

Emergency Management Committee
Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services
VA Public Safety Training Center – 7093 Broad Neck Road, Hanover
4/30/2026
10:35 am

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Others:
Joseph Williams (Chair)	Easton Peterson (Member at Large)	Sam Burnette (Staff Liaison)	Lisa Baber (GAB)
Stephanie Hackett (HRMMRS)	Dave Hoback (VA Fire Chiefs Assoc/VA FF Assoc)		David Long (TEMS)
Ray Whatley (VAGEMSA)	Robert Lipscomb (GAB/BREMS)		John Craig VI (VAFR)
Melissa Meador (GAB/TJEMS)			John Craig III (VAVR/SARS)
James Moss (VDH-OEP)			Kim Craig (GAB/VAFR)
Matthew Allen (VHHA)			Mary Binford (VDEM)
Steve Southworth (VAFR)			Gary Samuels (Bon Secours)
Will Drewery (VEMA)			Bruce Stratton (GAB/VAFR)
Michael Player (VA-1 DMAT)			
Sara Harrington (VDEM)			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
I. Call to order/Welcome:	The meeting was called to order at 10:35 am by Chair Joe Williams	
II. Introductions:	Committee Chair, Joseph Williams, opened the floor for introductions. The chair stated that there is remote participation that needs to be approved. A motion was made and seconded for approval for remote participation by James Moss and Melissa Meador.	
III. Agenda and Minutes:	Michael Player approved the agenda. Minutes from the February meeting were distributed and placed on Town Hall. A motion and second by Will Drewery and Ray Whatley, with the correction of marking Michael Player as absent. All approved with no objections.	
IV. Committee Member Reports:	<p>Joseph Williams – No report at this time.</p> <p>Michael Player - The Virginia-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team was on-call during the month of March but were not required to deploy.</p> <p>James Moss – The VDH Office of Emergency Preparedness is hosting the annual Community-Based Emergency Response Series (CBERS) Critical Mass, examining the intersection of Mass Care, Mass Fatality, and Mass Casualty Tabletop Exercises. VDH held a state-level full-scale exercise, Requisite Cardinal, to evaluate the ability of VDH and response partners (hospitals, healthcare coalitions, and emergency management) in responding to a large-scale biological incident, incorporating lessons learned from previous state exercises and the COVID-19 pandemic. VDH is in the midst of planning and coordination efforts related to 2026 Fifi World Cup and various American 250th events.</p> <p>Matthew Allen - On Wednesday, April 22nd VHHA hosted the 2026 Virginia Healthcare Emergency</p>	

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	<p>Preparedness Summit in Richmond. https://www.vhha.com/pressroom/vhha-hosts-2026-virginia-healthcare-emergency-preparedness-summit/. We had a total of 269 registered for the event and 245 in attendance. In partnership with Megan Middleton and Richmond Fire we offered 6 hours of EMS credits per attendee. A total of 152 hours were awarded consisting of 30 hours Cat 1 and 122 hours Cat 2. Please RSVP for free VHHA hospital documentary screenings May 11-18 celebrating National Hospital Week and the healthcare community. This project highlights hospital stories of compassionate patient care, community involvement and investment, and contributions to public health and the economy as well as an overview of hospital history in the Commonwealth and a century of service by VHHA. These events are free and refreshments will be provided. There will be folks from the hospital and healthcare community, including public health stakeholders and policymakers. This is an excellent networking opportunity. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and screenings will start at 6:30. Please share with hospitals and other community and civic contacts in your networks. RSVP links are below</p> <p>Monday, May 11: The Millwald Theatre in Wytheville https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/019d4efcb624718491872efc3b78063c</p> <p>Tuesday, May 12: The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen (Central Virginia) https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/019d4f011b1b7ac59f8394546eb707ac</p> <p>Wednesday, May 13: The Alamo Drafthouse Woodbridge (Northern Virginia) https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/019d4f03ccbd7b759067b3e4a0611989</p> <p>Thursday, May 14: Woodstock Community Theatre (Shenandoah Valley) https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/019d4eea7c34779d90e0986ed7dac246</p> <p>Friday, May 15: The American Theatre in Hampton (Hampton Roads) https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/019d4f0748ad78aa96c3735591451556</p> <p>Monday, May 18: The Grandin Theatre in Roanoke https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/019d4f0a73ed7aec963e8f27f47c7a56</p> <p>VHHA Training link: https://form.jotform.com/260643479127058</p> <p>Steve Southworth – Enrolled in a Leadership Incident Fortification Training course in Wheeling, West Virginia, put on by the Association of Air Medical Services. This training brought professionals from all over the United States. This training was about how teams respond to aircraft crashes or ground unit crashes and the ability to support the management of the department, help provide resources, bring counseling, help with memorial services, go to the site, and assist employees. The VAFR is in the process of creating a team, but until then, if anybody is in need of a team, call VAFR. The first annual Virginia First Responder Symposium at Virginia Tech and Blacksburg will be held on June 12-21. Symposium with four tracks available in training for EMS, Fire, Law Enforcement, 911 Communicators, and Mental Health. The deadline to sign up is May 15.</p> <p>Sara Harrington – Reported for Andy John. One of the biggest initiatives right now is assisting the Governor’s office with the unified readiness preparedness summits that are making their way through the state. They have successfully completed one in Region 4. The next one will be in Hampton Roads, but there are no specific dates yet. VDEM encourages everybody to make sure that your local</p>	

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	<p>emergency manager has all the proper contacts from their respective agencies to ensure the invitation is received. VDEM is taking on a heavy lift with Sale 250 coming in June as there will be a lot of stakeholders, federal, state, and local partners. They continue to offer numerous training events through the website training center, with eight classes going on this week. Basic foundation academy classes are up to 73 this year. If you are interested in taking any of them, go online and register.</p> <p>Ray Whatley – Nothing to report</p> <p>Melissa Meador – City of Charlottesville had one EOC activation in January for Winter Storm Fern, multiple special events over the last 3 months; Tom Tom Festival, Freedom Day Walk, The Run for the Home 8K, Charlottesville Ten Miler, & the Charlottesville Marathon. They monitored multiple protests that have occurred; January 11, February 27, March 28, March 30, April 11, and April 16, supported exercises conducted by the Charlottesville Airport and the Blue Ridge Health District. There is a protest scheduled for Friday, May 1, 2026, a scheduled special event, Bank on the Run 5K, Saturday, May 2, 2026 two continuity of operations drills scheduled for May 28, 2026 and June 10, 2026; third TBD. They are working on a sheltering tabletop exercise with VDEM for late summer and drill next spring, supporting UVA with the National Lacrosse Championship May 23-25, 2026, and pre-planning for the 50th Anniversary of the Downtown Mall on July 3, 2026 as well as July 4th operations throughout the City. Fluvanna County had no EOC activations, working toward filling the vacant EM position, and the Breomo Bluff Power Station Emergency Action Plan tabletop drill was completed. Greene County had one EOC activation in January for Winter Storm Fern. The work continues on our Active Shooter/Hostile Event Guide. They are pre-planning efforts for July 4th event, served as an evaluator for the Blue Ridge Health District’s full-scale exercise last week, ARES/CERT tabletop drill on May 2, 2026. They are updating mutual aid agreements to include fire, EMS, emergency management, and drone operations. They hosted ICS 300 February 11-13, 2026, ICS 400 April 14-15, 2026. A burn ban went into effect on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 and a boil Water Advisory for a portion of Greene County due to a water main break, April 21-23, 2026; opened a bottled water point of distribution site. Staff attended the VEMS Conference March 17-19, 2026 and the Hydro Summit hosted by the NWS April 8, 2026. No report for Albemarle, Louisa, and Nelson County.</p> <p>Will Drewery – VEMA had an excellent symposium last month in Norfolk with the second largest attendance in their history. The next symposium will be March 8-11 in Spotsylvania at the Calahari resort.</p>	
V. Unfinished Business:	There was no unfinished business to discuss.	
VI. New Business	Committee Membership Review - The Chair opened discussion regarding the current makeup of the committee and noted inconsistencies in identifying active members and organizational representation. The committee discussed the need to clarify membership, update representation, and coordinate with the Executive Committee to ensure the committee structure aligns with bylaws and organizational needs. Discussion included the need for reviewing active membership and attendance, clarifying the bylaws, determining appropriate organizational representation moving forward, updating representation for	

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	<p>agencies and stakeholder groups, and reviewing member-at-large participation and possible future restructuring. The committee is limited to 10 committee members, and approval from the executive board is needed to carry more members. A motion was made to table further discussion regarding committee composition until the Chair receives additional guidance from the Executive Committee. The motion carried by consensus.</p> <p>Future Direction of the Committee - The Chair led a discussion regarding the future direction of the committee and potential projects and initiatives. Members discussed the importance of developing meaningful projects that support EMS and emergency management stakeholders, ensuring the committee remains productive and engaged in statewide initiatives. The Chair reviews historical accomplishments of the committee, including the DC evacuation planning efforts, Mass casualty incident triage tag initiatives, and emergency management coordination projects. The Chair emphasized the importance of continuing productive work and maintaining relevance within the EMS and emergency management community.</p> <p>Statewide Training and Events Calendar Proposal - A proposal was introduced to develop a statewide calendar of EMS and emergency management events, exercises and drills, training opportunities, regional and statewide initiatives. There was discussion on existing reporting systems and training notification tools already available through OEMS and partner agencies, the importance of making information timely and accessible, potential methods for distributing information through websites, committee communications, or stakeholder distribution lists, and coordination with existing training resources maintained by partner organizations. Several members expressed support for the concept and volunteered to assist in exploring options for implementation.</p> <p>Committee Communications and Branding - The committee discussed the possibility of developing formal committee communication materials, including standardized letterhead, official committee branding, guidance for official publications, and communications. Members recommended bringing the discussion to the Executive Committee for broader guidance and consistency across committees.</p> <p>Charter and Committee Goals - Discussion was held regarding the development of a formal committee charter that would help define the committee's purpose, membership structure, goals and objectives, and planned initiatives. The committee agreed it would be more appropriate to first establish goals and objectives before drafting a charter for the next fiscal year. Members were encouraged to submit recommendations for committee goals and objectives by July 1 so they may be discussed at the August meeting.</p> <p>VHHA announced its intent to continue participation and nominated Scott Cormir as its representative. The Virginia Association of First Responders requested continued representation and clarification of its updated organizational name. Further discussion occurred regarding representation from regional EMS councils and communications workgroups.</p>	

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VI. Public Comment:	There was no public comment.	
VII. Date of Next Meeting:	August 6, 2026. More details will be available before the next meeting.	
VIII. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 11:24 am. Motion and second by Melissa Meador and James Moss.	

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