

**ANNEX L  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

**I. MISSION**

To provide emergency preparedness, planning, prevention, and protection services through the work of its five Divisions, to ensure a safe and secure environment and enhanced quality of life for the Citizens of the State of Vermont.

**II. AUTHORITY**

Title 3 V.S.A. Chapter 9, § 212 – Departments Created  
Title 20 V.S.A. Chapter 1, § 3 – Vermont Emergency Management Division  
Title 20 V.S.A. Chapter 1, § 3a – Emergency Management Division; Duties; Budget  
Title 20 V.S.A. Chapter 1, § 7 – Mobile Support Units  
Title 20 V.S.A. Chapter 1, § 8 – General Powers of the Governor  
Title 20 V.S.A. Chapter 1, § 9 – Emergency Powers of the Governor  
Title 20 V.S.A. Chapter 4 § 101 – Emergency Management Assistance Compact; Adoption  
Title 20 V.S.A. Chapter 8, § 201 – International Emergency Management Assistance Compact; Adoption  
Title 20 V.S.A. Chapter 114, § 1954 – New England State Police Compact; Conference Powers – Article IV

**III. SITUATION**

The Department of Public Safety is the agency of state government charged with the protection of public peace and safety and the preservation of life and property. The Department of Public Safety is headed by the Commissioner, appointed by the Governor. The Department has four divisions: Administrative Services, Criminal Justice Services, Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and State Police. The division directors report directly to the Commissioner.

Emergency or disaster situations throughout Vermont create conditions requiring specific responses from three of the four divisions.

The State of Vermont is a member of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. Vermont 20 V.S.A §1, Chapter 4, provides the authority and mechanism for Emergency Management Assistance through interstate mutual-aid for any emergency or disaster duly declared by the Governor of an effected state(s). This statute outlines in detail how to implement the interstate mutual-aid, each state's responsibilities, the limitation of the assistance, specific license and permit issues, liability waivers, and compensation for assistance provided.

**IV. ORGANIZATION**

Attachment 1 at the end of this subsection outlines the emergency response of the Department of Public Safety employing the Incident Command System (ICS). The department's division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security is the lead agency coordinating the state's emergency response to provide the services outlined in the paragraph VI, which also outlines areas of responsibility.

#### IV. IMPLEMENTATION

The Director of the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) will activate this subsection of the State Plan and perform the functions outlined in the State Support Function 5 annex and Support annex 7 - Recovery and Restoration when informed of a disaster or potential disaster situation or upon the order of the Governor. The Governor may delegate authority for plan implementation to DEMHS. The Governor or the Commissioner of Public Safety may order a partial activation of the plan and the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) as circumstances warrant.

#### V. ADMINISTRATION

- A. The Commissioner of Public Safety has overall responsibility for the overall emergency response of the department and assigned divisions.
- B. The Commissioner, through the Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, delegates responsibility for the Public Assistance and Individual Assistance Programs as follows:
  - 1. The Department of Finance and Management has responsibility for the management of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) letter of credit, through which Vermont receives all disaster assistance and FEMA support funds.
  - 2. The Agency of Transportation has responsibility to conduct preliminary infrastructure damage assessment and provide for Public Assistance.
  - 3. The Agency of Human Service has responsibility to administer the Individual Assistance Program.
- C. The Director of the Vermont State Police has responsibility for:
  - 1. Coordination of all emergency police and law enforcement, special services, and traffic control.
  - 2. Assistance to local political jurisdictions upon request of local officials or as directed by the Commissioner or Governor.
  - 3. Provision of an explosive ordnance device team responsible for disassembling or deactivating explosive devices.
  - 4. The provision of K-9 dogs.
  - 5. Providing a dive team (SCUBA) for underwater diving operations.
  - 6. Maintaining a tactical support unit of specially trained troopers needed to handle situations requiring special tactics and weapons.
  - 7. Deploying search and rescue teams.
  - 8. The maintenance and deployment of a mobile command post and manning the same on a 24 hour basis during any crisis or disaster situation.
  - 9. Organizing and staffing area command centers as outlined by the Governor.
  - 10. Providing direct assistance to the SEOC during times of crisis or disaster.
- D. The Director of Criminal Justice Services is responsible for:
  - 1. Collection and examination of physical evidence collected from crime scenes and other sources.
  - 2. Planning, design, installation and maintenance of the telecommunications systems and equipment used by the department and for all of the information management systems used by many criminal justice agencies in Vermont. This includes

- managing two-way radios, the state-owned microwave network, and the Departments telephone system.
3. Managing all information technology resources for the Department, including the Departments private network which is compiled of the data circuits, routers and servers that allow for the distribution of information.
- E. The Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security is responsible for:
1. The coordination of all local and State emergency or disaster responses.
  2. The provision, coordination, and supervision of State resources.
  3. Organizing the State's planning and preparedness activities and plans.
  4. Organizing and staffing the State Emergency Operations Center.
  5. Staffing and deployment of State Rapid Assessment and Assistance Teams trained in ICS and/or response/recovery specialists.
  6. Liaison with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
  7. Requesting FEMA or other federal assistance during times of crisis or disaster.
  8. Requesting assistance from signatories of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) or the International Emergency Management Assistance Compact (IEMAC).
  9. Training of State and local personnel in ICS.
  10. Maintenance of applicable disaster records.
  11. Application to FEMA and other disaster relief agencies for eligible aid.
- NOTE: For further details of the DEMHS responsibilities see individual State Support Function Annex's.
- F. The Director of Fire Safety is responsible for:
1. Inspecting buildings and reviewing plans to make sure that fire code and safety requirements are met
  2. Administering fire, electrical, boiler/pressure vessel and plumbing safety and licensing programs.
  3. Hazardous materials response.
- G. The Director of Administrative Services is responsible for:
1. Overseeing contract development and approval
  2. Developing, tracking, and monitoring budgets for both federal and state funded programs.
  3. Administering all State and Federal funded grant programs.
  4. Working with DPS staff and its' sub-grantees to ensure compliance with all federal and state regulations and guidelines for financial management.

**VI. ADMINISTRATION**

The Commissioner is responsible for the overall emergency response of the Department.

**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 Department is as follows:

Commissioner

Deputy Commissioner

Vermont State Police, Director

Attachment 1

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**

