A Commitment to Focus - An Emergency Response Action Plan

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Commissioner
WHY THIS PLAN?
Types of Incidents

There are four classes of incidents:

• Weather related (snow, ice, flooding)
• Major or minor crashes
• Hazardous materials spills (hazmat)
• Terrorist attacks
The Goals

• Create a department-wide, comprehensive, and coordinated incident-response focus
• Realign funding, equipment, and protocols to strengthen all stages of incident response
• Balance VDOT and contract resources to improve snow and ice management
• Eliminate barriers that hinder response
Central Plan Themes

• Improve communication with the public and media
• Implement best practices for incident response statewide
• Adopt the NIMS principles and procedures
• Improve and institutionalize incident response training
• Improve coordination between other agencies and private sector involved in incident response.
Plan Overview

• 13 action items
• Investment of $240-360 million
• Implementation timeline of 18 months, with a life span for completion of 4-5 years
Implement Statewide Master Plans for sensor deployment and communication devices to assist in decision-making, citizen information, and response communication.

- CCTV
- VDS
- RWIS
- AVL
- DMS
- 511
- “Push” communications
A Systems Approach

- Focused on 23,000 miles of critical highway

- A consistent approach to emergency response statewide with all variations being conscientiously agreed to and documented

- A business that is jurisdiction neutral and seamless
Practices

• Adopt NIMS Principles for all hazards

• Implement an anti-icing program initially focusing on high-risk locations

• Develop plan to extend program statewide

• Expand the role of TMCs to become Traffic Operations Centers

• Create an “officer of the day” for command of emergency response
Communications Equipment

- Interoperable radio communications within VDOT and between emergency response agencies
Equipment

Remodeling, Renewing, Relocating

• Locating equipment properly

• Outfitting emergency response vehicles with needed equipment
Training

• Establish emergency response institute focused on real-world challenges and experiences
  • First course: Aug. 17-22

• Operator training at a local level
Administrative Barriers

- Review take-home vehicle policies
- Review TAMS and hired equipment contracts
- Advance Quick clearance protocols
THE MISSION

Plan, deliver, operate and maintain a transportation system that is safe, enables the easy movement of people and goods, enhances the economy, and improves the quality of life.