

# Agenda Item #5 – Handout

## Regional Emergency Management, Collaboration & Sustainment: Investing in a Secure Future

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Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

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## The Events of September 11th Forever Changed How We Prepare For Disasters

Hampton Roads Public Safety and Emergency Service agencies have a long history of working together to build resiliency into our communities and strengthen our capacity to address both natural and manmade disasters. Some of these efforts were born in the aftermath of an event. Many of these efforts have been based upon voluntary collaboration and mutual aid agreements among the various jurisdictions in the region. And since September 11, 2001, most of these regional efforts have been organized and funded by Federal grants through strong partnerships formed by and on behalf of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC).

September 11th demonstrated the vulnerability of our nation to organized attacks on the homeland and reinforced the critical need for developing and sustaining strong regional approaches to prepare for and respond to large scale disaster events. Working under the auspices of the HRPDC, federal funds have been used to create planning and response programs with a whole community cross-discipline focus, build regional communications and interoperability capabilities, develop enhanced mass care capabilities through the Metropolitan Medical Response System, create special incident teams such as the Marine Incident Response Team and the Incident Management Team, and improve Law Enforcement intelligence and information sharing.

A strong, regionally focused emergency management organization will help to insure that federal, state and local resources are used to build and maintain a response system and capability that will serve all of the member jurisdictions with efficiency and effectiveness. Ultimately, building on our past successes and organizing for the future will help to ensure that the region is prepared to save lives, minimize suffering and loss and return our communities to normalcy following a disaster.

## Regional Emergency Management, Collaboration & Sustainment: Investing in a Secure Future



Member jurisdictions of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission have worked for many years to create a regional system that supports a multi-disciplined, multi-jurisdictional, all-hazards approach to preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery.

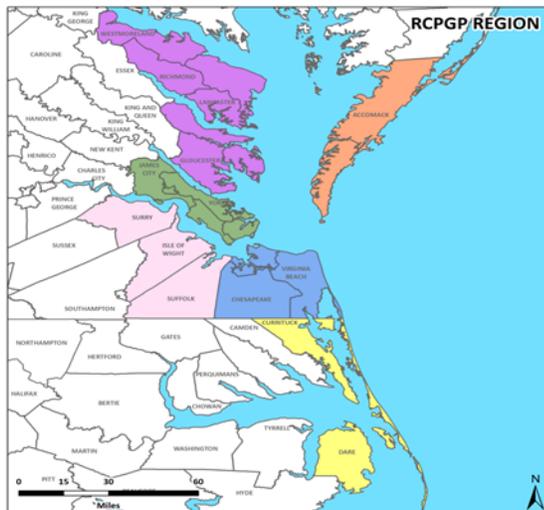
Working together, the region has leveraged funding from a variety of sources to support the emergency services mission. Our region's ability to respond and mitigate natural and manmade disasters have been enhanced with:

- Coordinated local and regional plans and policies.
- Regional radio communication systems that provide interoperable communications across jurisdictions and agencies.
- Coordinated, equipped and trained special teams for marine response and incident management support.
- A greater level of information sharing across jurisdictions and disciplines.
- An improved ability to conduct disease surveillance and respond to public health emergencies.
- Enhanced medical surge capabilities.
- Coordinated messages and education information to the public.

However, with shrinking federal funds, the future challenge will be to develop a more multi-faceted approach to planning and programming and identify new resources to sustain our efforts.

The risks that the Region faces are very real and ever-changing. Maintaining regional response capabilities and assets are both necessary and possible. Creating a permanent, more robust whole community approach, with greater levels of participation from public and private organizations and agencies, will help to insure that the present and future needs of our region will be met and a high level of public safety and protection achieved.

## Hampton Roads Regional Catastrophic Planning Team



- **24 Local Governments**
  - **2 States**
- **2 FEMA Districts**

## Hampton Roads Planning District Commission



- **16 Local Governments**

## Highlights of Capabilities Created Through Regional Cooperation

- A comprehensive regional approach to planning, including regional plans that supplements local emergency operations plans such as evacuation, transportation, mass care, sheltering, commodities distribution, resource planning and management and a regional Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis (THIRA).
- Regional training and exercise programs that include Federal, State and Local agencies and tests major components of response plans and policies, identifying areas of strength and opportunities for improvement.
- Specialized mobile communication and response vehicles and equipment that can be deployed to support large scale emergencies and facilitate regional radio interoperability.
- Improved Law Enforcement intelligence and infrastructure protection capabilities, including support for the statewide Virginia Fusion Center (VFC), as well as efforts to collect and share law enforcement information across the region.
- Improved regional evacuation planning and citizen preparedness including investments that have provided citizens with knowledge and resources and improved the capability of local governments to support their most vulnerable citizens during emergency situations.
- Enhanced communication among local Emergency Operations Centers
- Coordinated, equipped and trained Special Teams for Emergency Operations, Response and Incident Command including Bomb Squad enhancements in the region, the Virginia Port Authority's Marine Incident Response Team (MIRT) and the Hampton Roads Incident Management Team (IMT).
- Improved ability to conduct disease surveillance and respond to public health emergencies
- Enhanced mass casualty and medical surge capabilities through the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS).
- Engaged regional medical, non-profits and other non-governmental and private sector organizations and companies to provide better communication and coordination of effort, especially during emergency response to disasters
- Developed a Committee based "Whole of Community" approach to planning for Functional Needs Support Services, serving as a clearinghouse for information for the special needs community and local government to help insure that everyone has access to services during a disaster.

## Regional Successes: Putting Enhanced Capabilities to Work

Since 1999, DHHS contracts, DHS-MMRS grants and regional sustainment funds have been used to develop and sustain the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System (HRMMRS) and its mass casualty incident response capabilities and equipment. The Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Strike Team (HRMMST) deployed equipment and



personnel to the Air Power over Hampton Roads Air Show in April of 2009. The Strike Team created a “MASH-like” facility adjacent to the tarmac and provided a coordinated medical presence along with Air Force personnel.

With higher than expected temperatures, there were a large number of heat related illnesses. The Strike Team treated 15 civilians on the flight line; treated and released 12 civilians after receiving IV fluids; treated and transported six civilians to three local hospitals; and treated three civilians that refused transport to a hospital.

On October 30, 2013, Suffolk Fire - Rescue assisted the Chesapeake Fire Department following a fatal accident involving a school bus loaded with over 25 children. Mass Casualty Transport buses, developed by the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System (HRMMRS), responded and transported 20 students for treatment to four area hospitals.



The Hampton Roads Incident Management Team (HRIMT) has been a partner with the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the Port of Virginia (POV) since the team's development in 2011. The HRIMT was requested and



activated to assist in the Incident Command Post (ICP) with twelve Command and General Staff

positions for OPSAIL 2012, from June 6 – 12, 2012. This International event was a major security and logistical operation, which involved the USCG, POV, FBI, USN, VSP, and all local emergency response agencies in the Hampton Roads area.

On April 22, 2014, the Hampton Roads Interoperability Communications Advisory Committee held the 1st



Annual Hampton Roads Interoperable Communications Rodeo on the air strip at Fort Monroe. The event showcased local, regional, State,

Federal, military, and private sector emergency management communications assets, and provided members of the public safety community, elected officials and the media the opportunity to view, explore, and learn more about these life-saving resources. The event was sponsored by the HRPDC, SRA International, and Fort Monroe. Rodeo attendees were able to see the latest in public safety technology and learn more about the network of communications assets in Hampton Roads.

On April 16, 2014 a thunderstorm with wind gusts of more than 70 mph ripped a cargo ship's anchors from the seafloor and caused it to run aground just a few hundred feet from Virginia Beach. The 751 foot coal ship was anchored east of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and ran aground not too far away near First Landing State Park. The ship had two anchors in the water at the time of the storm and tried to get its engines running to fight the movement, but it had little time to react because it was already so close to shore. The Maritime Incident Response Team (MIRT) in conjunction with the U.S. Coast Guard, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality responded to the incident by conducting water-side vessel assessments and serving as liaisons to other government agencies in a joint effort to remove the vessel from the beach while eliminating any threat of pollution.



## **Preparedness is Never Done: Cooperation, Collaboration and Consolidation Are Keys to Success**

**W**hile the Hampton Roads Region has benefited from many Federal grant programs, one of the unintended consequences has been the creation of multiple regional planning organizations to manage the various initiatives to successful conclusions.

**T**he very nature of Federal grant management requires an organizational structure to provide stakeholder oversight and accountability for funding and mission accomplishment. Over the years, multiple grant programs have created regional planning groups and programs that share parallel missions and overlap. Staffing for many of these programs comes from the same group of professionals representing all levels of government. As a result, multiple meeting demands and duplication of time and effort have increased costs and placed a tremendous burden on personnel staff time, drawing them away from their regular duties and local responsibilities.

**S**tudies show that approximately 286 emergency and risk management related meetings occur annually in Hampton Roads, which represents approximately \$2.1 million in staff time and 34,000 personnel hours away from their regular duties.

**R**egionally focused emergency planning and programming has produced many positive and tangible results for Hampton Roads communities. Regional effectiveness (doing the right things) and efficiency (doing the right things well) can certainly be enhanced through continued cooperation, strengthening collaboration and ultimately consolidating the many Federal organizational programs, missions, initiatives and efforts that have served the region so well. Regional cooperation, collaboration and consolidation will provide much needed support for local governments and help to insure that a more secure and resilient response system is available to manage risks and provide for a more secure future for all of Hampton Roads.

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