

## **Emergency Support Function # 3 – Public Works**

### **Primary Agencies**

Public Works  
General Services

### **Secondary/Support Agencies**

Emergency Management  
Building Inspection  
Planning and Zoning  
Parks and Recreation  
Water Authorities  
Law Enforcement  
Assessor  
Public Schools  
Virginia Department of Transportation  
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Virginia Department of Health  
Extension Office

### *Introduction*

ESF #3 addresses the public works infrastructure within Rockbridge County, City of Buena Vista, and the City of Lexington following an emergency or disaster. Functions such as maintenance, inspections, buildings and grounds, debris removal, and facilities management will be addressed in this ESF. ESF # 3 coordinates with the Damage Assessment Team, as described in the Damage Assessment Support Annex.

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of ESF #3 is to:

- Assess the overall damage to the community after a disaster; and
- Assist with the recovery.

### **Scope:**

The scope of work includes the following, but is not limited to:

- Pre-incident assessment and mitigation, if necessary;
- Assess extent of damage;
- Repair and maintenance;
- Debris removal;
- Provide maintenance of the buildings and grounds and engineering-related support; and
- Clear roadways.

### **Policies:**

- Personnel will stay up to date with procedures through training and education;
- The Department of Public Works will develop work priorities in conjunction with other agencies when necessary;
- Local authorities may obtain required waivers and clearances related to ESF #3 support; and
- Acquiring outside assistance with repairs to the facility that are beyond the capability of the community.

## Concept of Operations

### General:

Following a disaster, Rockbridge County, City of Buena Vista, and the City of Lexington Officials will:

- Determine if buildings are safe or need to be closed;
- Coordinate with other ESFs if there is damage to utilities or water or plumbing system;
- Clear debris;
- Coordinate with law enforcement to secure damaged buildings adjacent areas that may be unsafe;
- Coordinate with state and federal preliminary damage assessment teams; and
- Coordinate with insurance companies.

In a disaster, buildings and structures may be destroyed or severely damaged. Homes, public buildings, bridges, and other facilities may be to be reinforced or demolished to ensure safety. Public utilities may be damaged and be partially or fully inoperable. Access to the disaster areas may be dependent upon debris clearance and roadway repairs. Debris clearance and emergency road repairs will be given top priority to support immediate lifesaving emergency response activities.

Prompt assessment of the disaster area is required to determine critical response times and potential workloads. Early damage assessment must be made rapidly and be general in nature. Following an incident, a multitude of independent damage assessment activities will be conducted by a variety of organizations including the Locality Damage Assessment Teams, Insurance Companies, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Utility Companies and Federal Agencies

### Organization:

Following an emergency or disaster ESF #3 will coordinate the following functions, in conjunction with appropriate local, state, and federal government agencies and non-governmental agencies:

- Assessing damaged facilities;
- Inspections for structural, electrical, gas, plumbing and mechanical damages;
- Determine what type of assistance will be needed;
- Facilitation of the building permit process;
- Debris removal;
- Manage contracts with private firms;
- Coordinate with VDH on environmental and public health hazards; and
- Coordinate with VDOT for road clearance.

The Emergency Management Coordinator will be responsible for deploying damage assessment teams, consolidating damage data and compiling reports. At the Incident Commander's request, the Damage Assessment Teams' first priority will be to assess the structural damage.

Local Damage Assessment Teams will assess damage to the extent of their resources and in their areas of expertise. The Health Department may assist the Public Service Authority with damage assessments related to health hazards that may be caused by the disrupted disposal of sanitary wastes.

An Initial Damage Assessment Report will be completed by the Emergency Management Coordinator and submitted to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management within 72 hours of the event, outlining the severity of the problems and the determination of need for further assistance. Federal/State supported damage assessment precedes delivery of a Presidential Disaster Declaration and defines the specific needs for a long-term recovery.

To minimize threats to public health, Public Works will serve as liaison with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the County/City Attorney to secure the necessary emergency environmental waivers and legal clearances that would be needed to dispose of emergency debris and materials from demolition activities. The Public Service Authority will coordinate with DEQ to monitor disposal of debris materials.

The departments mentioned will inspect all buildings for structural, electrical, gas, plumbing and mechanical damage following a disaster situation. They will ensure that any repairs or rebuilding that occurs following the incident will comply with the county building codes, zoning and land-use regulations and comprehensive plan.

The Local Building Official is responsible for determining the state of a building and placing notification on the facility. The building owner retains responsibility for deciding whether to demolish or restore the structure. During the recovery phase the Building Official is responsible for the facilitation of the building permit issuance process and for the review and approval of the site-related and construction plans submitted for the rebuilding/restoration of residential and commercial buildings.

## **Actions/Responsibilities**

- Alert personnel to report to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC);
- Review plans;
- Begin keeping record of expenses and continue for the duration of the emergency;
- Prepare to make an initial damage assessment (IDA);
- Activate the necessary equipment and resources to address the emergency;
- Assist in assessing the degree of damage of the community
- Assist in coordinating response and recovery;
- Identify private contractors and procurement procedures;
- Prioritize debris removal;
- Inspect buildings for structural damage;
- Post appropriate signage to close buildings; and
- Ensure all repairs comply with current building codes, land-use regulations, and the locality's comprehensive plan, unless exempted.

**Tab 1 to Emergency Support Function #3**  
**Local Utility Providers**  
 (Water, Electric, Natural Gas, Sewer, Sanitation)

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Phone Number(s)</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>	<b>Service</b>
BARC Electric	84 High Street Dr. Millboro, Va 24460	540-997-9124 800-846-2272	Dale Myer	Electric
Dominion Power	120 Tredegar St. Richmond, VA 23219	804-771-3655 804-736-3655 804-514-2277	Jennifer Cormier Kingsley	Electric
PSA	150 S. Main St Lexington, VA 24450	540-463-4329	Karen Austin	County Water
City of Lexington	300 E. Washington St. Lexington, VA 24450	540-463-3154 540-463-3566	David Woody Rick Allen	Sanitation Water
City of Buena Vista	2039 Sycamore Ave Buena Vista, VA 24416	540-261-1444 540-261-8630	Mike Cosby Karen Vassar	Sanitation Water
Rockbridge County	150 S. Main St. Lexington, VA 24450	540-463-4361	Jeremy Garrett	Sanitation
Columbia Gas of VA	1809 Coyote Drive Chester, VA 23836	800-544-5606	Consumer Support	Gas Service
Columbia Gas Transmission Corp.	735 Borden Rd Lexington, VA 24450	540-463-3138 800-835-7191	Vernon Sloan	Gas Distribution

*Table 3.1 – Utility Providers*

## **Tab 2 to Emergency Support Function # 3 BUILDING POSTING GUIDE**

1. All buildings within the area, regardless of damage are to be POSTED by the squad members at the site.
2. One of the following three posters is to be used
  - A. "SAFE FOR OCCUPANCY" GREEN POSTER  
No damage to structural elements.  
No damage to utilities.  
There is only minor damage to walls or roof affecting weather resistance.  
Generally 10% or less damage.
  - B. "LIMITED ENTRY" YELLOW POSTER  
There is structural damage to a portion of the building.  
The building needs utility or weather resistance repairs.  
The building may be occupied safely.  
Generally greater than 10% and less than 50% damage.
  - C. "THIS BUILDING IS UNSAFE" RED POSTER  
There is major structural damage.  
No occupancy is allowed.  
May or may not need to be demolished.  
Generally more than 50% damage.
3. If there is immediate danger to life from failure or collapse, the squad leader should inspect and, as appropriate sign or have Building Official sign demolition order or call the appropriate entities to shore-up structures.