SILVER JACKETS

Many Agencies One Solution

WHAT IS THE SILVER JACKETS PROGRAM?

The Silver Jackets is an innovative program that provides an opportunity to consistently bring together multiple state, Federal, and sometimes tribal and local agencies to learn from one another and jointly apply resources to reduce flood risk. The Silver Jackets teams are state-led interagency teams. No single agency has all the answers, but often multiple programs can be leveraged to provide a cohesive solution.

VIRGINIA SILVER JACKETS MISSION STATEMENT

To function as a catalyst in the identification and resolution of flood hazards to support the reduction of flood risk within the Commonwealth to include such items as flood observation and warning systems, planning, flood hazard mapping, flood hazard mitigation, dams, as well as flood response and recovery activities.

CURRENT PARTICIPATING AGENCIES:

The services provided by VDEM include emergency planning technical assistance, flood observation and warning information, disaster recovery assistance, and mitigation planning and project development.

The mission of DCR is to provide opportunities that encourage and enable people to enjoy, protect and restore Virginia's natural and cultural resources. The mission of the Dam Safety & Floodplain Management Division is to protect life and property from the effects of natural and man-made flooding. These goals are achieved by the regulation of the safe design, construction, and operation of dams and by assistance to localities for floodplain management to meet the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program.

NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. Flood services include river forecasts, flood watches and warnings, flood inundation maps and extended streamflow prediction through the NWS's Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services (AHPS) webpage **http://water.weather.gov**.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. FEMA Region III's jurisdiction includes Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia.

The services provided by NRCS include the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, which provides assistance to communities to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster, the purchase of floodplain easements, and a Dam Rehabilitation Program for dams built with NRCS assistance.

The United States Geological Survey provides realtime streamflow and water level data that is used to help predict flood timing and magnitude at numerous locations throughout Virginia and is actively involved in the development of flood inundation mapping products across the Nation. Working with fellow Silver Jackets agencies, the USGS is providing flood inundation mapping science resources to help build more resilient communities.

US Army Corps of Engineers ® USACE provides support through special studies and general technical services, including, but not limited to floodplain mapping and analysis support, through their Flood Plain Management Services Program. Through the Planning Assistance to States Program, they form partnerships with localities for various studies. In addition, technical assistance for pre-flood preparation activities is provided through the Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies Program.

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THE VIRGINIA SILVER JACKETS TEAM

A team of individuals from both Federal and state agencies that come together to facilitate collaboration, share information, and leverage resources to identify and implement solutions to reduce flood risk in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

SILVER JACKETS IN VIRGINIA

- Charter was signed on December 22, 2010

PRIMARY GOALS

- Better collaborative solutions
- Improved risk communication
- Leverage information and resources
- Coordinated hazard mitigation assistance
- Identify gaps

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Reduced flood risk
- Better understanding of each agency's programs
- Interagency collaboration
- Multi-agency technical resource for state and local agencies
- Facilitate response and integrated post-disaster recovery

WHY THE NAME SILVER JACKETS?

Traditionally, different agencies wear different colored jackets when responding to emergencies. For example, FEMA personnel wear blue and Corps personnel wear red. The name Silver Jackets is used to underscore the common mission of the diverse agencies involved.

NATIONAL SILVER JACKET TEAMS PROJECT EXAMPLES

- Louisa County, Iowa, #11 Levee District, Example of Non-Structural and Natural Storage Project: Through the cooperation of Louisa County, state mitigation agencies, USACE and NRCS, 3,200 acres of floodplain were restored, gaining not only flood storage benefits, but improved environmental habitat.

- Real Time Flood Inundation Model, Indiana, Example of Outreach (Risk Communication) and Building a Tool to Facilitate Mitigation (Land Use and Non-Structural): Federal Agencies, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and Purdue University participated in developing a web-based viewer for use by emergency management personal and the public to view both real-time location and depth of flooding and predictions for future flooding.

Description of these and other project examples can be found on the National Silver Jackets Website:
http://www.nfrmp.us/state/bestpractices.cfm

Contact Us at the Virginia Silver Jackets Website:
http://www.nfrmp.us/state/factVirginia.cfm

PHOTOS ON THE COVER:
Top: Gloucester County after Hurricane Isabel (wave action) -- *US Army photo*
Bottom Left: Buena Vista Floodwall during construction -- *US Army photo*
Bottom Right: City of Poquoson after Hurricane Isabel -- *VA DCR photo*

VIRGINIA SILVER JACKETS
MANY AGENCIES ONE SOLUTION
Be Risk Aware!