OVERVIEW

Over the past several months, VDOT has been working to refocus our efforts on the agency’s vital role of emergency response. During this quarter, we turned that focus into action. Hurricane season is upon us and though summer temperatures make it difficult to think about winter storms, our crews have already begun efforts to plan for our snow and ice response role.

In May, we successfully conducted an Interstate 64 lane-reversal drill along with partners in the Virginia State Police, Virginia National Guard and the Department of Emergency Management. If the governor were to order a mass evacuation of Hampton Roads, the experience gained and lessons learned from this drill will help VDOT to keep Virginians safe as we evacuate them from harm’s way.

We were reminded of the importance of these lessons when Tropical Storm Hanna threatened the Virginia coast. Thankfully, Tropical Storm Hanna offered no more than a glancing blow to the Mid-Atlantic states.

However, as we watch the recovery efforts facing our neighbors in the Gulf Coast states who are dealing with recent storms that tore through their region, it becomes all too clear why we must always be preparing for our vital emergency response role.

In a few months, snow and ice will replace tropical storms and hurricanes as the subjects of our concerns and preparation. This summer, VDOT crews began their preparations for winter weather by rigging their equipment, rehearsing their snow routes and participating in our emergency preparedness skills challenge, “Snowfighters” — Preparing for Response.

We also began preparations to train several dozen of our key emergency responders in anti-icing, snow removal and incident response skills that will be vital to keep Virginians safe. The Transportation Emergency Response Institute and other programs will ensure VDOT has the right people, the right tools and the right experience to respond to whatever emergencies face the commonwealth.

David S. Eker, P.E.
Commissioner

ALL CONTRACTS COMPLETED: BOTH ON TIME AND WITHIN BUDGET

280 construction and maintenance contracts were due for completion in this fiscal year. Of those 280 contracts, 214 (76.4 percent) were completed both on-time and within 110 percent of original award amount.

SCHEDULED CONTRACTS COMPLETED ON TIME

118 construction contracts were due for completion in this fiscal year. Of those 118 contracts, 102 (86.4 percent) were completed on-time.

162 maintenance contracts were due for completion in this fiscal year. Of those 162 contracts, 127 (78.4 percent) were completed on-time.
Work Zone Awareness Week Event — The statewide event for Work Zone Awareness Week was held at the VDOT Workers’ Memorial Monday, April 7 near Afton Mountain. VDOT Commissioner David Ekern and the Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance’s Jeff Southard were the keynote speakers. Five television stations, three radio stations and three newspapers were in attendance, and a number of media outlets provided coverage in advance of the event. A ceremony involving 11 traffic cones signed by VDOT workers from around the state provided a powerful reminder of VDOT employee support for the families of lost coworkers.

Hurricane Evacuation Lane-Reversal Exercise — VDOT, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Virginia State Police and Virginia National Guard successfully tested Virginia’s hurricane evacuation lane-reversal plan on Sunday, May 11, between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. Valuable experience was gained during the exercise that will help the agencies be better prepared to reverse the lanes of Interstate 64 in the event that a major hurricane strikes Virginia’s Hampton Roads region and an evacuation is ordered.

Large Tower Moved Up Interstate 81 — A 28-foot-wide antenna tower was moved through Virginia on I-81 between Tennessee and West Virginia during the week of June 16 as part of the tower’s journey from Texas to Baltimore. VDOT staff members worked closely with the hauling contractor, Virginia State Police and Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles to ensure the move was made smoothly and with minimal traffic disruption. This was essentially a rolling roadblock, since I-81 travel lanes are 12-feet wide and the corridor carries two travel lanes, plus shoulders, most of the way.

Giles County Bridge Collapse — VDOT crews responded to the collapse of a bridge on Route 713 in Giles County in the Salem District on June 4 after a concrete truck drove over a weight-restricted structure, causing it to collapse. VDOT responded to the needs of impacted residents served by the structure, allowing traffic to use a contractor’s temporary work bridge until the new bridge is complete.

Clear Brook Welcome Center Opens Doors — The grand opening of the I-81 Clear Brook Rest Area and Welcome Center near Winchester was held on April 8. The rest area was the third to be completely reconstructed as part of a $20 million rest area improvement program. Feature speakers included Connie Sorrell, chief of Systems Operations, Dr. James Davis, CTB member, Senator Jill Vogel and Delegate Beverly Sherwood. The rest area was rededicated in honor of the late Wayne A. Whitham, Virginia’s first transportation secretary and a Winchester native. His family was on hand to commemorate the occasion.

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<tr>
<th>Numbers of Contracts Completed</th>
<th>FY 2007</th>
<th>FY 2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction Contracts</td>
<td>118</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance Contracts</td>
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<td>162</td>
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FY 2008 Construction Contracts Completed On Time

- 75% completion by the end of the fiscal year, an increase from FY 2007’s 70%.

FY 2008 Maintenance Contracts Completed On Time

- 77% completion by the end of the fiscal year, an increase from FY 2007’s 75%.

Construction Contracts Completed Within Budget

- 118 contracts were due for completion, and 110 (93.2%) were completed within 110% of original award amount.

Maintenance Contracts Completed Within Budget

- 162 contracts were due for completion, and 137 (84.6%) were completed within 110% of original award amount.