

CREATION OF A VIRGINIA STATE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM (SMAT) PROGRAM



FEMA STRATEGIC PLAN (2018-2022)

- FEMA Administrator Brock Long stated "...that disasters should be federally supported, state managed, and locally executed."
- STRATEGIC GOAL 2: Ready the Nation for Catastrophic Disasters
 - Objective 2.1 Organize the "BEST" (Build, Empower, Sustain, and Train) Scalable and Capable Incident Workforce
 - Building the capabilities and capacities to fulfill our responsibility to effectively respond to a catastrophic event

STRATEGIC GOAL 2:
Ready the Nation
for Catastrophic
Disasters



DHHS - REGIONAL DISASTER HEALTH RESPONSE SYSTEM

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response – ASPR – advocates for:
 - states and territories to be ready to respond quickly and efficiently
 - building coordinated capabilities for all types of disasters
 - leveraging and enhancing existing programs
 - Mobilizing physicians and health practitioners when needed without bureaucratic frustrations and legal risks

DHHS - REGIONAL DISASTER HEALTH RESPONSE SYSTEM



Integrating Medical Response Capabilities

Integrating medical response capabilities, including federal facilities and emergency medical services (EMS).



Expanding Specialty Care Expertise

Expanding specialty care expertise in trauma and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear casualty management.



Coordinating Medical Response

Coordinating medical response through mutual aid across state, local, tribal, territorial, and regional jurisdictions.



Building on Regional Healthcare Coalitions

Building on regional healthcare coalitions and better integrating public and private sector partners to improve preparedness and response.

EXISTING INTERSTATE PROGRAMS

- Florida (7) State Medical Response Team (SMRT)
- North Carolina State Medical Assistance Team (SMAT; Multi-tier; Type 1-4)
- Texas (7) Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF)
- California (6) California Medical Assistance Team (CAL-MAT)
- South Carolina (4) Regional Medical Assistance Team (RMAT)
- Illinois (1) Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team (IMERT)
- Mississippi (1) State Medical Assistance Team (SMAT)
- Pennsylvania (3) State Medical Assistance Team (SMAT)



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA PROGRAMS

- Incident Management Team (3 and 1 in development) - VDEM
- Radio Cache Team (5) - VDEM
- Regional Hazardous Materials Team (13) - VDEM
- Search & Rescue Team (13 ground, 7 canine, and Civil Air Patrol) - VDEM
- Regional Technical Rescue Team (7) - VDFP
- USAR (2) VA-TF-1; VA-TF-2 – DHS/FEMA
- DMAT (1) VA-1 DMAT (not deployable in state) - DHHS
- **Medical Teams - ???**

State Medical Assistance Team (SMAT)

- A State Medical Assistance Team (SMAT) is a multi-disciplined team of medical and non-medical professionals, established to provide **mobile** medical support for short and long term disasters or catastrophic events.
- Similar to the National Disaster Medical System – Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT)

Regional / State Venture (Transition the HRMMST to a Type-I SMAT)

- 17 Jurisdictions contribute per capita to sustain the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Response System (\$8M in assets)
 - Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Strike Team
 - Disaster Medical Response Equipment (Disaster Medical Support Units, Shelter Support Units, Bariatric Support Units)
 - Pharmaceutical Cache (nerve agent antidotes, antibiotics, hazmat drug boxes)
- State Partner (VDH)
 - Augment medical staffing
 - Augment medical equipment/capabilities
 - Augment pharmaceutical cache
 - Augment Training & Exercises



Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical Strike Team (HRMMST)

- The HRMMST is:
 - a 44 member,
 - regionally available,
 - CBRNE trained,
 - All-hazards capable (CBRN)
 - Emergency medical response team



HRMMST Capabilities

- Medical Casualty Management and Patient Movement Coordination
- Warm Zone Triage, Decontamination, and Monitoring & Detection
- Rehabilitation and Medical Force Protection
- Medical Consultation and Coordination
- Chemical Weapon and Toxic Industrial Chemical Antidote Administration
- Functional/Medical Needs Sheltering Assistance
- Mass Fatality Assistance

Augmenting Current Staffing

- **Nursing Support** – primarily staffing
 - Emergency Room and Critical Care Nurses
- **Radiology Support** – staffing and equipment
 - X-ray Technicians
- **Respiratory Support** – staffing and equipment
 - Respiratory Therapists
- **Pharmacy Support** – staffing and additional pharmaceuticals
 - Pharmacists/Pharmacy Technicians
- **Physicians** - staffing



Additional SMAT Capabilities

- Augment hospital staffing (primarily ED)
- Establish an Alternate Care Facility
- Augment staffing for HID outbreak
- Capability to support Isolation / Quarantine mission

Potential Resource Utilization

- **Local/Regional** – i.e. 17 jurisdictions of Hampton Roads Planning District – local regional response – shared financial cost
- **State** – throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia – statewide mutual aid; may receive reimbursement
- **EMAC (Interstate)** – all United States and territories – interstate requests are competitive and reimbursable; however, it does not cover portal to portal (typically covers 12 hours of work per day)
- **Federal (?)** – Augment in extremes (Harvey, Irma, Maria) – would be similar to an EMAC request; dollars come from federal government vs. state government

Deployment Model

- Request process
- Notification process
- Mobilization process
- Response process
- Demobilization process
- Reimbursement process



Future Expansion – Type II Teams

(align with the IMT program)

- Type II – would not have the CBRN (all-hazards) capability
- Central Virginia
- Northern Virginia
- Western Virginia

Complex Issues

- **Memorandum of Agreements**
- **Financial reimbursement** – responders, cache replenishment, logistical support, repairs
- **Scope of practice** (Altered Standards of Care)
- **Worker's Compensation**
- **Liability Insurance**
- **Extension of medical practice/licensing/credentialing** – EMAC addresses this, but there does not appear to be an in-state solution
- **Team composition** – multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional, pre-hospital, hospital, safety & security (flexible to meet needs of mission)
- **Mission Types** - Development of Mission Ready Packages (MRPs)
- **Training and Exercising**

Questions??
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