

# Local Health District Shelter Operations Tabletop Exercise

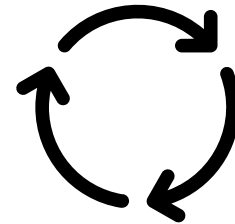
May 2023 (V1.0)

# Exercise Schedule

Event	Time
Welcome and Introductions	10 Minutes
Scenario Brief/Situation Update	10 Minutes
Group Discussion	60 Minutes
• <i>Assessment Questions</i>	
• <i>Strategies Questions</i>	
• <i>Challenges and Constraints Questions</i>	
Hotwash	30 Minutes
Closing Comments	10 Minutes

# Exercise Overview

- This exercise is intended to take place over 90-120 Minutes based on local needs.
- It is intended for use by all Local Health District Staff and Volunteers that have a role in hurricane response

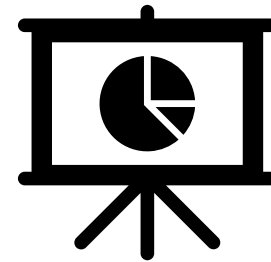


# Exercise Purpose

- The purpose of the Local Health District Shelter Operations Readiness Tabletop Exercise is to examine and discuss the capabilities necessary to support shelter activation and operations in accordance with local Plans, policies and procedures and established VDH training curricula in response to a Category 3 Hurricane that will begin to impact Virginia in the next 72 hours.

# Exercise Structure

- This exercise is designed to be delivered via a single facilitator, in a “single” group format
- The Facilitator will provide an update on the impending storm and then all attendees will be directed questions based on the exercise objectives
- Upon completion of the group discussion the facilitator will lead participants through a 30 minute Hotwash



# Objectives and Aligned Capabilities

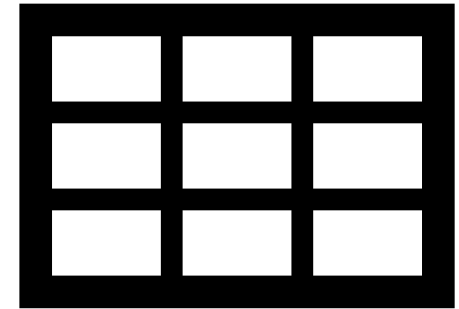
- Objective: Assess LHD capabilities to support shelter activation within 72 hours in accordance with local Plans, policies and procedures in response to a Category 3 Hurricane impacting the Commonwealth (*Aligns to PHEP Capability 7-Mass Care*)
- Objective: Examine local strategies that can be employed to assist in shelter operations in accordance with local plans, policies and procedures in response to a Category 3 Hurricane impacting the Commonwealth in the next 72 hours (*Aligns to PHEP Capability 7-Mass Care*)
- Objective: Identify challenges and constraints to support of shelter activation and operations in response to the impacts of a Category 3 Storm on the Commonwealth in the next 72 hours (*Aligns to PHEP Capability 7-Mass Care*)

# Exercise Artificialities

- Some actions may have been taken prior to the starting point in the scenario
- The 72-hour starting point may or may not be realistic, however it was chosen to increase realism and place time constraints on issues discussed
- All agencies are acting in their respective response capabilities in preparation for the storm
- Dates do not correspond with actual 2023 dates
- Your locality will be opening shelters
- If you have a State Coordinator Regional Shelter (SCRS) in your district, assume that facility will be activated

# Exercise Guidelines

- This is an open no-fault environment. Varying viewpoints, even disagreements, are expected and open discussion is encouraged.
- Base your responses on the existing plans and capabilities of your organization.
- Decisions are not precedent setting; consider different approaches and suggest improvements.
- Issue identification is not as valuable as suggestions and recommended actions that could improve Mass Care efforts; problem-solving efforts should be the focus.





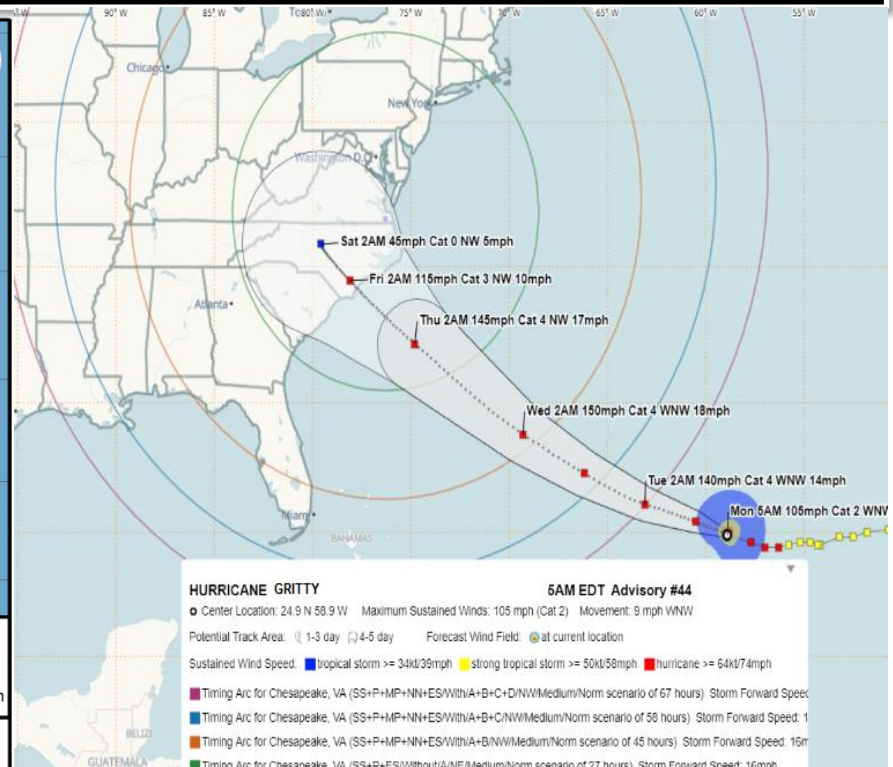
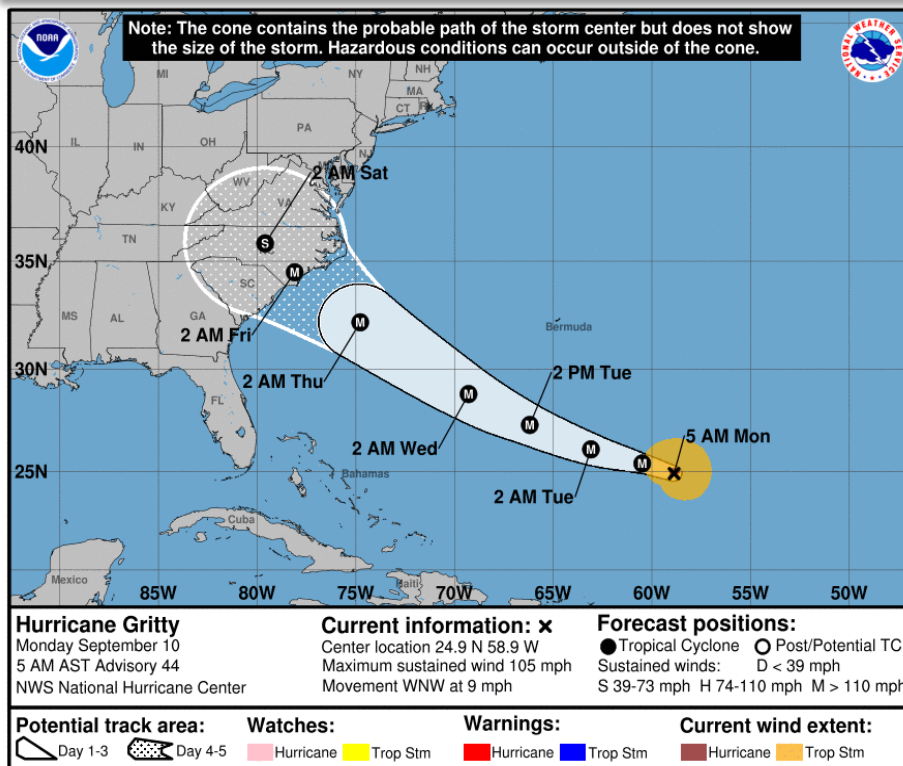
# SCENARIO BRIEF/SITUATION UPDATE

# Scenario Background

- In the early morning of Monday, September 3, 2023, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) reports that Tropical Storm Gritty has formed with maximum sustained wind speeds of 60 miles per hour (mph).
- In the early-morning hours of Wednesday, September 5, 2023, the storm continues to move westward as a Category 2 hurricane with sustained winds of 105 mph.
- Despite the uncertainty of the storm track, the rare intensity of this storm causes U.S. authorities to closely monitor its progression.

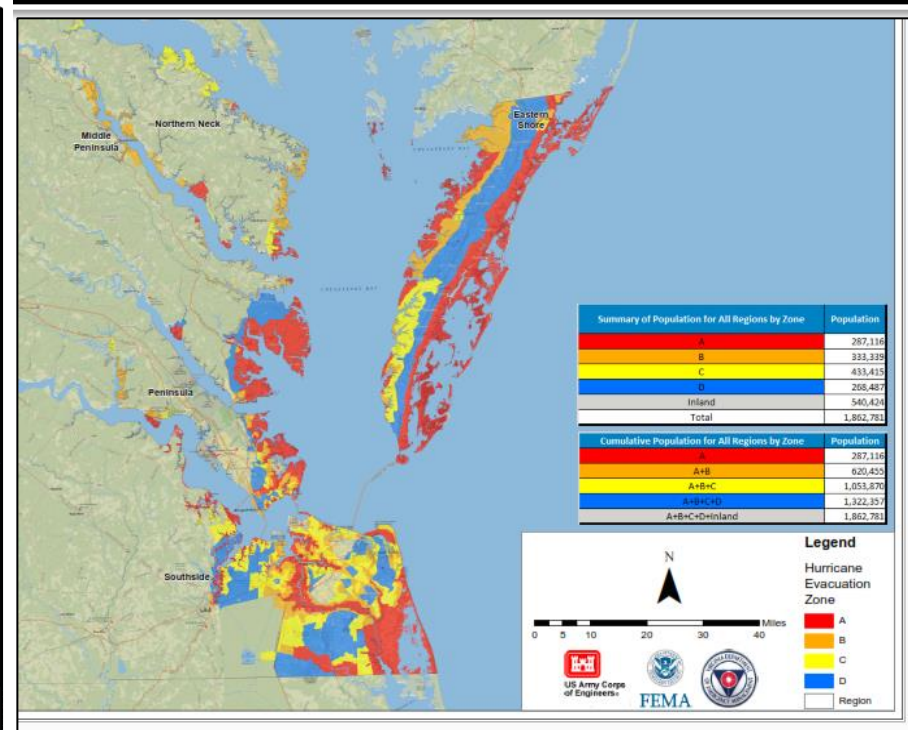
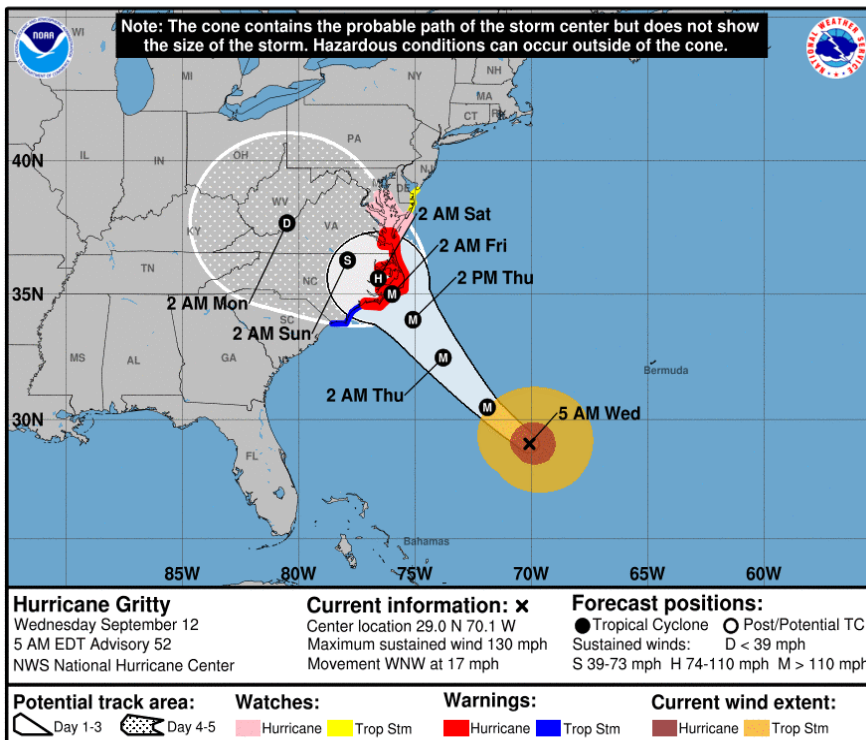
# 5:00 AM ET Monday, September 10, 2023 Landfall Timeline (96 Hours to Landfall)

**96 Hrs. to Landfall: 105 mph winds, CAT 2 hurricane; Tropical storm winds extend 100 miles**



# 5:00 AM ET Tuesday, September 11, 2023 Landfall Timeline (72 Hours to Landfall)

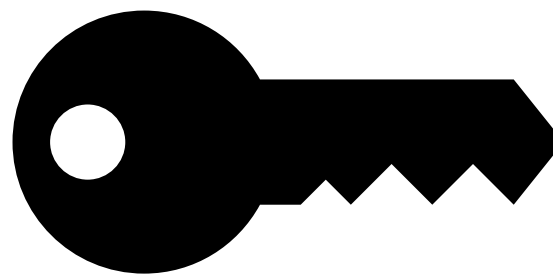
**72 Hrs. to Landfall: 140 mph winds; Tropical storm winds extend 180 miles**



**Population for all Regions by Zone for Evacuation**

# Key Issues

- Approximately, 250,000 people could be displaced, including local residents and military personnel living in the region, causing shelters to remain at full capacity
- State Coordinated Regional Shelters along with Local Shelters will be active in response to this storm
- This storm system will deliver tornadoes and torrential rains across Virginia compounding the need for all types of shelters



# Group Discussion

- 60 Minute total discussion based on:
  - Assessment
  - Strategies
  - Challenges and Constraints
- Document your responses using the Information Collection and Analysis Plan (ICAP)



Group Discussion Round 1 Time-20 Minutes

# ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

# Assessment Questions

- What are our initial priorities if we assume that support for local and State Coordinated Regional Shelters is expected?
- How can we assess the personal and family preparedness of our staff that will be called upon to support shelter operations?
- How do we assess the communities' sheltering needs and capabilities when we may be experiencing significant limitations in staffing, communications, and our ability to establish an effective and coordinated common operating picture?



# Assessment Questions (Cont.)

- What sheltering support (resources and services) is expected from external agencies or organizations, and what support do they expect from existing agreements with us?
- What sheltering support is outlined within our agency's current plans, policies, procedures? Nursing? Environmental Health? Medical Reserve Corps? Other?
- At what point would we request additional help? What is the process?

Group Discussion Round 2 Time-20 Minutes

# STRATEGIES QUESTIONS

# Strategies Questions

- What plans, planning factors, elements of information, and situational awareness is necessary to establish and maintain sheltering strategies?
- How are the current plans, policies, procedures, and/or agreements addressing the establishment of temporary shelters?
- How are life sustaining sheltering needs operationally prioritized and coordinated? Do our plans identify all resources necessary to meet mass care sheltering needs?

# Strategies Questions (Cont.)

- How do the state plan(s) incorporate tribal and local jurisdictional priorities and strategies into operational coordination and decision making?
- What is our strategy for Access and Functional Needs, religious accommodations, children/infant and elderly survivors, language barriers, and pet accommodations within a feeding strategy?
- What is our financial and administrative preparedness strategy for staff? Hours worked documentation, Financial help? Access to Mental Health resources?

Group Discussion Round 3 Time-20 Minutes

# **CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS QUESTIONS**

# Challenges and Constraints Questions

- What limitations, challenges, and constraints exist that must be overcome regarding support for sheltering and displaced survivors?
- What limitations, challenges and constraints exist that must be overcome regarding our ability to support both local and possibly State Shelter support with respect to our staff and volunteers?
- What limitations, challenges and constraints exist with regard to long duration support to shelters?

# Hotwash

- **Objective 1:**
  - Strengths
  - Areas For Improvement
- **Objective 2:**
  - Strengths
  - Areas For Improvement
- **Objective 3:**
  - Strengths
  - Areas For Improvement
- **Hotwash Rules:**
  - Be respectful of other opinions and feedback
  - Remember the goal: Gain perspectives and best practices for continued response
  - Link your responses back to the Exercise Objectives

# Closing Comments