



# Secure Commonwealth Panel Briefing: 2015 Hurricane Season

**Curtis Brown**

VDEM Chief Deputy State  
Coordinator

## **Mission Statement**

*To protect the lives and property of Virginia's citizens from emergencies and disasters by coordinating the state's emergency preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery efforts.*

**May 21, 2015**



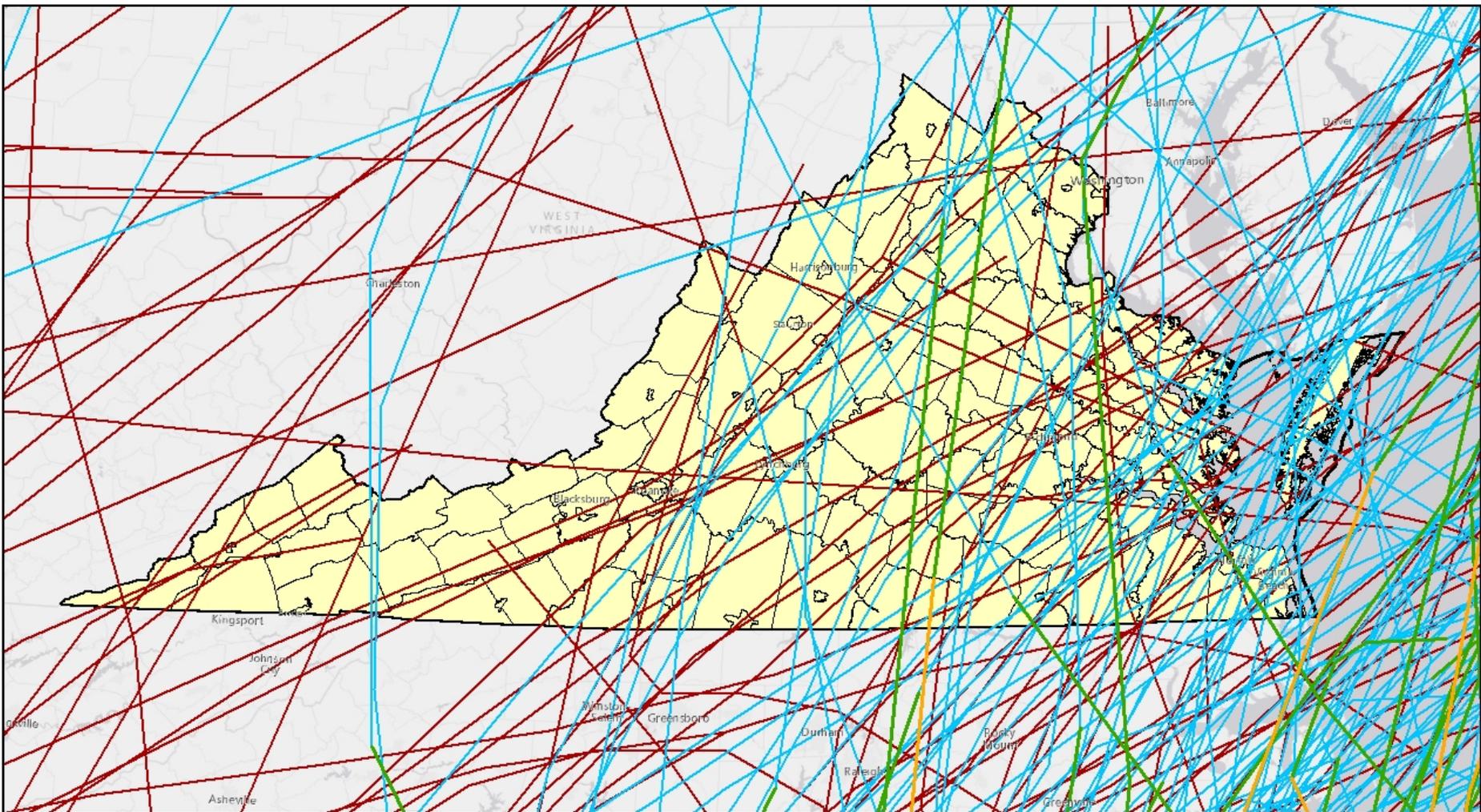
# 2015 Hurricane Forecast

Storm Type	2015 Outlook	Normal
Total Named Storms	7	11
Hurricanes CAT 1 or 2	3	6
Major Hurricanes CAT 3, 4 or 5	1	2



# Seasonal Hurricane Forecast

- NOAA's Seasonal Forecast has not yet been released.
- “Despite the forecast for below-average activity, coastal residents are reminded it only takes one (1) hurricane making landfall to make it an active season for them. They should prepare the same for every season, regardless of how much activity is predicted.” *(Colorado State University Forecast Team)*

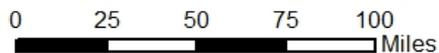


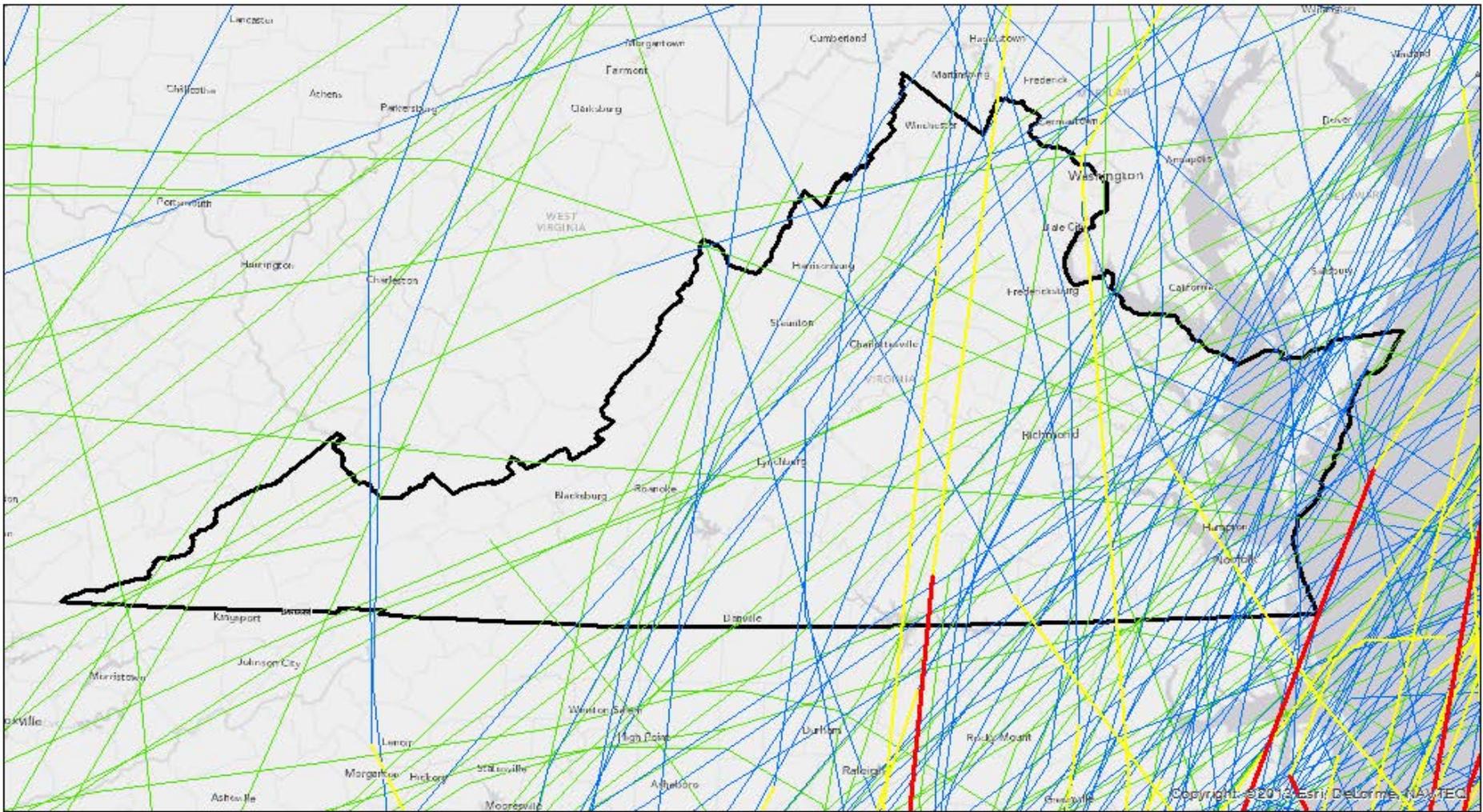
# Tropical Cyclone Activity in Virginia 1851 to 2014

## Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Categories

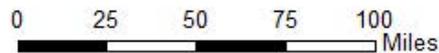
**Data Sources:**  
 NOAA Hurricane Tracks  
 VGIN Administrative  
 Boundaries  
 Map Updated:  
 4/28/2015

- |                                   |                            |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| — Tropical Depression (17-38 mph) | — Category 2 (96-110 mph)  | — Category 5 (157 mph or higher) |
| — Tropical Storm (39-73 mph)      | — Category 3 (111-129 mph) |                                  |
| — Category 1 (74-95 mph)          | — Category 4 (130-156 mph) |                                  |





## Tropical Storm Tracks by Wind Speed 1859 to Present



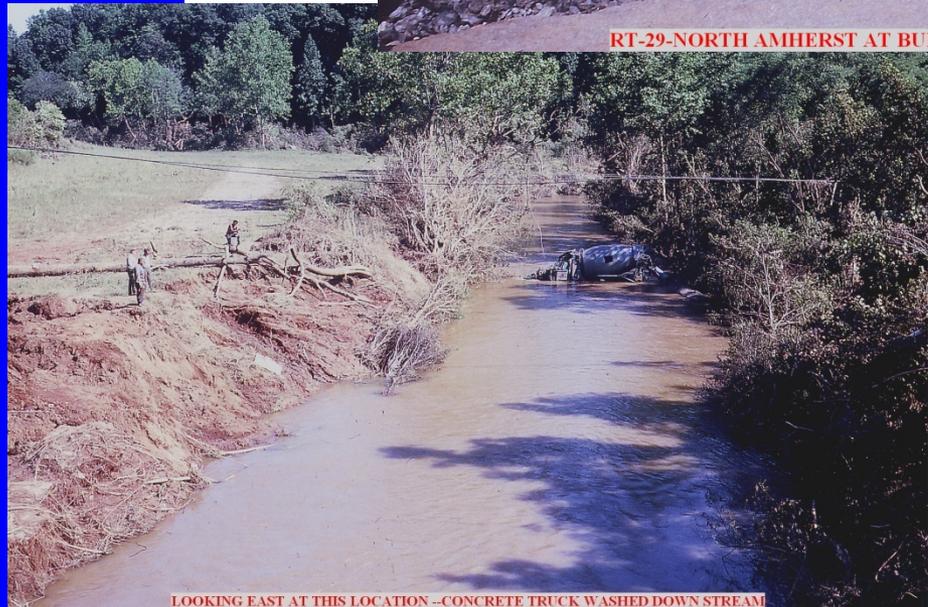
Copyright © 2013 ESRI, DeLorme, NAVTEC



# Hurricane Camille



RT-29-NORTH AMHERST AT BUFFALO RIVER-8-20-1969



LOOKING EAST AT THIS LOCATION --CONCRETE TRUCK WASHED DOWN STREAM





# 2014 In-Season Review of Hurricane Preparedness





# Hurricane Evacuation Group

- Comprised of:
  - Localities in Hampton Roads and Central Virginia,
  - State agencies, and
  - Other stakeholders in evacuation planning.
- Addressing many of the recommendations from the In-Season Review.



# In Season Review Summary

Number	Recommendation	Due Date	% Comp
<b>Short Term</b>			
SA-01	<b>Overall Situational Awareness Strategy</b> Virginia should identify an overall situational awareness strategy for the Commonwealth, including appropriate tools and data resources.	06/01/15	15%
SA-02	<b>Refine Conference Call Procedures</b> Virginia should refine conference call procedures for state, local, and regional conference calls.	06/01/15	80%
EV-03	<b>Adjust Hurricane Evacuation Timeline</b> The hurricane evacuation timeline should be adjusted to allow for more time to make decisions and implement plans prior to the arrival of tropical storm force winds. Virginia should approve the revised evacuation planning tools (e.g., timeline) for use this year (see Appendix G).	<u>08/31/14</u>	100%
SH-04	<b>Hire Sheltering Coordinator</b> Per Senate Bill 310, VDEM will conduct a thorough nationwide search to identify an innovative leader to assume the position of the Sheltering Coordinator to improve and coordinate with the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Department of Health (VDH) on the Commonwealth's sheltering preparedness and capabilities in the event of evacuations due to natural or man-made disasters by reviewing, evaluating, and developing a state-wide master plan for the implementation and operation of state and local emergency shelters in the Commonwealth.	<u>06/01/15</u>	100%
SH-05	<b>Identification of Shelter Locations</b> State and local shelter locations should be identified to include shelters that can meet the needs of individuals with access and functional needs. A recent federal court ruling indicates that prior knowledge of shelter locations allows for more complete personal preparedness planning.	06/01/15	50%
CN-06	<b>Planning for Transportation Dependent Citizens</b>	06/01/15	60%
PI-07	<b>RHR Subcommittee Structure</b> Virginia should assist the HRPDC's REMTAC in the development of the RHR Subcommittee structure. This subcommittee will be responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Completing the design of the RHR website,</li> <li>– Finalizing the RHR emergency communications framework, and</li> <li>– Beginning the virtual Joint Information Center (vJIC) training for PIOs.</li> </ul>	<u>06/01/15</u>	100%
PI-08	<b>Coordinate State/Local Public Messaging</b> Virginia and localities should coordinate state and local public messaging and upcoming actions (e.g., news conferences) via conference calls and/or the regional vJIC.	<u>06/01/15</u>	100%



# In Season Review Summary

## Long Term

SA-09	<b>Region 5 MACC</b> Virginia should consider supporting a Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) in VDEM Region 5.	08/15/16	10%
SA-10	<b>Identify GIS Data Layers</b> Virginia should continue to identify GIS data layers to facilitate information sharing between local and state organizations.	08/15/16	
SA-11	<b>WebFUSION</b> VDEM should continue the work currently in progress on the WebFUSION link to allow the different deployments of the product to work together.	08/15/16	
SA-12	<b>Link Situational Awareness Tools</b> VDEM should continue with work to link various situational awareness tools and/or versions of those tools to enable users to seamlessly share information.	08/15/16	
SA-13	<b>Training on NWS Tools</b> Virginia should develop training for localities to help familiarize them with the National Weather Service tools.	09/30/15	70%
SA-14	<b>Technology/Planning Along Evacuation Routes</b> Virginia should investigate the use of additional technology resources such as video monitoring and improve planning among the various jurisdictions along the evacuation routes.	02/28/16	



# Preparedness Outreach

Virginia's Hurricane Preparedness

## SALES TAX HOLIDAY

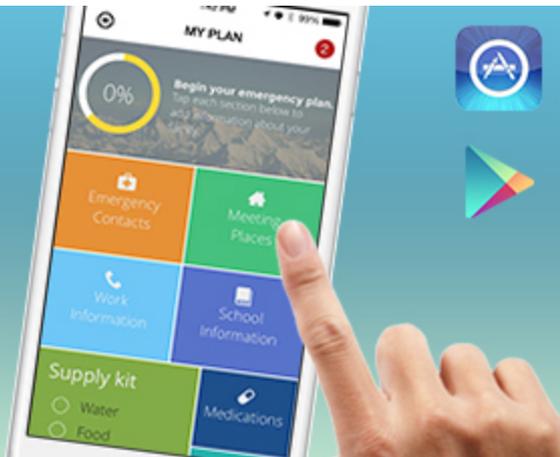
### May 25-31

Ice packs • Radios • Duct Tape • Batteries • Fire extinguishers • Tarps • First-aid kits • Flashlights • Buckets  
Two-way radios • Ratchet straps • Rope • Smoke detectors • Bottled water • Storm shutters • Manual can  
openers • Fuel containers • Ground anchor systems • Non-electric food storage coolers • Cell phone chargers  
NOAA weather radios

Ready  **virginia**  
[www.ReadyVirginia.gov](http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov)

Ready  **virginia.gov**  
version two | free mobile app

- ✓ New "I'm Safe" Feature
- ✓ Monitor Progress on Your Plan

A smartphone displaying the Ready Virginia app interface. The screen shows a progress bar at 0% and a list of sections: Emergency Contacts, Meeting Places, Work Information, School Information, Supply kit (with sub-items Water and Food), and Medications. A hand is shown interacting with the screen.



# Next Steps/On-going Efforts

## Enhancing Readiness

- Agency Reorganization – VERT/VMACT
- Checklist for Cabinet Responsibilities

## Sheltering

- Sheltering Coordinator
- Housing Workshop/RCPT

## Resiliency

- HUD Resilience Grant
- Mitigation Efforts



**Questions?**