



Emergency Management Update

Town Council Regular Meeting

September 9, 2025

Establishment of the **Office of Emergency Management**

- Originated in December of 2020 during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- The office and program were created by Ordinance 2022-11 at the July 12, 2022, Town Council Meeting.
- Chapter 20 – Emergency Management - Town of Warrenton, Code of Ordinances.
- Serves as the Agency of Emergency Management for the Town of Warrenton.
- The office is governed by the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Services and Disaster Law of 2000. Code of Virginia, § 44-146.13 et seq.

Emergency Management Personnel

- The Town Manager shall be the director of emergency management (within Chapter 20 as, the "director").
 - Mr. Frank Cassidy serves as our Director of Emergency Management
- Code of Virginia, Title 44, Chapter 3.2 § 44-146.19. Powers and duties of political subdivisions.
 - 4. In the case of the Towns of Chincoteague and West Point and of towns with a population in excess of 5,000 having an emergency management organization separate from that of the county, the mayor or town manager shall appoint a coordinator of emergency services with consent of council;
 - Assigned to Mr. Johnny Switzer by Frank Cassidy on August 20, 2024, upon the departure of previous incumbent.

Designation of Emergency Management Organization

- Request was submitted to the Virginia Dept. of Emergency Management on February 4, 2025.
- Affirmed by VDEM, Acting State Coordinator John J. Scrivani on April 22, 2025.

Excerpt of letter from State Coordinator Scrivani

Director Cassidy,

I am pleased to inform you that the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) has approved the Town of Warrenton's request to be recognized as an independent political subdivision solely for the purposes of emergency management, as defined in §44-146.16 of the Code of Virginia. This designation affirms the town's commitment to maintaining a robust and self-sufficient emergency management program in accordance with Title 44 of the Code of Virginia.

As an independent emergency management jurisdiction, the Town of Warrenton is now responsible for establishing and maintaining a comprehensive local emergency management program.

We commend the Town of Warrenton for its commitment to strengthening local emergency preparedness and resilience. As a political subdivision in VDEM Region 2, the Region 2 team will serve as your primary point of contact for the state and be available to support your town in preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating against the impacts of disasters. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you require any support developing and enhancing your program.

Congratulations on this important milestone. We look forward to working closely with you to enhance the safety and security of your community.

Sincerely,

John Scrivani,

Acting State Coordinator of Emergency Management

Designation of Emergency Management Agency

- **Robust Emergency Management Program**
- **Enhanced Coordination & Response**
- **Access to Funding Opportunities**
- **Utilization of VDEM Systems**
 - **(WebEOC, Crisis Track, and EM Grants)**
- **Training and Exercise Opportunities**



Next Steps

- **Council Confirmation of the appointments for the Director & Coordinator of Emergency Management**
 - **Mr. Frank Cassidy, Director of Emergency Management**
 - **Mr. Johnny Switzer, Coordinator of Emergency Management**
- **Establishment of **ALERT WARRENTON** notification and emergency warning system.**
- **Review of the 2025 Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) Update**

Next Steps Continued

- **Application to VDEM for Public Assistance relating to the July 17, 2025 Flash Flooding.**
- **Review of the Town of Warrenton & Red Cross Emergency Shelter Project located at the Warrenton Aquatic & Recreation Facility.**

Update

Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)

- **The COOP was established and implemented in 2022**
- **February 11, 2025 - Town Council Meeting Review of COOP update.**
- **April 22, 2025 – COOP revised to indicate standalone EMA designation.**
- **September 09, 2025 – COOP reviewed with Town Council during work session.**
- **October 14, 2025 – Anticipated COOP adoption at Town Council Meeting**

Update

March 5, 2025 Columbia Gas Emergency

\$19,922.40 in staff costs to effectively respond to and mitigate the impact of the emergency.

2nd Request for Reimbursement Submitted August 29, 2025

Update

July 17, 2025 – 200 Year Flash Flooding Event

- **Infrastructure Damages to Date \$109,250**
- **Application for VDEM Public Assistance (PA) started**
 - **EM Coordinator & Budget Manager Attended VDEM Applicant Briefing on July 30, 2025.**
- **Documentation Due to VDEM by October 29, 2025**

Update

Emergency Shelter Project at the WARF

- **Sheltering Supplies on-hand for 25 persons**
- **Met with Viviana Cristian, Community Disaster Program Manager, on July 14, 2025, for a certification walk-through of the Aquatic and Recreation Facility.**
- **Fauquier DSS and County EM were also in attendance.**

Next Steps

- **Consider Red Cross Facilities Use Agreement**
- **Work with Red Cross for Staff Training and SOP guidance**

Update

9/6 – Severe Weather Event

- **Approximately 15 incidents involving downed trees, limbs, power, and related utility lines.**
- **Police, Public Works & Utilities, Emergency Management, and DFREM responded to weather-related incidents among normal calls for service.**
- **Weather track shows “line” of damage extending from Winchester St to Rt. 29. EM is in talks with the NWS on a damage assessment.**



Questions?