

Emergency Management

- 5-3A Suffolk's Office of Emergency Management is currently working with the Hampton Roads Region and Salter's Creek Consulting to update the Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan which will help minimize the impacts of disasters. The final FEMA approved draft target is Winter 2022 and the target to have the localities adopt the plan is April 2023. The City is also advocating the purchase of flood insurance through the "Get Flood Fluent" campaign which is a regional effort. The Office of Emergency Management also coordinates and trains locally, with the region, with the state and with FEMA through various committees, such as the Local Emergency Planning Committee, the All Hazards Advisory Committee, the Hampton Roads Emergency Management Committee, and the Virginia All Hazards Group.
- 5-3B Post-disaster procedures are identified throughout the City of Suffolk Emergency Operations Plan starting with post-incident reconnaissance and rapid damage assessment. At the conclusion of the incident, an improvement plan will also be developed based on the deficiencies identified, and an individual, department, or agency will be assigned responsibility for correcting each deficiency and a due date shall be established for that action. A call center will be established during an event and will continue after for citizen outreach. An assistance center can be established based on need, for citizens to make inquiries, and get assistance for local, state, and federal agencies.
- 5-3C The City of Suffolk has an Emergency Operations Plan, COSEOP, that emphasizes emergency planning and preparedness which is revised and adopted by City Council every 4 years. The most recent adoption was in 2020. The Office of Emergency Management, OEM, is responsible for coordinating and accomplishing the revision. In addition to the City's EOP, the OEM reaches the general public and private sector through the City's public TV channel as well as various forms of social media to magnify the importance of emergency planning and preparedness. The OEM also partners with outside agencies for programs like "Know Your Zone" which focuses on storm surge planning and preparedness and "Get Flood Fluent" which focuses on flood preparedness and mitigation. The OEM also reaches the general public through community and public education events and requests. Examples of such outreach participation includes but are not limited to the Suffolk Peanut Fest, National Night Out, and community speaking engagements.
- 5-3D This may be better answered by another department such as Community Planning & Development or Public Works. An example of their efforts include purchasing properties to mitigate flooding concerns. Another example would be Sadler Pond improvements which resulted in the Route 460 Culvert Replacement Project which has been completed. There is currently a Pughsville study underway to improve drainage in Northern Suffolk.