

AGENCY ANNEX G
AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

I. MISSION

To protect, sustain and enhance Vermont's natural resources, for the benefit of this and future generations. The mission includes the reduction of adverse impact on the environment, and on the health of Vermont's people, in emergency or disaster situations.

II. AUTHORITY

3 VSA Chapter 51

III. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

State agency and department heads and their staffs develop, plan and train to internal policies and procedures to meet preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery needs as identified in this plan including annexes, appendices, tabs and other supporting documents including the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Training includes not only what may be accomplished within the agency but multi-level, interagency training and exercises to develop and maintain necessary capabilities.

The Agency of Natural Resources is the branch of Vermont state government involved with all conditions, which may affect the environment and public health. Headed by a secretary who is appointed by the Governor, the Agency has three departments: Environmental Conservation; Fish and Wildlife; and Forests, Parks and Recreation. Additionally, the Agency has three independent divisions: Enforcement; Administrative Services; and Planning. The commissioners of the departments and the directors of the independent divisions report to the Secretary.

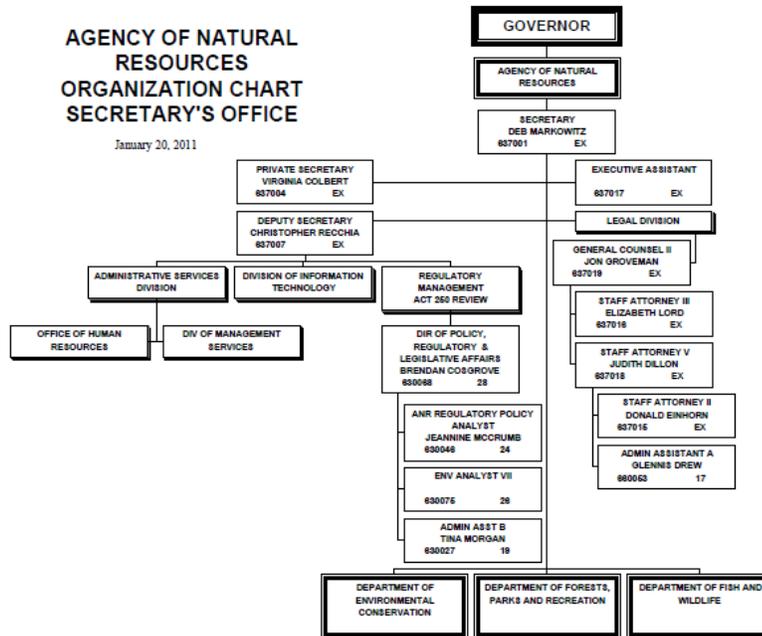
Natural and technological hazards in Vermont are capable of causing emergency or disaster situations, which can affect the total environment and infrastructure. Because of this, the assets of the Agency are called to respond to an emergency according to the nature of the event. Historically, the greatest natural disasters to occur in Vermont have been floods. Major concern has been given to monitoring streambeds and stream bank repairs in order to ensure that any damage done to the natural character of the streams and their related habitat is minimal.

The Agency is also concerned with other disaster events such as summer and winter storms, forest fires, freezing temperatures, ice jams, drought, and any other major events which would be classified as an emergency or disaster having an impact on the State's environment. Potential man-made emergency situations include contamination of public water supplies, and spills or leaks of hazardous materials into the air, water, ground, water supply or a waste-water treatment facility. Other man-made emergency situations include terrorist incidents, which may affect the natural environment or infrastructure. Since the environment of the State can be adversely affected by almost every possible emergency/disaster situation, the Agency of Natural Resources is designated as a Primary Response organization.

The situation and assumptions in section ii of the Base plan also apply.

IV. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The following chart outlines the emergency response organization of the Agency:



The Agency is a lead agency for State Support Function #11 (Natural Resources and Agriculture), and is a support agency for State Support Function 5 (Emergency Management, Recovery, and Mitigation), #6 (Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services), #8 (Health and Medical Services), #10 (Hazardous Materials), and #14 (Public Information) and assumes the responsibilities as outlined in those annexes. The Agency is also a participating agency in the Recovery and Restoration Multi-Agency Coordination Group as designated in the Disaster Recovery and Restoration Annex.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

This Annex will be implemented with the assigned responsibilities by means of direct coordination from the Commissioner, Department of Public Safety or Director, VEM with the

Commissioner and/or upon the order of the Governor within the framework of the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP).

VI. ADMINISTRATION

The Secretary is responsible for the overall emergency response of the Agency.

VII. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

In accordance with the provisions of title 20, “agency heads will in addition to any deputy authorized pursuant to law, designate by title three emergency interim successors and specify their order of succession. These designations shall, each year, be reviewed and revised, as necessary, to ensure their current status.”

Line of succession for the Agency is as follows: