

Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST)

Situation Report # 2
2026-01 Winter Weather
January 24, 2026 as of 5:00 pm

Summary

On January 22, 2026, Governor Spanberger declared a state of emergency due to the impending winter weather anticipated to impact the whole of the Commonwealth from January 24-26, 2026, and as of January 23, 2026, a Federal Emergency Declaration for Direct Federal Assistance only has been made. As the storm system approaches the Commonwealth, it will bring significant snow and potential devastating and crippling ice totals (sleet and freezing rain). The heaviest snow will fall across northern Virginia and the northern Shenandoah, where the potential for 12"+ is possible. The worst of the ice will likely be south of I-64 and 0.25" – 0.75" of ice accretion is possible. Roads, especially bridges and overpasses, will likely become slick, hazardous, and possibly impassable. The combination of significant snow and ice accumulation on power lines and tree limbs may cause widespread and long-lasting power outages. Widespread tree damage and power outages are possible. Very cold temperatures and wind chills are also expected which could result in hypothermia or frostbite if precautions are not taken. Extreme cold is expected to remain for the duration of the week. The VEST is activated at Red (Full Activation) and will be monitoring for disruptions to critical infrastructure, including communications and transportation, and will coordinate support activities as needed throughout the event.

State Actions

- Emergency Declaration made on January 22, 2026.
- VEST status is Red (Full Activation) as of 9:00 am on January 24, 2026.
- Continued coordination between state agencies and partners.
- Virginia State Police is at 12-hour shifts this weekend in anticipation of storm impacts.
- Virginia National Guard has approximately 274 Soldiers staged across the Commonwealth as of January 24, 2026.
- Virginia Department of Transportation is mobilized across all Regions and has completed pretreating roadways. During the incident, they will prioritize Interstates and Primary roads first.
 - Issued a transportation waiver effective January 22, 2026 through February 5, 2026.
- Virginia Energy supported Co-Op requests for out of state mutual aid. The National Co-Op Mutual Aid Compact has been activated.

Local Actions

Local Emergency Operation Centers Status (Open) (65)

Source(s): WebEOC

| VDEM Region | Locality | VDEM Region | Locality |
|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Nottoway County (Monitoring) | 3 | Augusta County (Virtual) |
| 1 | King William County (Partial) | 3 | Lunenburg County (Monitoring) |
| 1 | Henrico County (Virtual) | 3 | Campbell County (Monitoring) |
| 1 | King and Queen County (Monitoring) | 3 | Lynchburg County (Partial) |
| 1 | Petersburg City (Partial) | 4 | Galax City (Monitoring) |
| 1 | Nottoway County (Monitoring) | 4 | Wythe County (Monitoring) |
| 1 | Sussex County (Monitoring) | 4 | Bristol City (Partial) |

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|---|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 | New Kent County (Monitoring) | 4 | Bland County (Monitoring) |
| 1 | Chesterfield County (Virtual) | 4 | Wise County (Virtual) |
| 1 | Colonial Heights City (Partial) | 4 | Radford City (Monitoring) |
| 1 | Essex County (Monitoring) | 4 | Town of Richlands (Monitoring) |
| 1 | Hanover County (Partial) | 4 | Grayson County (Monitoring) |
| 2 | Rappahannock County (Monitoring) | 5 | Northumberland County (Virtual) |
| 2 | Warren County (Monitoring) | 5 | Lancaster County (Monitoring) |
| 2 | Fauquier County (Monitoring) | 5 | Surry County (Monitoring) |
| 2 | Caroline County (Monitoring) | 5 | Suffolk City (Virtual) |
| 2 | Greene County (Monitoring) | 5 | Westmoreland County (Monitoring) |
| 2 | Winchester City (Monitoring) | 5 | Norfolk City (Monitoring) |
| 2 | Frederick County (Monitoring) | 5 | Poquoson City (Monitoring) |
| 2 | Orange County (Monitoring) | 5 | Chesapeake City (Virtual) |
| 2 | Louisa County (Monitoring) | 5 | Gloucester County (Monitoring) |
| 2 | Shenandoah County (Monitoring) | 5 | Richmond County (Virtual) |
| 2 | Fredericksburg City (Monitoring) | 5 | York County (Monitoring) |
| 2 | Town of Warrenton (Virtual) | 5 | Portsmouth City (Monitoring) |
| 2 | Spotsylvania County (Monitoring) | 6 | Rockbridge County (Monitoring) |
| 2 | Culpeper County (Monitoring) | 6 | Henry County (Virtual) |
| 3 | Halifax County (Virtual) | 6 | Roanoke City (Partial) |
| 3 | Buckingham County (Monitoring) | 6 | Danville City (Monitoring) |
| 3 | Mecklenburg County (Monitoring) | 7 | Alexandria City (Monitoring) |
| 3 | Staunton City (Virtual) | 7 | Arlington County (Monitoring) |
| 3 | Harrisonburg City (Virtual) | | |
| 3 | Nelson County (Monitoring) | | |
| 3 | South Boston Town (Monitoring) | | |
| 3 | Prince Edward County (Monitoring) | | |

Local Declarations (68)

Source(s): WebEOC

| VDEM Region | Locality | VDEM Region | Locality |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Nottoway County | 3 | Augusta County |
| 1 | King William County | 3 | Lunenburg County |
| 1 | Brunswick County | 3 | Waynesboro County |
| 1 | Henrico County | 3 | Charlottesville County |
| 1 | King and Queen County | 3 | Lynchburg County |
| 1 | Goochland County | 4 | Bland County |
| 1 | Petersburg City | 4 | Galax City |
| 1 | Hopewell City | 4 | Russell County |
| 1 | Sussex County | 4 | Radford County |
| 1 | New Kent County | 4 | Bristol City |

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|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | Chesterfield County | 5 | Gloucester County |
| 1 | Colonial Heights City | 5 | Northumberland County |
| 1 | Essex County | 5 | Lancaster County |
| 1 | Hanover County | 5 | Surry County |
| 2 | Spotsylvania County | 5 | Southampton County |
| 2 | Warren County | 5 | Westmoreland County |
| 2 | Fauquier County | 5 | Poquoson City |
| 2 | Caroline County | 5 | Chesapeake City |
| 2 | Winchester City | 5 | Newport News City |
| 2 | Orange County | 5 | York County |
| 2 | Louisa County | 5 | Middlesex County |
| 2 | Madison County | 5 | Northampton County |
| 2 | Greene County | 5 | Chincoteague Town |
| 2 | King George County | 5 | Hampton City |
| 2 | Fredericksburg City | 5 | Mathews County |
| 2 | Town of Warrenton | 5 | Richmond County |
| 2 | Frederick County | 6 | Floyd County |
| 3 | Farmville Town | 6 | Roanoke City |
| 3 | Halifax County | 6 | Montgomery County |
| 3 | Mecklenburg County | 6 | Botetourt County |
| 3 | Buckingham County | 6 | Franklin County |
| 3 | South Boston Town | 6 | Craig County |
| 3 | Prince Edward County | 7 | Manassas Park City |
| 3 | Appomattox County | | |
| 3 | Staunton City | | |

Local Shelter Status (Open) (22) (Mobilizing) (2)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | City of Petersburg (Open) | 4 | City of Galax (Open) |
| 1 | City of Colonial Heights (Open) | 4 | Bland County (Open) |
| 2 | Caroline County (Open) | 4 | Grayson county (Open) |
| 2 | Warren County (Open) | 5 | Northumberland County (Open) |
| 2 | Spotsylvania County (Mobilizing) | 6 | Franklin County (Open) |
| 2 | Town of Warrenton (Mobilizing) | 6 | Pittsylvania County (Open) |
| 3 | Appomattox County (Open) | 6 | City of Roanoke (Open) |
| 3 | Albemarle County / City of Charlottesville (Open) | 6 | City of Danville (Open) |
| 3 | City of Lynchburg (Open) | 6 | Bedford County (Open) |
| 3 | Mecklenburg County (Open) | 6 | Henry County / City of Martinsville (Open) |
| 3 | Nelson County (Open) | 7 | City of Alexandria (Open) |
| 4 | Tazewell County (Open) | 7 | Prince William County (Open) |

Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST)

Private Sector Actions

- The Private Sector Liaison had a call with private sector stakeholders today and will be holding a daily coordination call moving forward. The time is tentatively set for 1000.
- Updating SISE Hub as information and needs permit.
- Engaged and participating in the Power Restoration Task Force.

Regional Impacts

- Region 1 – Preparing for cascading impacts. VDOT has been pretreating roadways, and many public safety agencies across the region are increasing their staffing. RCC has transitioned to Orange as of 1400 on Saturday January 24, 2026 and will maintain 24-hour operations through Monday day shift. Continuing to support RFAs and hosting regional coordination calls for situational awareness. No unmet needs.
- Region 2 – RCC will activate to Orange at 1800 on January 26, 2026 and is co-located with the VDOT Culpeper Office. Staffing will transition to 24 hour operations. VANG is on site at staging areas
- Region 3 – RCC has transitioned to Orange with partial staffing and will operate 24/7 until Monday morning. VDOT will be located at RCC 24/7. Preparations are being made by localities.
- Region 4 – RCC is staffed and located with VDOT and the VSP and will maintain 24/7 operations as of 1200 on January 24, 2026 to Monday Morning January 26, 2026. Coordinating calls with partners and localities and addressing multiple requests for assistance. There is a small risk of flooding in Buchanan, but no immediate needs.
- Region 5 – RCC has transitioned to Red as of 1400 Saturday January 24, 2026 and will be maintaining 24 hour operations at the Suffolk VDOT building.
- Region 6 – The RCC is staffed for 24 hour operations and is co-located with the VDOT Salem TOC. State and local partners coordinating road treatment, emergency response, and public messaging
- Region 7 – RCC has transitioned to Orange (Partial Activation with ESF Support) as of 0900 Saturday January 24, 2026 with 24 hour operations until Tuesday morning January 27, 2026. Coordinating closely with local, state, and regional partners and one request for assistance processed. Preparations are complete. No needs at this time.

Request(s) for Assistance

Source: WebEOC as of 5:00 pm

| | Total | Region I | Region II | Region III | Region IV | Region V | Region VI | Region VII | VEOC | Other States |
|---------------------------|-------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|------|--------------|
| Active Requests | 85 | 39 | 2 | 14 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 17 | 0 |
| Completed Requests | 37 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 13 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Withdrawn Requests | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Request Totals | 125 | 49 | 6 | 19 | 7 | 21 | 3 | 3 | 17 | 0 |

Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST)

State Resource Summary

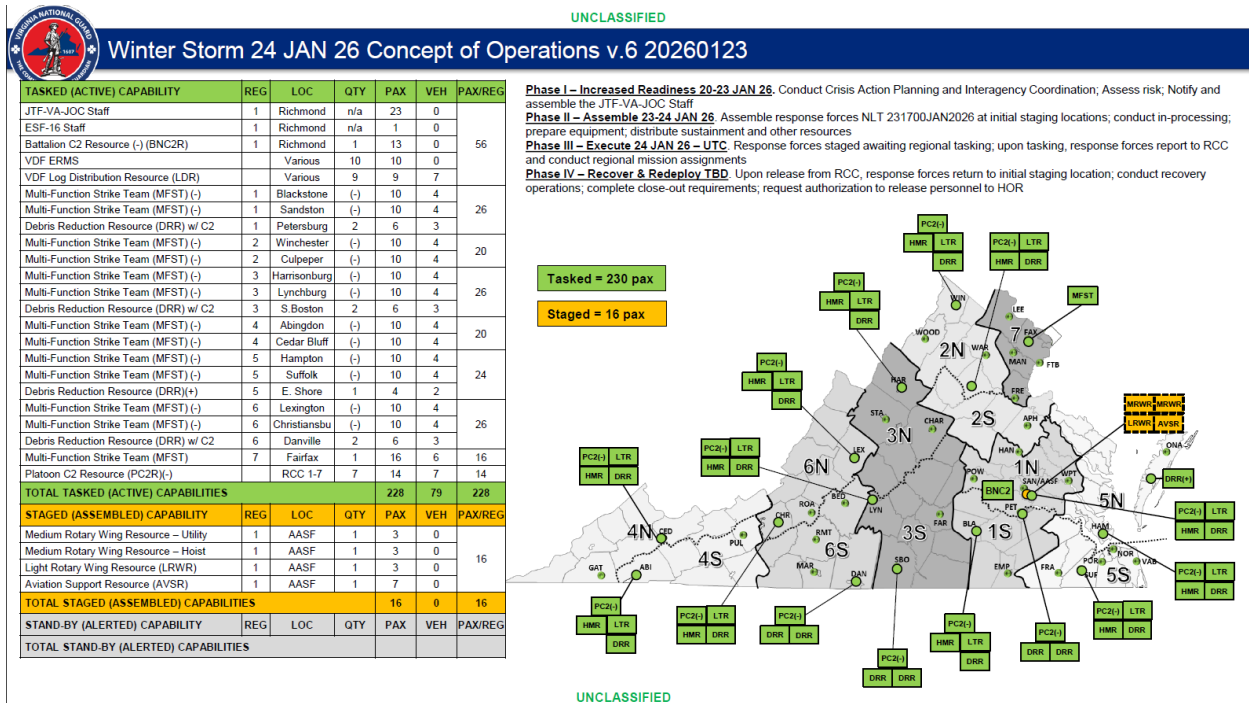
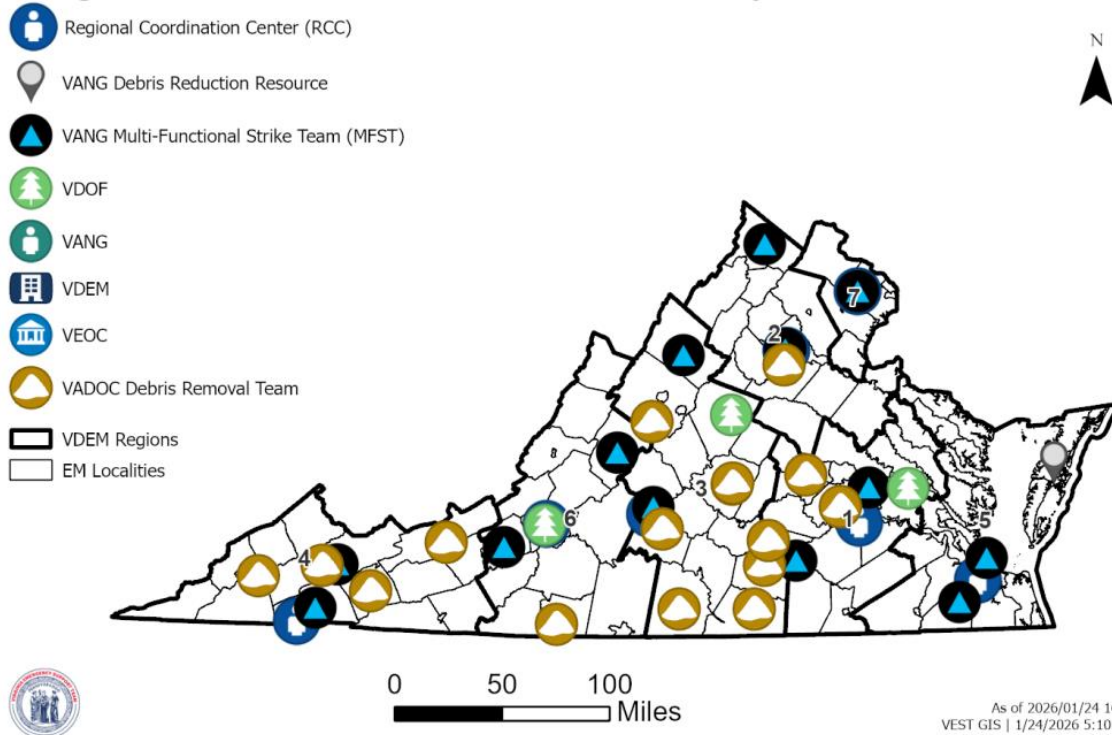
| RESOURCE SUMMARY | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|------------------------|--|
| 1. Incident Name: 2026-01 - Winter Weather | | | 2. Operational Period: | Date From: 01/24/2026 Time From: 0900 |
| 3. VEST | | | | |
| Resource Identifier | Resource Point of Contact | | Location | Resource Status |
| Debris Removal team | VADOC | | Appalachian CCAP | Staging |
| Debris Removal team | VADOC | | Bland CC | Staging |
| Debris Removal team | VADOC | | Cold Springs CU | Staging |
| Debris Removal team | VADOC | | Marion Cadre | Staging |
| Debris Removal team | VADOC | | Patrick Henry CU | Staging |
| Debris Removal team | VADOC | | Wise CU | Staging |
| Debris Removal team | VADOC | | Baskerville | Staging |
| Debris Removal team | VADOC | | Buckingham | Staging |
| Debris Removal team | VADOC | | Unit 13 | Staging |
| Debris Removal team | VADOC | | Coffeewood | Staging |
| Debris Removal team | VADOC | | Dillwyn | Staging |
| Debris Removal team | VADOC | | Halifax | Staging |
| Debris Removal team | VADOC | | Lunenburg | Staging |
| Debris Removal team | VADOC | | Nottoway | Staging |
| Debris Removal team | VADOC | | Rustburg | Staging |
| Debris Removal team | VADOC | | State Farm | Staging |
| Debris Removal team | VADOC | | State Farm WC | Staging |
| 6. Region 1 - | | | | |
| Resource Identifier | Resource Point of Contact | | Location | Resource Status |
| 1 MFST split | ESF16 | | Sandston | Staging |
| | ESF16 | | Ft. Barfoot | Staging |
| VDOF Strike Team | ESF 4 | | New Kent | Staging |
| 4. Region 2 - Activation Level | | | | |
| Resource Identifier | Resource Point of Contact | | Location | Resource Status |
| 1 MFST split | ESF16 | | Culpepper | Staging |
| | ESF16 | | Winchester | Staging |
| 4. Region 3 - Activation Level | | | | |
| Resource Identifier | Resource Point of Contact | | Location | Resource Status |

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|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 MFST split | ESF16 | | Lynchburg | Staging |
| | ESF16 | | Harrisonburg | Staging |
| VDOF Strike Team | ESF 4 | | Charlottesville | Staging |
| 4. Region 4 - Activation Level | | | | |
| Resource Identifier | Resource Point of Contact | | Location | Resource Status |
| 1 MFST Split | ESF16 | | Abingdon | Staging |
| | ESF16 | | Cedar Bluff | Staging |
| 4. Region 5 - Activation Level | | | | |
| Resource Identifier | Resource Point of Contact | | Location | Resource Status |
| 1 MFST Split | ESF16 | | Hampton | Staging |
| | ESF16 | | Suffolk | Staging |
| 2 Debris Teams | ESF16 | | Eastern Shore (Melfa) | Staging |
| 6. Region 6 | | | | |
| Resource Identifier | Resource Point of Contact | | Location | Resource Status |
| 1 MFST split | ESF16 | | Lexington | Staging |
| | ESF16 | | Christiansburg | Staging |
| VDOF Strike Team | ESF4 | | Salem | Staging |
| 6. Region 7 | | | | |
| Resource Identifier | Resource Point of Contact | | Location | Resource Status |
| 1 MFST | ESF16 | | Fairfax / R7 RCC | Staging |
| 7. State Staging | | | | |
| Meals and Water | ESF 7 | | Pulaski | Staging |
| | ESF 7 | | Waynesboro | Staging |

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Virginia Resource Coordination System (VARCS)



Unmet Needs

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- None.

VEST ESF Updates

Source: 1530 January 24, 2026 Mission Coordination Call

ESF 1: VDOT continues mobilizing crews, monitoring the forecast, and is prepared to respond to pre-determined “trouble spots.” Roads have been pretreated since Thursday to include interstates, primary roads, and some secondary roads. Encouraging public to stay off roads. VDOT first respond to, followed by primary roads, then secondary roads.

ESF 2: No unmet needs or abnormal outages. Encouraging state partners to test their interops communications. Communications plan has been posted in WebEOC. Working closely with FEMA Region 3 and North Carolina partners and working with FCC to get outage reports information. Daily calls are scheduled for 2:00 pm daily. Staffing is expected through the weekend at the VEOC.

ESF 3: No unmet needs and continuing to monitor. ODW reached out to all community waterworks to ensure resources are available and called Richmond to make sure they have control of their systems and plans in place in case of water outage. VEOC will be fully staffed over the weekend. DEQ is monitoring wastewater treatment centers. Debris coordination calls are scheduled, and communications plan is ready.

ESF 4: No unmet needs. Staffed at the VEOC through the weekend and into next week. Ready to support whatever needs are requested.

ESF 6: No unmet needs. Red Cross working hard and have accepted 6 requests. There was a ground-stop for mass care support Saturday afternoon until after roads are clear and safe.

ESF 8: No unmet needs. Received the list of those who rely on power for their health care needs. Hospitals and long-term care are working on staffing plans. OCME is stood up. Fatality data may be lagging initially but will come in. Preparing for food safety issues and inspections of restaurants after power restored. Enabled HHS EM power data to inform local health district and local emergency management operational decision-making and strengthen life-safety planning for vulnerable, electricity-dependent residents during the storm.

ESF 9: No unmet needs. Continuing to support all requests. ESF 9 will support requests as well.

ESF 10: No unmet needs.

ESF 11: No unmet needs. DEQ issued special procedures for petroleum related events and is in effect from Saturday at noon through Monday at noon.

ESF 12: No unmet needs. In contact with all partners, and the Power Restoration Task Force had its initial meeting with a daily standing meeting at 1000. Started a call with U.S. Department of Energy in case other state resources or federal resources are needed. Pipeline operators are stood up and pre-staging personnel across state. VSP is in contact with VDOT and working with DMA. VSP is staffing 12-hour shifts. They are working with Troopers to make sure they have what they need. Dispatch Centers have back-up generators ready to go, and lodging is set up for employees. Worked with VDEM and VDOT about social media messaging and travel advisories.

ESF 13: Manpower has been increased, and staffing has transitioned to a 12 hour shift.

ESF 16: Resources have been staged. Resource allocations outlined above. An LNO has been assigned to each region to support resource tasking.

ESF 17: The Crisis cleanup hotline has been set up and sent to the JIC. Held coordination calls with volunteers yesterday and their staffing plans are set for the VEOC.

Task Forces

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Power Restoration: Established to ensure power is restored to critical infrastructure to ensure life safety missions. Had initial coordination call this morning January 24, 2026, and POCs identified. Field POCs and Regional liaisons are coordinating. Daily stand up for 1100.

Debris: Established to ensure emergency access to roadways for life safety accessibility missions such as healthcare, nursing homes, etc. Had initial coordination call this afternoon January 24, 2026, and POCs identified. Daily stand up for 1300.

Feeding: Established to ensure that feeding operations can be executed in the event or requests for assistance. Initial coordination call is tentatively scheduled for 1100 on Sunday January 25, 2026. Meeting invites forthcoming.

Shelter: Pulled partners and had preliminary conversations to establish the Shelter Task Force have occurred. The Shelter Task Force is to ensure that when the need for shelters is identified that they can be set up quickly.

Weather Forecast

(By VDEM Region)

Region 1 (Richmond Area)

Tonight: Snow before 3am, then snow and sleet. The snow could be heavy at times. Low around 18. Northeast wind 5 to 7 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow and sleet accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.

Sunday: Sleet, possibly mixed with snow and freezing rain before noon, then freezing rain, possibly mixed with sleet. The sleet could be heavy at times. High near 29. Northeast wind 7 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New ice accumulation of 0.1 to 0.3 of an inch possible. New snow and sleet accumulation of 1 to 2 inches possible.

Region 2 (Northwest Area)

Tonight: Snow, mainly after 11pm. The snow could be heavy at times. Low around 15. Calm wind. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow accumulation of 3 to 7 inches possible.

Sunday: Sleet, possibly mixed with snow, becoming all sleet after 2pm. The snow and sleet could be heavy at times. High near 26. North wind 3 to 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow and sleet accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.

Region 3 (Central Virginia)

Tonight: Sleet, possibly mixed with snow. The snow could be heavy at times. Low around 16. Northeast wind 3 to 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow and sleet accumulation of 2 to 4 inches possible.

Sunday: Sleet, possibly mixed with snow before 1pm, then freezing rain and sleet. The sleet could be heavy at times. High near 26. North wind 5 to 8 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New ice accumulation of less than a 0.1 of an inch possible. New snow and sleet accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Region 4 (Far Southwest Area)

Tonight: Snow, freezing rain, and sleet before 2am, then freezing rain between 2am and 3am, then freezing rain, possibly mixed with sleet after 3am. Low around 20. East wind 7 to 9 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New ice accumulation of 0.1 to 0.3 of an inch possible. New snow and sleet accumulation of around an inch possible.

Sunday: Freezing rain before noon, then rain. High near 41. Southeast wind 8 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New ice accumulation of 0.2 to 0.4 of an inch possible.

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Region 5 (Tidewater-Hampton Roads Area)

Tonight: Snow and sleet before 5am, then sleet, possibly mixed with rain and snow. Temperature rising to around 32 by 5am. Northeast wind 9 to 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. Total nighttime snow and sleet accumulation of 1 to 2 inches possible.

Sunday: Rain, mainly before 4pm. High near 40. Northeast wind 8 to 14 mph becoming northwest in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New precipitation amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible.

Region 6 (Southwest Virginia)

Tonight: Sleet, possibly mixed with snow. The snow and sleet could be heavy at times. Low around 16. East wind 3 to 7 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow and sleet accumulation of 3 to 5 inches possible.

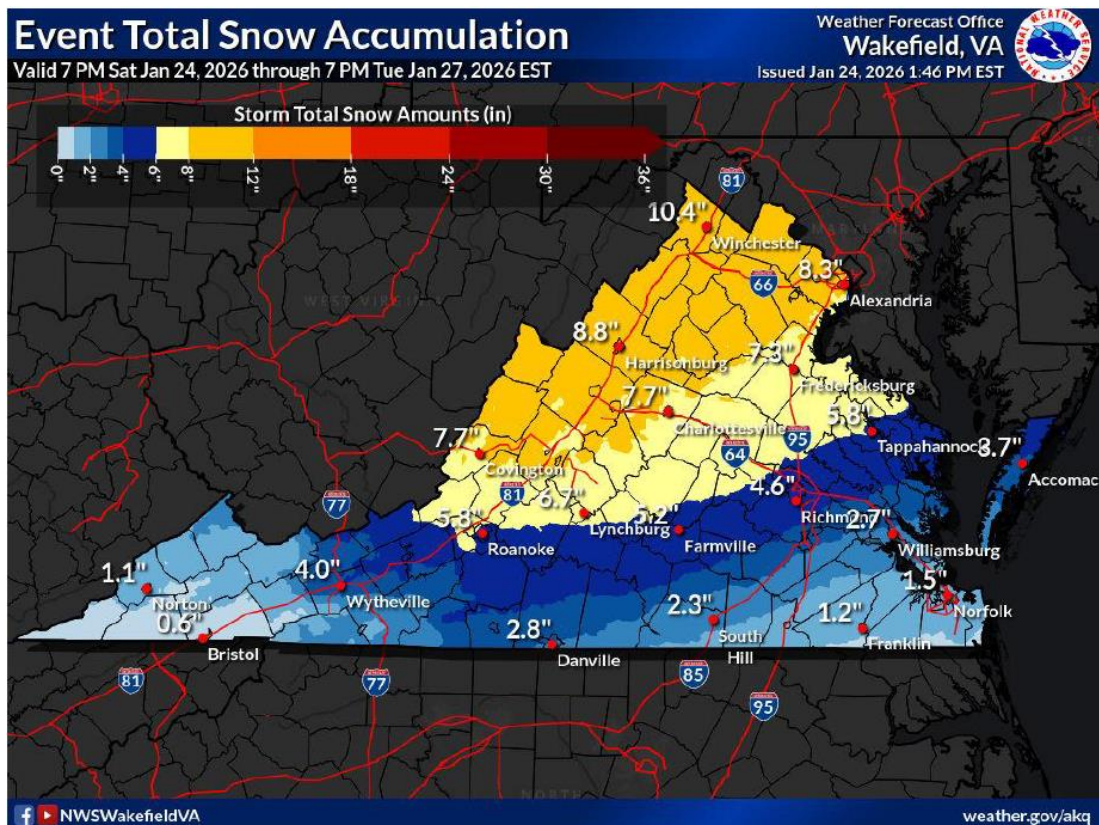
Sunday: Sleet, possibly mixed with freezing rain before 11am, then sleet between 11am and noon, then sleet, possibly mixed with freezing rain after noon. The sleet could be heavy at times. High near 24. Light east wind. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New ice accumulation of less than a 0.1 of an inch possible. New sleet accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Region 7 (Northern Virginia)

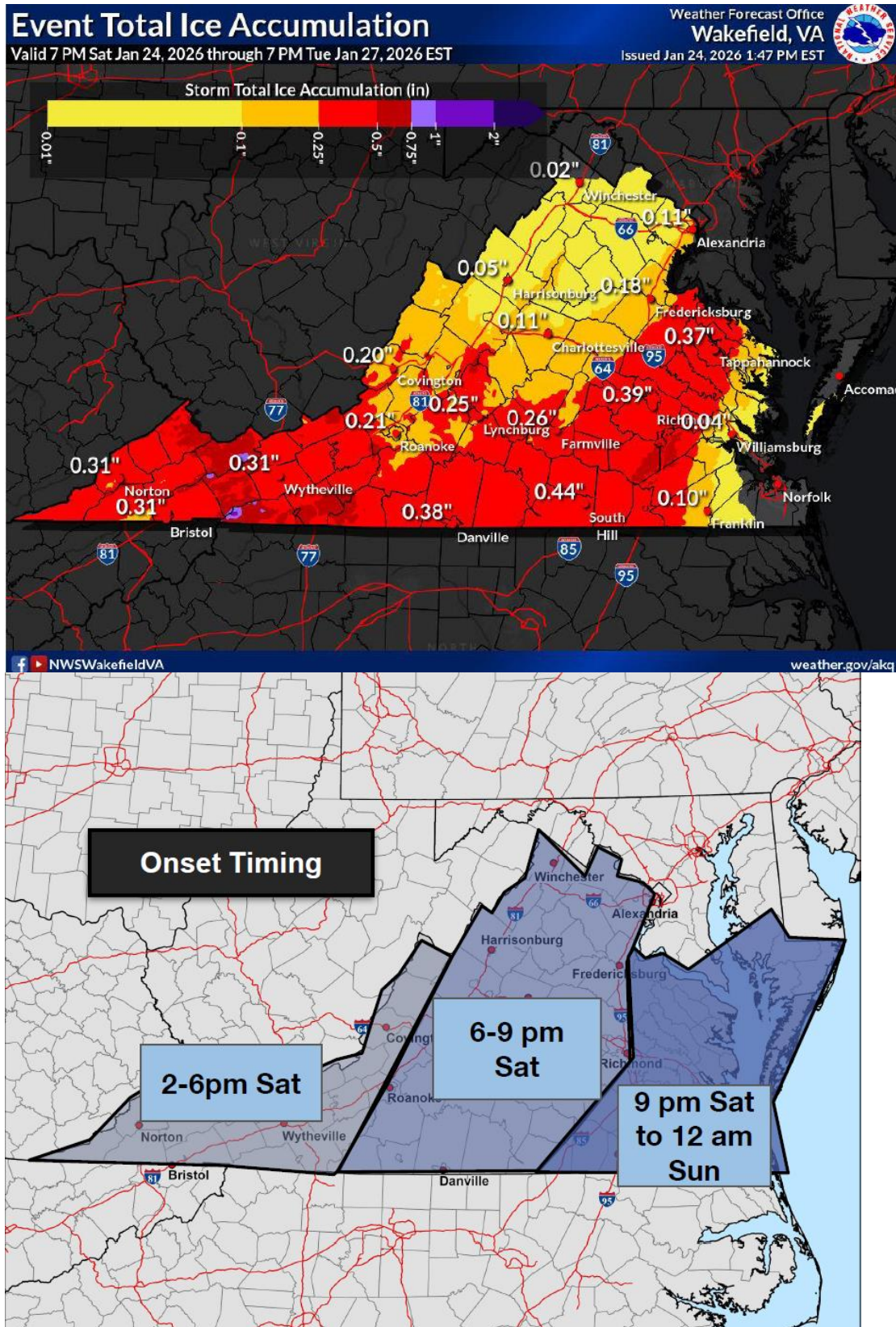
Tonight: A chance of flurries before 8pm, then snow, mainly after midnight. The snow could be heavy at times. Low around 17. East wind 3 to 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. Total nighttime snow accumulation of 3 to 7 inches possible.

Sunday: Sleet, possibly mixed with snow, becoming all sleet after 3pm. The snow and sleet could be heavy at times. High near 26. Northeast wind 6 to 8 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow and sleet accumulation of 3 to 5 inches possible.

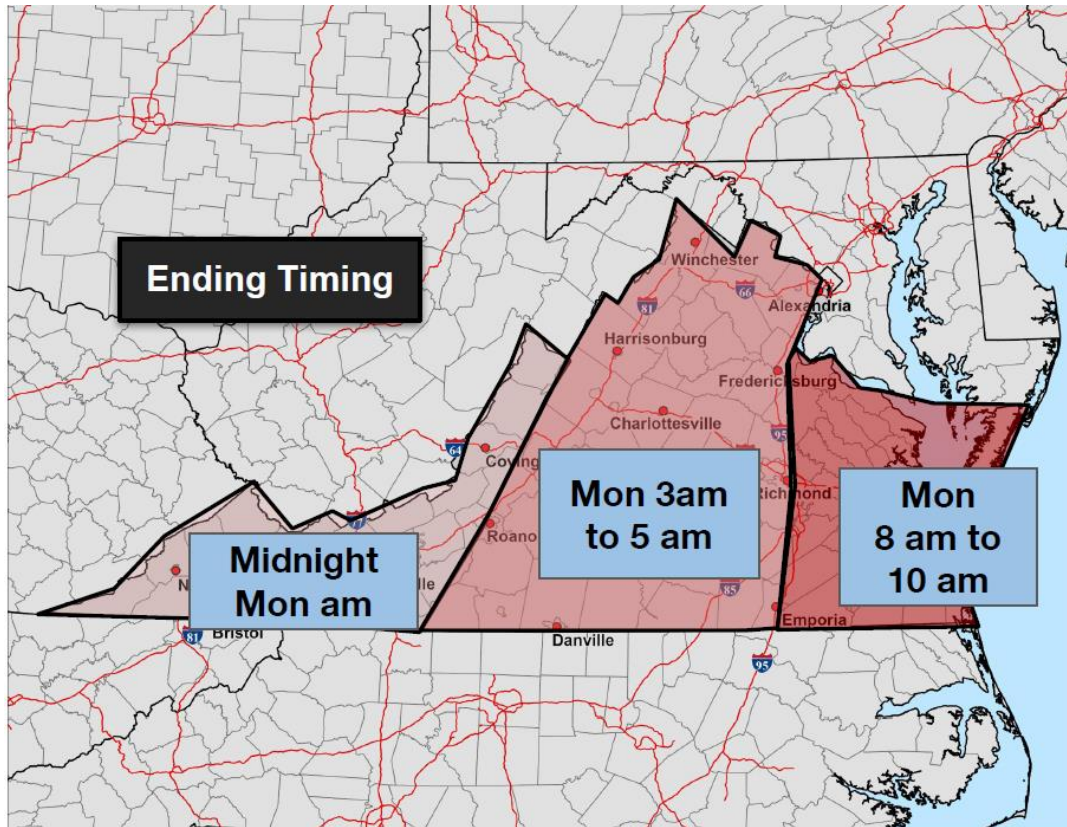
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Prepared by: VEST Planning Section
Approved by: Mark Bender, VEST Lead