

Disabilities Commission Brief

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Special Needs Overview

- Special needs populations are a complex group who have a combination of medical needs and social needs. Because we are dealing with a heterogeneous population, there is no single tool in the emergency manager's tool box to effectively deal with all of the different types of needs that may show up.

Special Needs Overview

- Special Medical Needs can be broken down into:
 - Medically Fragile - those that require some type of long term care to assist in daily functioning...nursing home patients, hospice patients, the frail and the elderly who need the assistance of a caregiver.
 - Technologically Dependent - individuals that require some type of technological device to sustain life, e.g., dialysis.

Special Needs Overview

- Special Medical Needs can be broken down into:
 - Mobility Impaired - require assistance for personal mobility.
 - Chronically Diseased - outpatients receiving some form of homecare; require access to medical care but are not sick enough for a hospital bed.
 - Pregnant and Newborns
 - High Acuity patients requiring hospitalization

Special Needs Overview

- Special Social Needs can be broken down into:
 - Indigent and Homeless
 - Mentally Challenged
 - Transportation Dependent
 - Sensory Impaired
 - Language Impaired
 - Children

Special Needs Overview

- VDH is responsible for providing guidance and technical assistance to local jurisdictions, medical facilities and others such as long term care facilities and home health care agencies for planning and carrying out emergency evacuation and relocation of medically-dependent persons.

Special Needs Overview

- Hospitals, long-term care facilities and home health agencies are required to have plans in place to shelter in place, evacuate patients in their care, transport them to safe and secure alternate facilities and support their medical needs.
- Local jurisdictions collaborate with the managers of hospitals, long-term care facilities and home health agencies in developing evacuation and relocation plans.
- Shelters are not appropriate for medically fragile, e.g. hospital and nursing home clients requiring acute care.

Special Needs Overview

- The safe and effective evacuation of people with varying levels of special needs requires detailed advanced planning and coordination.
- Issues such as activation timelines, staffing, transportation, personal assistance devices, service animals, supplies, equipment, caregivers and many other elements are considered carefully.

Special Needs Overview

- State regulation (12VAC5-371) requires that nursing facilities have emergency preparedness plans.
- State regulation (12VAC5-391) requires all hospice facilities to have emergency preparedness plans
- OLC's web site (www.vdh.virginia.gov/olc) has guidelines specific to emergency plan development.

- Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)
- Each Push-Pack (12=3%)...



- Occupies 130 cargo containers
- Weighs 94,424 pounds
- Measures 10,329 cubic feet
- Requires 5,000 square feet



Fairfax Health District CDC Grant

\$487,098

- To support the development, application and evaluation of interventions that promote preparedness for pandemic disease among identified Vulnerable Populations within a large urban county with the goal of decreasing the time needed to provide countermeasures and health guidance to those affected by threats to the public's health.

State Shelter Plan Overview

- State signatories, signed to date and without change are VCU, DSS, VDEM, VSP, VDH, VDACS and DMHMRSAS remain. Signatories commit to:
 - Carry out assigned responsibilities to ensure effective and efficient incident management, including designating representatives to staff the organization;
 - Provide cooperation, resources and support in the implementation of this plan consistent with their own authorities and responsibilities;
 - Utilize agency-specific authorities, resources, and programs to facilitate incident management activities in accordance with this plan and the COVEOP.

State Shelter Plan Overview

- **Virginia Department of Health (VDH):**
 - Provides an agency incident commander to the shelter unified command team.
 - Staff positions/units within the shelter as described in the Health/Medical Annex.
 - Processes requests for assistance or additional resources to support Special Medical Needs shelter operations through the VDH ECC to the VEOC.
 - Collaborates with DMHMRSAS to establish and operate a wellness clinic for shelter residents (prescriptions, medical benefits, triage, hygiene, behavioral health, first aid and necessary care).

State Shelter Plan Overview

- 2006 Gubernatorial Initiative
- Parallels I-64 Dual Lane reversal initiative (VDOT, VSP, VDEM, OEMS)
- Site assessment criteria developed and applied:
 - State institutions; Accessibility; Backup power; Size
 - Health services considerations
- Development of Commonwealth State Managed Shelter Plan (DSS)
 - Created Health and Medical Services Annex outlining PH roles and responsibilities in general and special needs shelter components
 - Facility plans (attachments) reflect site-specific adjustments

State Sheltering Concept

- When local shelters are overwhelmed, provide support as needed.
- When regional evacuations are necessary, provide guidance to the Governor on the need to open State-Managed Shelters (SMS) - VECTOR.
- Open SMS as directed by the Governor. (ESF #6, 8, 11 and others)
- SMS will begin to transition into closure immediately after impact.
 - Affected, if unable to return home, may be combined into one shelter. MAX time a SMS to remain open – 30 days.
 - Transition to ESF 14 for long-term housing.

Participants in SMS



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AND
CONSUMER SERVICES



Commonwealth of Virginia Department of
**Mental Health, Mental Retardation
and Substance Abuse Services**



- Departments of:
 - Social Services
 - Health
 - Agriculture and Consumer Services
 - Rehabilitative Services
 - Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services
 - Virginia State Police
 - VITA
 - Emergency Management
- Colleges/Universities

Health and Medical Services Annex

- Describes the management structure, coordination needs, activation process and operational support requirements necessary for the administration of the Public Health and Special Medical Needs components of state managed emergency shelters.
- Intended to accommodate the evacuation of residents across jurisdictional boundaries when the sheltering capability of local and neighboring host jurisdictions either has been or is reasonably expected to be exceeded.

Health and Medical Services

Annex

- Mission, Planning Assumptions, Organization
- Provisions for PH in General and Special Needs Shelter areas
- Alert, Notification, Activation
- Medical Services
- Site-specific attachments required, under development

Goodwill Industries Initiative

- Reconditioned medical equipment for State Shelters
- 1st delivery on deck at VCU
- Seeking storage by region
 - Wheelchairs
 - Walkers
 - Crutches

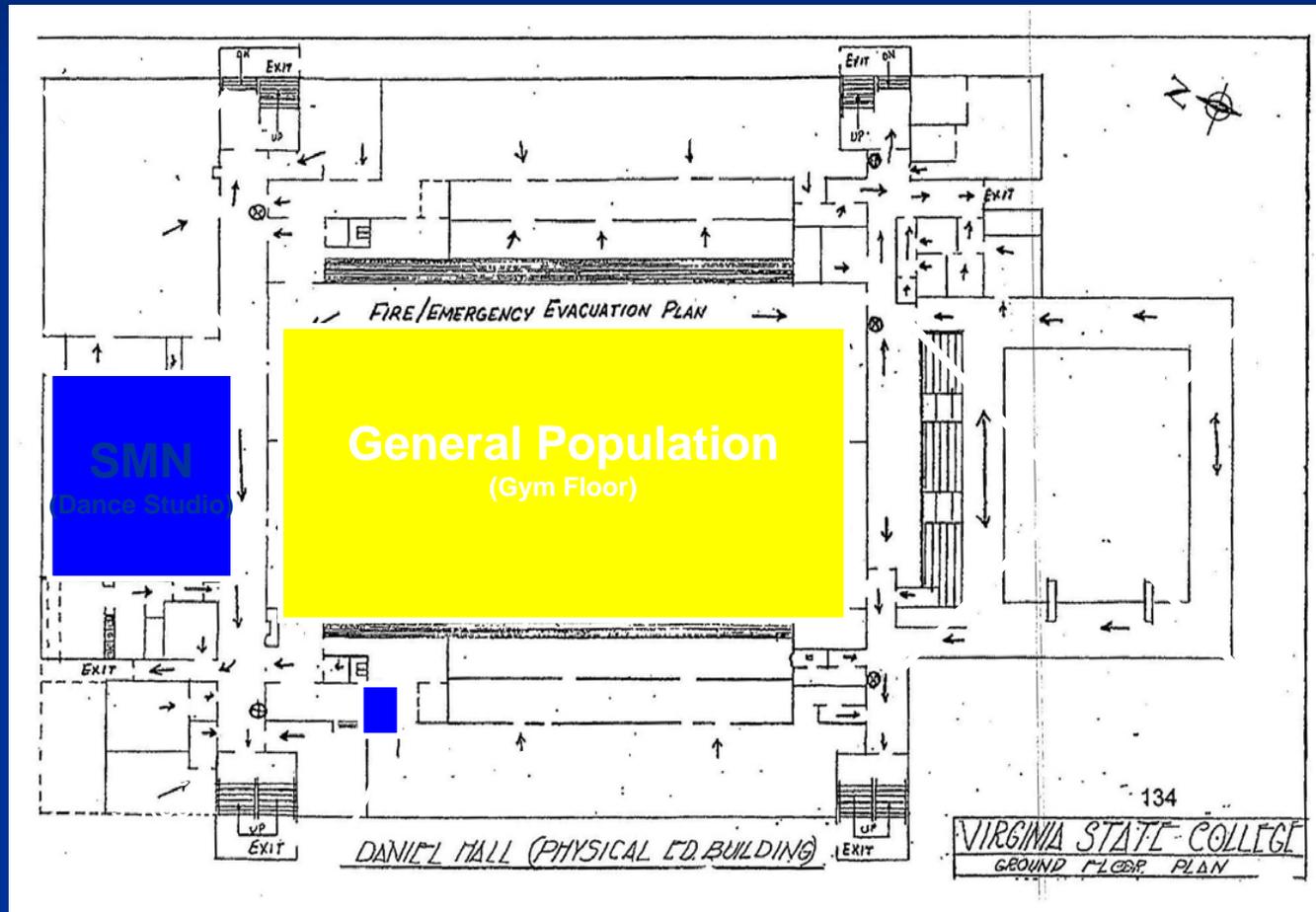
Registration/Intake

- All evacuees, all types, at all SMS will be registered in the same program
 - Consistent data
 - To upload summary data into WebEOC
 - To assist in reunification



- Registration
 - QUICK and simple
 - Scan ID card
 - Name
 - Address
 - Dependents
 - Triage
 - Initial Dorm Assigned
- Intake
 - Details
 - Household Info
 - Special Needs
 - Allergies
 - Medications
 - Services Needed

Example Shelter Layout



First Aid/
Distribution
(Office)