Public Safety Standing Committee Presentation

Winter Storm Advisory Services



Agenda

- 1. Winter Storm Overview
- 2. Building a Culture of Preparedness
- 3. Hagerty Consulting Support
- 4. Project Overview
- 5. Winter Storm After Action Efforts
- 6. Disaster Recovery Planning Overview



Winter Storm Overview

✓ Governor Youngkin declares a State of Emergency for the incoming winter storm event

January 3

- Water treatment plant power outage
- Water treatment plant begins to flood
- EOC moves to in-person activation
- Boil Water Advisory fully activated
- Water distribution starts
- Winter storm ends

January 6

- Boil water advisory lifted
- Water distribution end
- Inclement weather sheltering end
- EOC moved to a **Monitoring Status**

January 11

January 5

- Mayor Avula declares a State of **Emergency**
- Virtual EOC activated
- Inclement weather sheltering start
- Winter storm overflow shelters activated
- Winter storm begins

January 7

- City begins recovery (drying, disassembly, pumping) at the water treatment plant
- City offices remain closed due to weather conditions

January 10

- City offices temporarily reopened
- Second winter storm impacts the City

January 13

✓ City returns to normal operations



Building a Culture of Preparedness

The City has been executing actions to enhance the City's culture of preparedness:

- ✓ 2023 Emergency Management Assessment
- ✓ Instituting Emergency Management Liaisons (EMLs)
- Implementing Hazard Mitigation actions
- Instituting Richmond Ready Everbridge system
- Conducting the THIRA/SPR

What are the City's After-**Action Recovery Goals?**

- ✓ Forensic investigation into events of Jan 5-6
- ✓ Long-Term Infrastructure improvements
- ✓ Building Culture of preparedness



Richmond Ready Alert

Richmond Ready Alerts are a critical alert messaging system designed to keep residents, workers, and visitors in Richmond informed about potential hazards or threats that could impact their safety. The City of Richmond is utilizing the system **Everbridge**, a leading platform in critical event management platform.

How are alerts sent?

- ✓ Home, Cell, or Business Phone
- ✓ Email
- Hearing Impaired Receiving Devices
- ✓ Push Notifications
- ✓ SMS
- ✓ Text Messages

Richmond Ready Alerts will provide the latest updates about:

- ✓ Evacuations
- ✓ Floods
- ✓ Lockdowns
- Missing Persons
- ✓ Power Outages
- ✓ Road Closures
- ✓ Severe Weather
- Utility Failures



Hagerty Consulting Support

Hagerty Consulting is a comprehensive emergency management and homeland security consulting firm that works with our clients to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.



500+ core employees and a network of **1,000+** professionals and subject matter experts



750+ emergency preparedness projects across planning, assessment, resiliency, and more



Experience working collaboratively across the private sector and at all levels of government



Since 2001

we have worked with all sectors, levels of government, and geographic areas on emergency management and homeland security related topics.



Project Overview





Project Goal

To augment and support staffing resources and planning priorities for the City of Richmond following the winter storm in January 2025 and help the City recover resiliently.



Winter Storm After-Action Recovery Goals

Recovery Goals

		Forensic Investigation	Long-Term Infrastructure Improvements	Building Culture of Preparedness
	Incident Response Assessment	Response Assessment will align with water plant forensic investigation		Response Assessment will highlight best practices and recommendations
	2025 Winter Storm Recovery Action Plan	Water plant forensic investigation will inform the development of the Action Plan	Action Plan will consider integration of long-term infrastructure improvements	Action Plan will set the City up to recover from this event
	Disaster Recovery Plan		DRP will align with long-term infrastructure priorities	DRP will enable a smooth transition from response to recovery for future events
	Cost Recovery Plan		CRP will support cost documentation and reimbursement identification to enable infrastructure improvements	CRP will expedite data collection and cost recovery to help secure resources.



Where We **Are Now**

Over the past few weeks, Hagerty has been supporting the City in implementing the following:

√ Hagerty EOC staff augmentation deployed

January 11

Formal stakeholder outreach initiated for Incident Response Assessment

- ✓ Stakeholder interviews started for Incident Response Assessment
- Hagerty cost recovery staff on site

January 15

January 13

- Hagerty recovery planning staff on site
- Incident Response Assessment process initiated

January 16

Disaster Recovery Plan development process initiated

The Hagerty team has:

- √ 34 Incident Response Assessment conversations scheduled
- √ 16 Incident Response **Assessment** conversations conducted
- Incident Response **Assessment Survey** disseminated



What is a Recovery Plan?



The **Disaster Recovery Plan** will:

- Describe the hazards and vulnerabilities that threaten the City.
- Describe what the City should do to transition from response into recovery.
- Provide an organizational framework for post-disaster decision-making and prioritization of efforts, including roles and responsibilities and RSF-specific checklists.



Action Plan

The 2025 Winter Storm Recovery Action Plan will:

- Serve as an annex to the Disaster Recovery Plan.
- Build off the Disaster Recovery Plan for use specifically for the 2025 Winter Storm recovery efforts.
- Provide operational tools to employ following the 2025 Winter Storm recovery efforts.



The Cost Recovery Plan will:

- Develop and document City processes to assess damages and collect information on costs incurred to enable the City to advocate for necessary resources and support after a disaster.
- Create tools to streamline information collection and sharing total estimated damages and/or costs incurred as they are identified.
- Expedite reimbursement of eligible costs by FEMA and/or VDEM.



Recovery Planning Process



Stakeholder **Engagement**



Data Collection



Disaster Recovery Plan Development



2025 Winter Storm **Recovery Action Plan Development**



Cost Recovery Plan Development

How will you be engaged?

- ✓ Informational executive meetings and reports to share high-level overviews and progress
- Data gathering meetings and surveys to collect your institutional knowledge and priorities
- Draft plan review meetings to align the plans to your needs and approach



Disaster Recovery Stakeholders

	Advisory Group		Working Groups	
Who?	Council Committee (Council Members)	Technical Advisory Committee (Mayor, CAO, Senior Leadership, Council President)	Groups of internal and external stakeholders leading distinct components of recovery. Examples can include working groups focused on cost recovery, housing, economic, and critical infrastructure, among others.	
Why?	Provide executive direction and key decision making throughout response and recovery.		Lead distinct components of disaster recovery, coordinating and implementing targeted actions to meet city goals.	
When?	Engaged at targeted moments throughout recovery.		Activated based on need and activity throughout recovery.	
How will they be engaged in this planning process?	, , ,		Attend (1) a kickoff meeting to gather data, (2) individual RSF working meetings to validate roles and responsibilities, (3) a meeting to discuss incident-specific recovery needs, and/or (4) a meeting on cost recovery.	





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