

VDEM/VDFP Stakeholder Summit
Thursday, November 01, 2007
Hampton, VA

Participants

Terri Worrall - Facilitator
Secretary of Public Safety John Marshall
Deputy Secretary of Public Safety Marilyn Harris
Billy Shelton
Brook Pittinger
Teresa Duncan
Sam Burnett
Ed Rhodes
James Grey
Ken Jones
Bill Smith
Charlie Singleton
Randy Abernathy
JD Jenkins
Mike Berg
Keith Arnold
Dreama Chandler
Bret Verdict
Steve Mondul
Wallace Twig
David Layman
John Caussin
Vance Cooper
William Bailey
Steve Kopczynski
Michael White
Ray Steffens
Gregory Britt
Tracy Hanger
Bret Burdick

Opening Comments

Billy Shelton, VDFP, welcomed the Stakeholder Summit participants and provided a brief overview of current VDFP initiatives (Fire Office IV, Operational Safe Arrival, etc.).

Bret Burdick, VDEM, welcomed the Stakeholder Summit participants and provided a brief overview of current VDEM initiatives (EOC initiatives, State of Emergency for Drought and Burn Ban, etc.).

Brook Pittinger, VDFP, welcomed the participants and provided an overview of how the summit would run today. Each table has a copy of the issues identified at the previous two meetings and this meeting is going to focus on new issues and issues specific to the Hampton Roads locality. After lunch the group is going to be asked to brainstorm ideas for solving the problems that have been identified by at this summit and the previous two summits.

The following issues/concerns were identified and each participant was asked to vote for what they considered the most important issue.

Group A

- Fire & EMS input into highway design to ensure public safety quick and safe access;
- Mile markers at the 1/10th of a mile to aid in locating accidents;
- Tow truck operator qualifications;
- Sheltering of special needs population during evacuations and transporting those without transportation.

Group B

- VDFP needs to have a full time Public Life Safety Educator (currently P-14 position);
- Using technology to assist firefighters with detecting radiation (as opposed to current method of swizzle stick detection); Remote video camera use (closed television system); Firefighting robots.
- Public safety input for VDOT road design manual.

Group C

- Lane reversals during emergencies and re-entry into areas after disasters;
- Water related issues – petroleum spills and rescue.

Group D

- Cost recovery program – legislative action that would charge a fee for alarm systems that would go back to the department making the response;
- Evacuation & Sheltering;
- Standards:
 - o Different localities use different standards (Pro Board, IFSAC, etc);
 - o State mandated standards.

The following main topics that were discussed by the groups were (no particular order):

- 1) Tow truck operator certification
- 2) Evacuation/Sheltering of the special needs population
- 3) Standards across the state (how do you meet if don't have proper funding)
- 4) Water related issues
- 5) Full time Public Fire & Life Safety Educator
- 6) Utilization of technology by public safety organizations

7) Funding suggestions for alarm monitoring systems

Full Time Public Fire & Life Safety Educator position at VDFP

- Review of current part time position EWP and add/delete responsibilities as needed
- Develop stakeholder group presentation to solicit support and determine their needs for the position
- Determine funding
- Workgroup to handle bullets 1 & 2
- Appropriate placement within VDFP

Water Related Issues

- Identify current resources
- Identifying training needs
- Coordination with Coast Guard for incidents on navigable waters
- Overcoming educational and communication barriers
- Maritime contingency plan (part of MERT team) – last updated in 2001
- Regional Response Team (RRT)

Funding suggestions for alarm monitoring systems

- Form consensus among stakeholders to determine the fee structure and its collection and dissemination
- Determine potential revenue of the fee
- Determine opposition
- Lobby for approval by impacting organizations
- Fee to alarm installation company when technical glitch causes false alarm

Standards across the state

- Local, intra-state and federal standards (three tiers of training)
- Developing/mandating one set of training standards for all VA localities

Utilization of technology by public safety organizations

- For radiation detection
- Use of cameras
- Use of remote robots
- Identification of funding stream
- Determine priority within state

Evacuation/Sheltering of the special needs population

- Identify population
- Identify resources
- Identify gaps
- Develop database for resources
- Re-entry into an area after the incident

Tow Truck Operator Qualifications

- Needs to be discussed to review current qualifications
- Means of identification for qualified/certified drivers
- How will the certification occur?
- Review of current training

Fire and EMS input to design of highways

- Develop work group to study notification process for interstate accidents – finding location of the call and studying interstate egress (turn around and breaks) as well as extended water supply so available to highways
- Meeting with VDOT to include fire and EMS in the highway design process
- State Fire Marshal's Office – may be a good link with VDOT; involve local offices for local highways; and determine current practices