



NEWS RELEASE

Virginia Department of Emergency Management

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State and local agencies continue response efforts in southwestern Virginia

RICHMOND, VA – State and local agencies are continuing response efforts to assist residents living in southwestern Virginia. Nearly 30 shelters have opened across the Commonwealth, mostly in the southwestern part of the state, where heavy snow has caused nearly 55,000 power outages. Snow removal and road clearing efforts continue.

Approximately 500 people are in shelters in the city of Norton and the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, King and Queen, Lee, Russell, Scott, and Wise.

- The Virginia National Guard is moving 150 soldiers into southwestern Virginia to assist local governments with recovery operations and debris removal, distribute food and water, and transport emergency workers and citizens to shelters.
- The Virginia departments of Forestry and Fire Programs are assisting localities with clearing debris.
- The Virginia Department of Transportation has made progress clearing interstates and primary roads, though conditions remain hazardous due to ice. Motorists can expect delays due to road conditions. Secondary road conditions remain moderate to severe.
- The Virginia State Police continue to respond to calls for service. VSP has answered nearly 16,000 calls for service since Friday.
- The Virginia Department of Emergency Management is working to deliver 100,000 gallons of water to residents in southwestern Virginia to ensure that they have water until power can be restored to the area.

If residents must travel, they should use extreme caution travelling on all roads.

Motorists should dial #77 or 911 only in an emergency. Traffic alerts and traveler information are available by dialing 511 or by visiting <http://511Virginia.org>. In areas where 511 is unavailable, dial (866) 695-1182.

In Virginia, there have been seven deaths; two have been confirmed as directly related to the storm, and three are indirectly related. Investigation continues on two others.

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