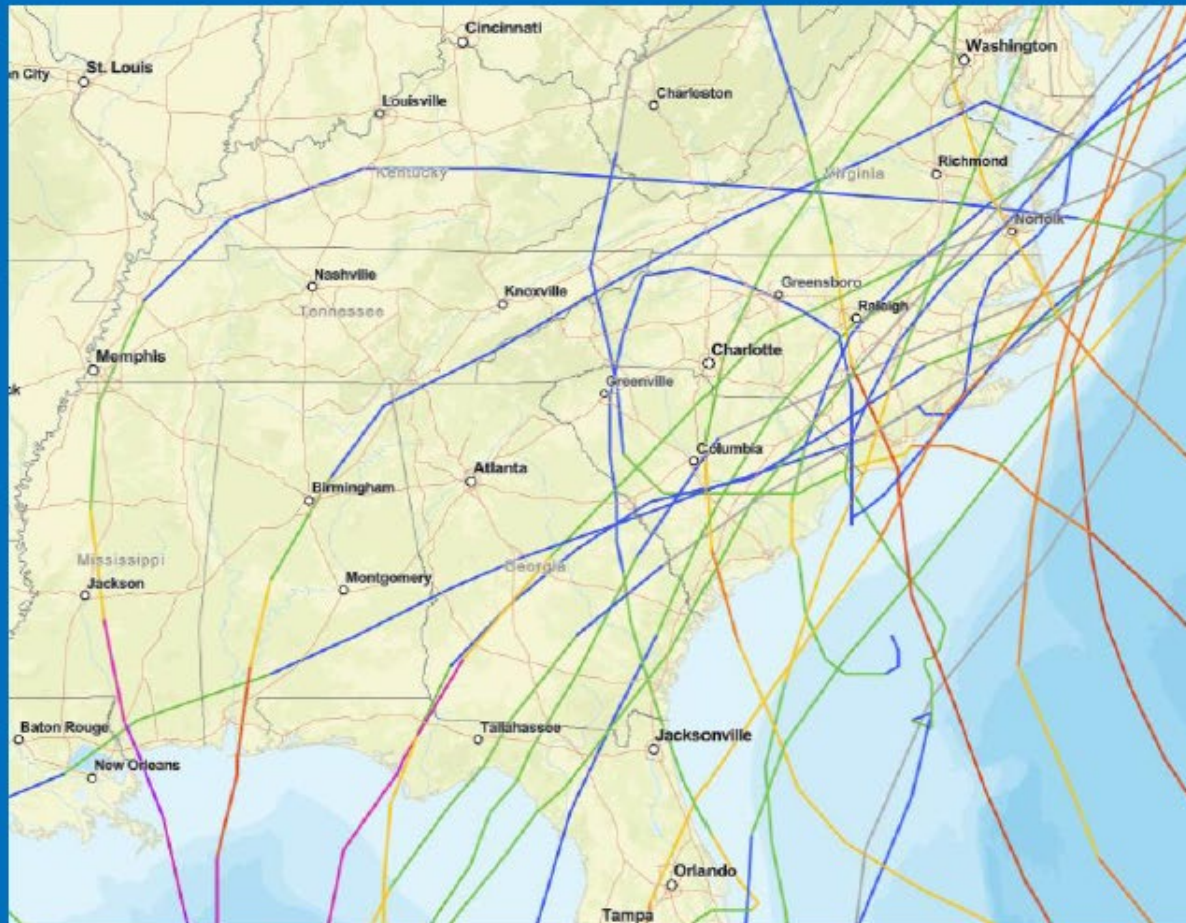
- Hurricane Season Preparation and Forecast
- VDEM Overview
- Preparedness Discussion
- Resources-References

ASK QUESTIONS ANYTIME



Hurricane Forecast





Storms In “Normal” (Neutral) Years

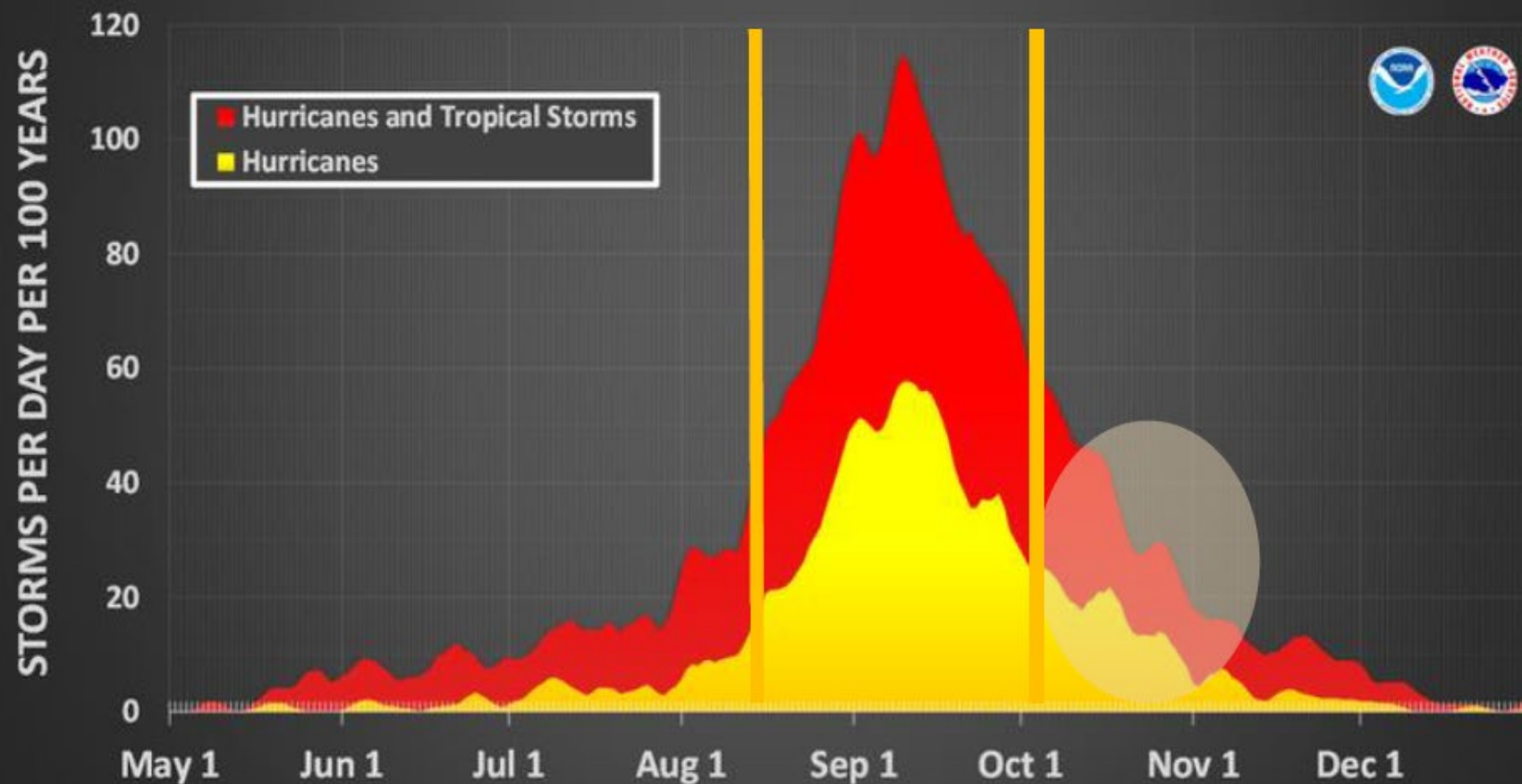
1933 Hurricanes (record)
Donna 1960
Camille 1969
Agnes 1972 (record)
Gloria 1985
Fran 1996
Gaston 2004 (RIC Flood)
Michael 2018
Florence 2018
Isaias 2020





Atlantic Hurricane and Tropical Storm Activity

Based on Data from 1944 to 2020



Preparations For Hurricane Season

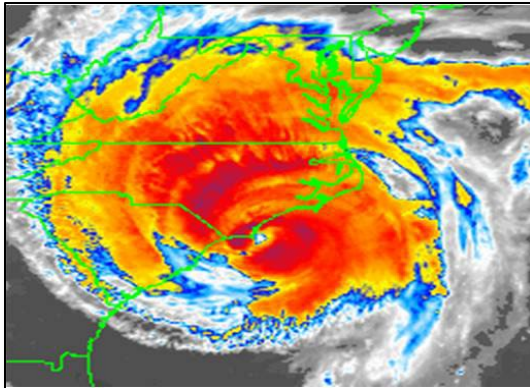
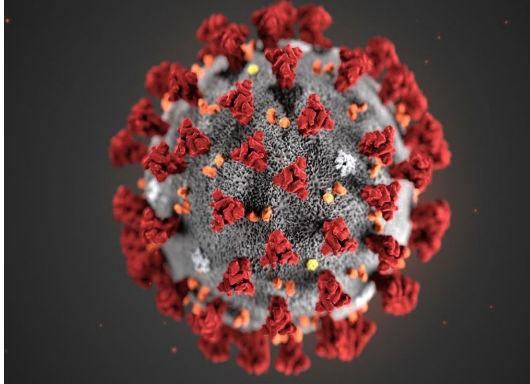
- Hurricane Playbook
- Reporting Standardization
- Resource Support Strategy
- Virginia Flood Monitoring System (VFMS) Gauges
- Regional Delmarva Planning
- FEMA / Virginia Annual Pre-Hurricane Season Meeting
- New storm surge modeling
- Permanently assigned NWS meteorologist in VEOC/SAU
- Close coordination w/ other states (EMAC) as needs arise to request or provide assistance
- Continue strong relationships w/ local government officials, state agencies, General Assembly, and CODEL



VDEM Overview



VIRGINIA IS IMPACTED BY ALL HAZARDS



STATUTORY AUTHORITY

(VA Code Ann. § 44-146.18)

- Originally created in 1973
- Tasked with protecting the commonwealth from natural and man-made disasters
- Works with local, state, federal agencies, voluntary organizations, and private sector partners to provide resources before, during, and after an emergency
- Governor is Virginia's chief disaster officer, delegated authority to VDEM State Coordinator to run day-to-day operations during emergency events
- All state agencies and resources are subject to being called in to respond to disaster situations



VDEM Trivia Question

What is Virginia's #1 Hazard?

- A. Hurricanes
- B. Tornadoes
- C. Wind
- D. Flooding
- E. Winter Storms



Operations

Special
Operations

Logistics

SAU

Natural Hazards

VEOC/VEST

Preparedness

Planning

Training/Exercise

Recovery/Mitigation

Fusion
Center/Intel

Engagement

Policy

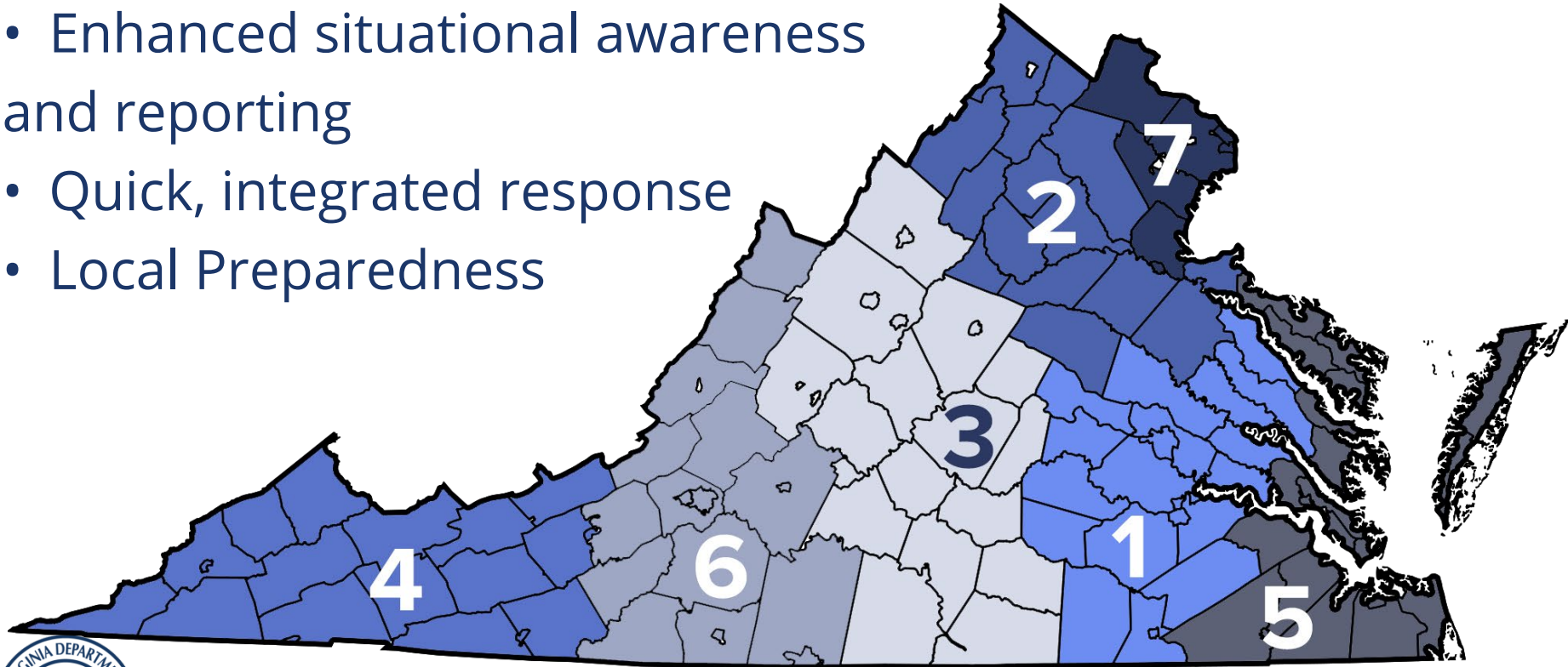
Intergovernmental
Affairs and
Outreach

Strategic
Communications



VDEM'S 7 REGIONS

- Regions provide single source of communication between agency and localities
- Coordination of state assets
- Enhanced situational awareness and reporting
- Quick, integrated response
- Local Preparedness

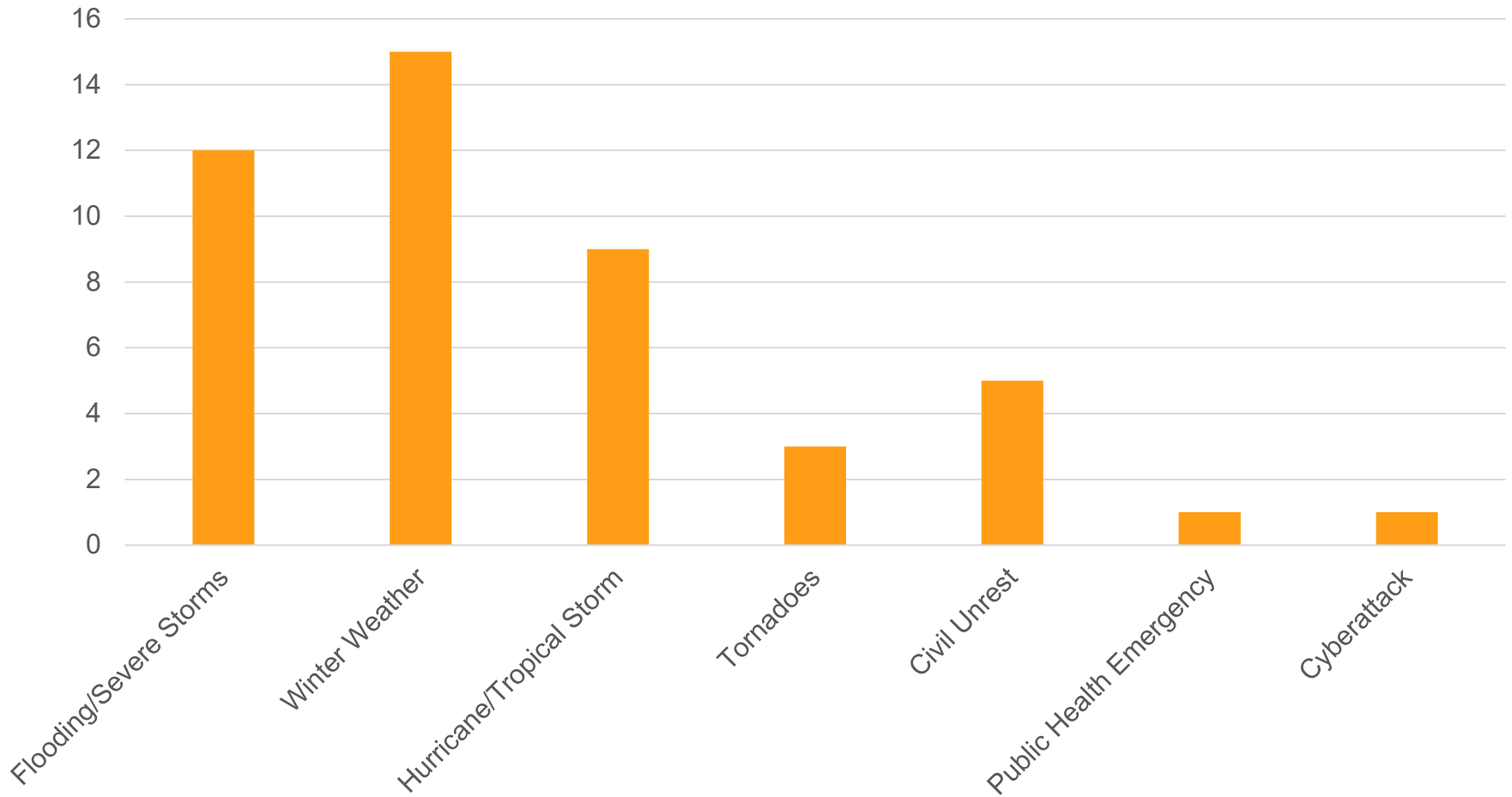


The Expanding Role of Emergency Management in Virginia

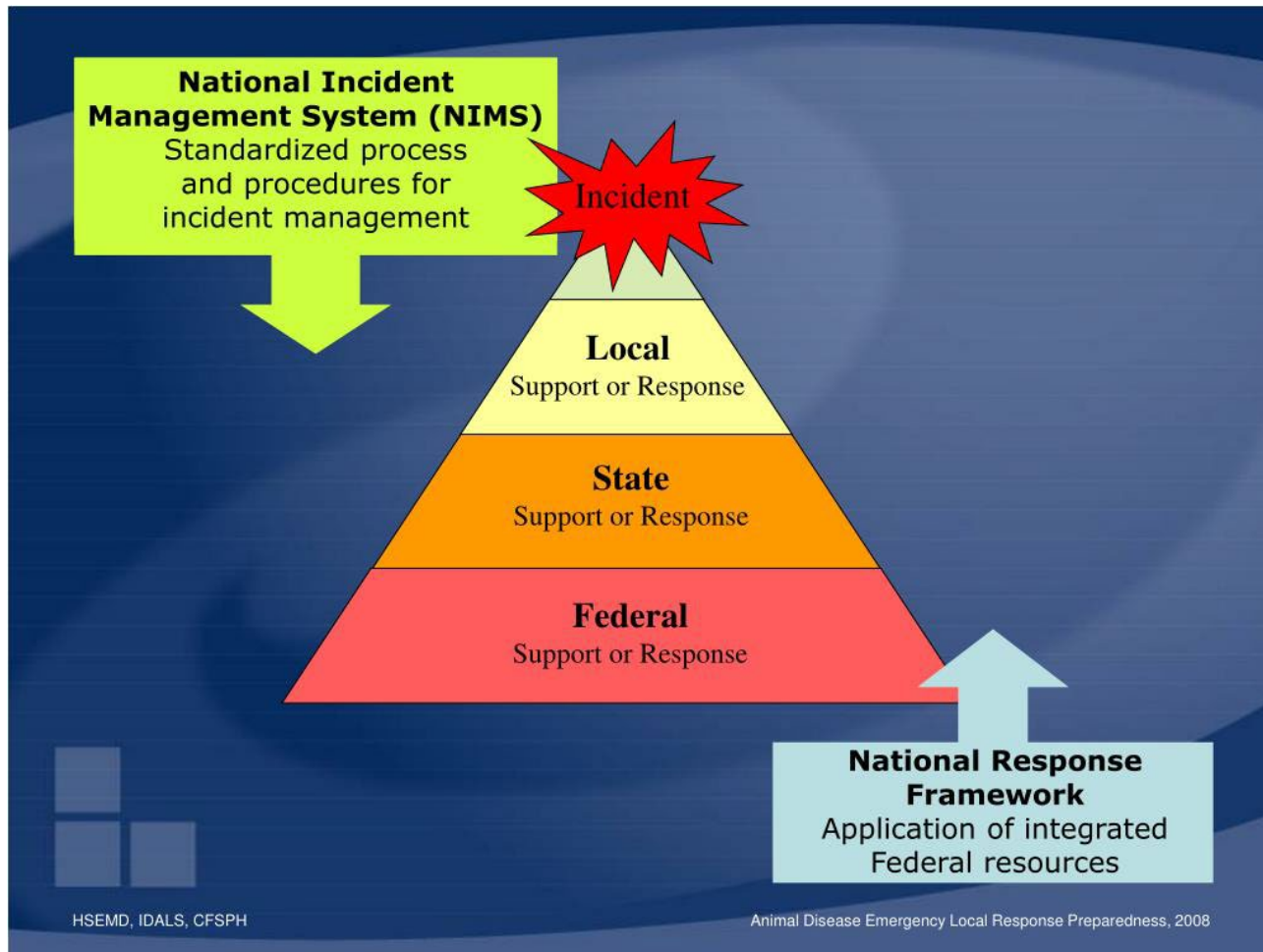
- The frequency of disasters in the Commonwealth has increased 40% in the last decade
- Increased emphasis on the need for a whole-of-government approach to emergency response and recovery.
- The greatest threats to the Commonwealth have been flooding caused by severe storms, hurricanes, and winter storms
 - In the last 10 years there has been a significant increase in the variety of emergencies and disasters impacting the Commonwealth.



Frequency and Type of Events Resulting in Emergency Declarations Since 2012



All disasters begin and end on a local level.



Local Emergency Management and the Code of Virginia

Code of Virginia Title 44 - Emergency Services and Disaster Laws

Each political subdivision in the Commonwealth **shall** (pursuant to Code of Virginia §44-146.19):

- Be responsible for local disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery
- Identify a **Director of Emergency Management**
 - Typically, the City manager, Mayor, County Administrator or a Member of the Board of Supervisors
- Appoint a **Coordinator of Emergency Management**
 - **This person is considered *the* Local Emergency Manager**



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* Note that this is not an inclusive list of all local emergency management legal responsibilities

Code of Virginia, Title 44-146.19. Powers and Duties of Political Subdivisions

- The Code of Virginia mandates that all counties, cities, as well as the Towns of Chincoteague and West Point must establish an emergency management organization. Additionally, the Code outlines specific requirements for those designated to oversee emergency management. According to Code of Virginia § 44-146.19 B4, towns not explicitly recognized in the Code as requiring an emergency management organization may still establish one independently from the county or counties in which they are located, provided they have a population of 5,000 or more and comply with the stipulations of this policy.



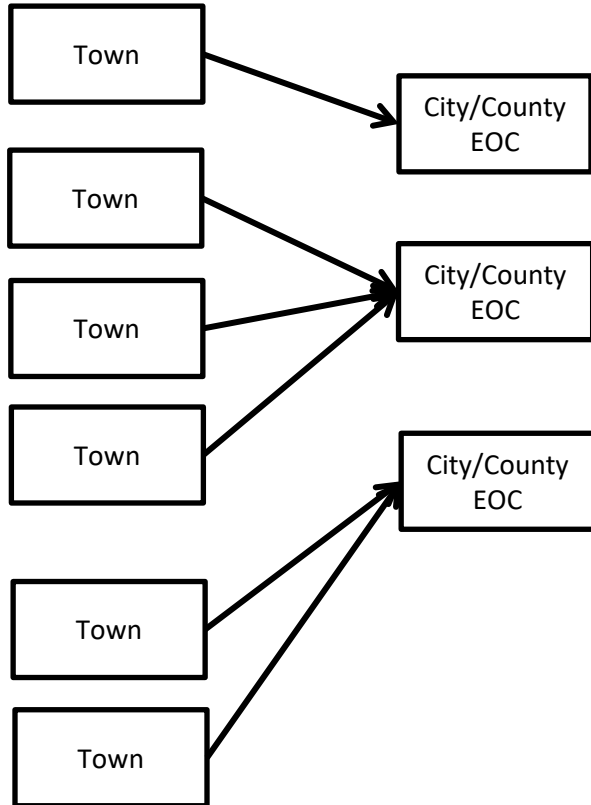
Local Preparedness

- [User Clip: Request Process | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)
- [User Clip: Local state federal | Video | C-SPAN.org](#)



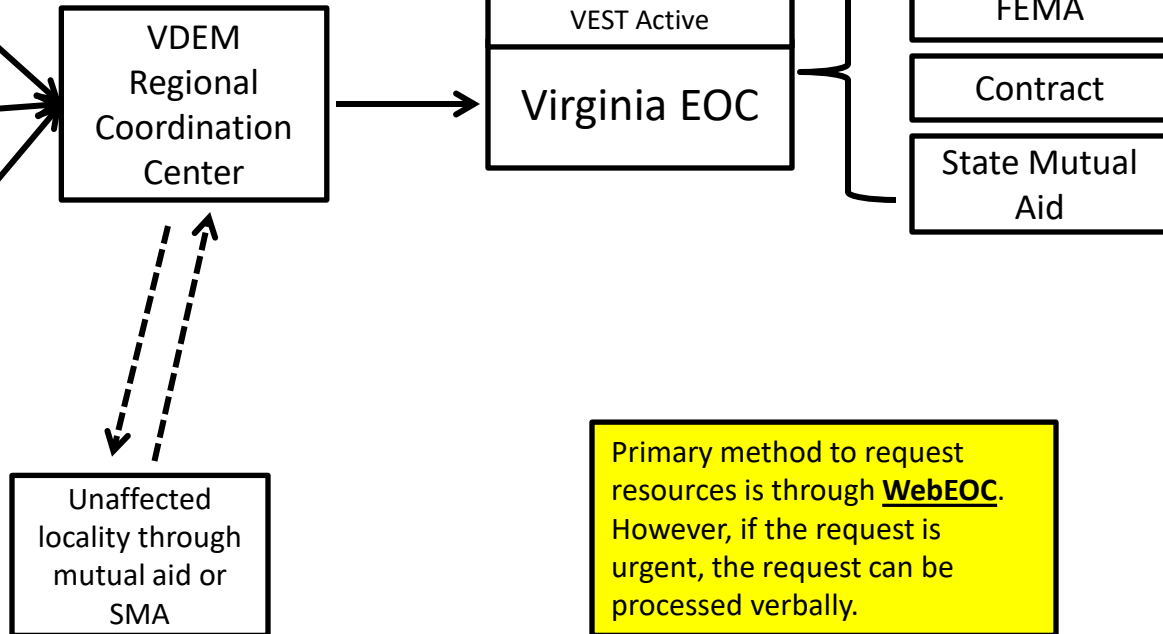
EM System in Virginia

Locality initiates request



VDEM RCC processes and fills the request. If cannot fill within region, the request is sent to State EOC for tasking.

State EOC fills request internally. If VEOC cannot fill internally, the request is filled through various external means.



Primary method to request resources is through **WebEOC**. However, if the request is urgent, the request can be processed verbally.



6/6/2025

Local Preparedness

- Risk Assessment & Local Hazard Profiles
- Roles & Responsibilities
- Emergency Planning
- Communication Strategies
- Resource Management
- Community Engagement & Education
- Training, Drills & Exercises
- Recovery Planning



“Blue Sky” Responsibilities

Local Senior Officials

- Work with the emergency manager to establish preparedness priorities
- Prioritize risk reduction by adopting mitigation strategies
- Encourage individual adaption of emergency plans
- Participate in emergency and disaster exercises
- Identify and document appropriate delegations of authority in advance of an emergency or disaster

**Know your
local
emergency
manager!**



Local Senior Officials Roles (Cont.)

- Local senior officials should be familiar with the potential impacts of threats and hazards such as;
 - Floods, storms, earthquakes, wildfires, as well as less predictable incidents like active shooters, technological hazards, extended power outages, or cyber incidents.
- Encourage community integration of emergency management initiatives that will help the community recovery from disasters and reduce the risk to save lives, protect property and the environment, and support the economy

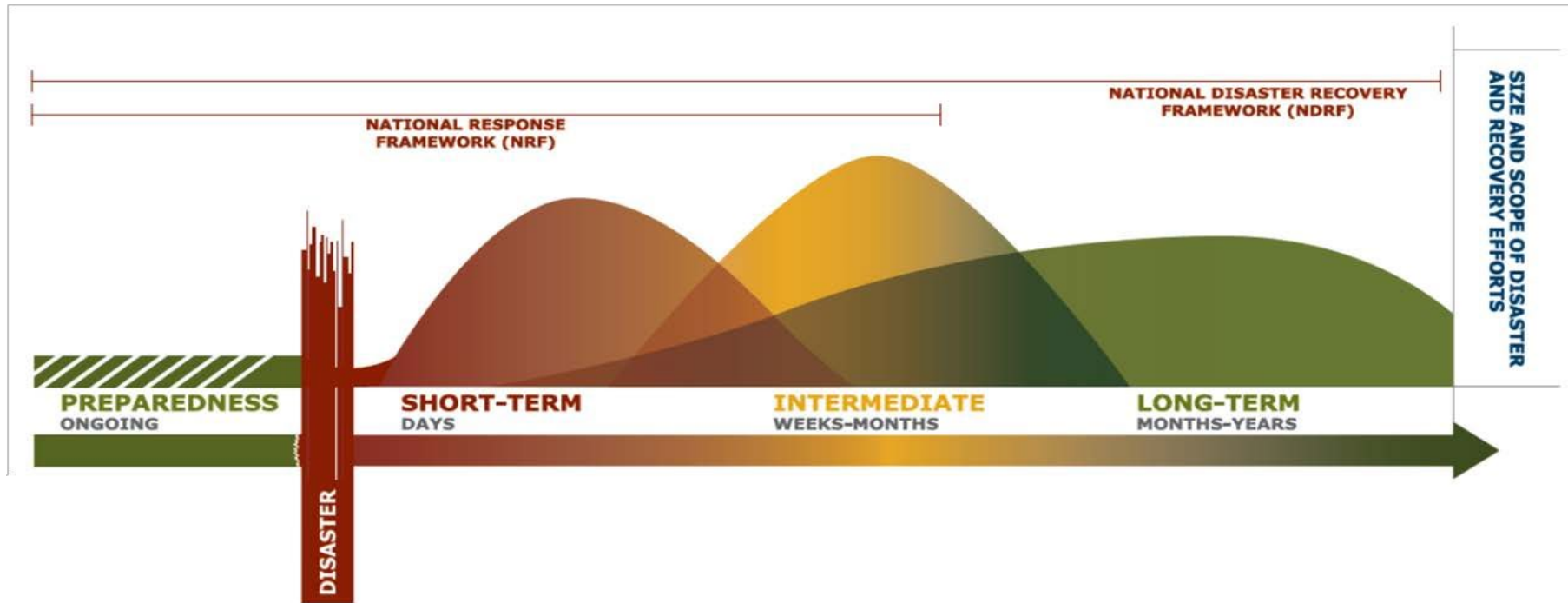


Helene By the Numbers

Homes Destroyed	46
Major Damage	186
Moderate Damage	1,694
\$ Individual Assistance	\$15,204,959
\$ Public Assistance	\$340,000,000
Debris	1.4 million cubic yards of debris (500 Olympic Size Pools)
SAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rescues: 215• Assist/EVACS: 99• Damage Assessments: 101• Welfare Checks: 651
Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 183 – VEOC/VEST• 96 – VDEM Staff in the Field (IGA)• 2,295 personnel in the field



Recovery Continuum



References-Resources

Guides:

[VDEM-Local Officials Guide](#)

[FEMA-Local and Elected Officials Guide](#)

Trainings:

G402: Incident Command System (ICS)
Overview for Executives/Senior Officials

Tabletop exercises (TTX)

Workshops tailored for elected/appointed
officials

Code - [§ 44-146.19. Powers and duties of political subdivisions](#)



Emergency Management Professionals Week is THIS WEEK!



Questions?



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THANK YOU!

