



NRV Hazard Mitigation Plan 2016/2017 Update Working Group: Human-caused, Wildfire, & Drought Hazards

January 5, 2017, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

New River Room, New River Valley Business Center
Fairlawn, VA

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Data Review
3. Regional Mitigation Hazards Discussion and Strategy Review
 - *Wildfire*
 - *Drought*
 - *Human-caused*
4. Wrap Up
 - a. Question and answer
 - b. Next meeting- February 2, 2017 – Flooding

**NRV Hazard Mitigation Plan 2016/2017 Update Working Group:
Human-caused, Wildfire, & Drought Hazards**

Meeting Notes

January 5, 2017

Attending: <see list>

Notes

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Data Review by Zach Swick
 - a. Wildfire, Drought, and Human-caused hazards in the New River Valley.
 - i. Several working group members asked questions regarding drought and its correlation to wildfire. It was indicated drought could be a component, but is not necessarily indicative of wildfire.
 - ii. The group asked Mr. Swick to confirm if the hazardous waste data was only waste and not also materials as this would make a difference in whether the map shows all potential hazardous materials areas in the NRV.
3. Regional Mitigation Hazards Discussion and Strategy Review
 - a. Wildfire Update
 - i. Christy Straight gave the group an update on progress and changes in the wildfire risk based on her conversation with Brad Wright at the Virginia DOF.
 1. Progress has been made in producing county-wide protection plans in Pulaski and Montgomery Counties. There are more Firewise communities in Pulaski, Floyd, and Montgomery Counties, which means a reduced fuel load in vulnerable areas.
 2. Since the 2011 plan there has only be one large fire (100+ acres), in Giles County in October/November 2016. Recent fires have threatened more structures than before, but – statewide – they are also generally less than 4 acres.
 3. Most risk factors are tree mortality, growth in the wildland-urban interface (Claytor Lake, Blue Ridge Parkway,etc.), and wind storms.
 4. Funding is available from state and federal sources for mitigation, county protection plans.
 - b. What we can do to help facilitate mitigation strategies?
 - i. The group agreed on a need to encourage coordination between localities and government agencies. They also agreed to review opportunities for coordination between emergency planners and locality planners. Other potential activity includes identifying localities' EOP commonalities, developing incident plans for repeating events, pursue funding for a pilot project that could address some or all of the activities listed here.
4. Wrap-up
 - a. Next meeting: February 2nd, 2017. The topic will be flooding. The group was invited to suggest others to invite to the next meeting and send contact information to Christy Straight (cstraight@nrvc.org).

NRV Hazard Mitigation Plan - 2016/17 Plan Update

January 5, 2017 - 10:30 am

	Name	Organization/Representing	Email (if new)
1	PHIL HYSELL	NWS BLACKSBURG	PHIL.HYSELL@NOAA.GOV
2	SARA MORGAN	TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG	
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Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Working Group – Human-caused, Wildfire, & Drought Hazards

January 5, 2017

N R V R C . O R G

Definition

- Hazard Mitigation

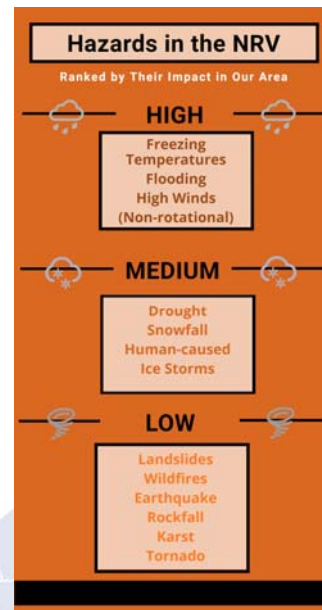
...is a sustainable action that will reduce or eliminate injury to citizens, damages to structures and allow continuity of critical society functions...

This is different from response and recovery.

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Project overview

- Update every 5 years
- Must be FEMA-approved
 - Maintains participants' eligibility for mitigation funds
- Covers natural hazards with potential impact in NRV
 - Floods, drought, wildfire, geologic hazards, severe weather, etc.
 - And considers human-caused hazards
- Project website - <http://nrvc.org/hazardmitigation/>



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Working groups

- Steering committee and staff will
 - Invite stakeholders with technical expertise
 - Invite community representatives to participate
- Participants will
 - Provide input on hazard issues and impacts
 - Develop mitigation goals and regional strategies
 - Further identification and input on
 - Mitigation options
 - Resources



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Working groups



- High Wind and Tornado Hazards | October 6, 2016
- Winter Hazards | November 10, 2016
- Geologic Hazards | December 1, 2016
- **Human-caused, Wildfire, & Drought Hazards | January 5, 2017**
- Flooding Hazards | February 2, 2017

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Today we will



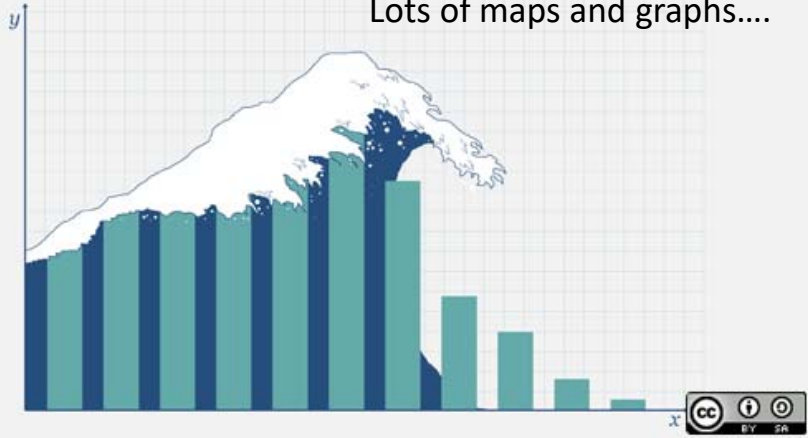
- Review latest available data
- Discuss hazards
- Review and update mitigation strategies

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Data

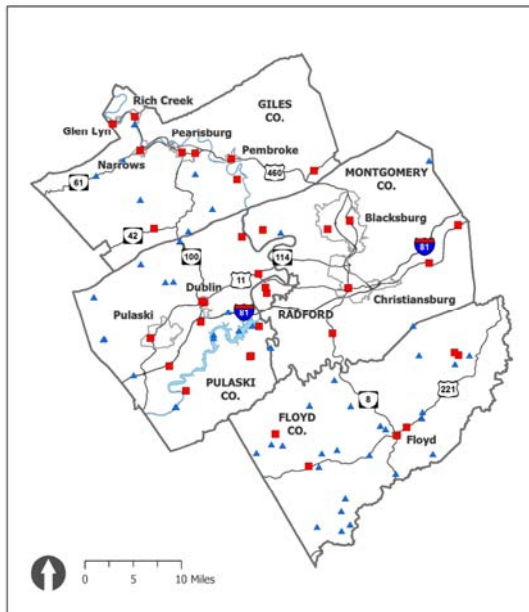


Lots of maps and graphs....



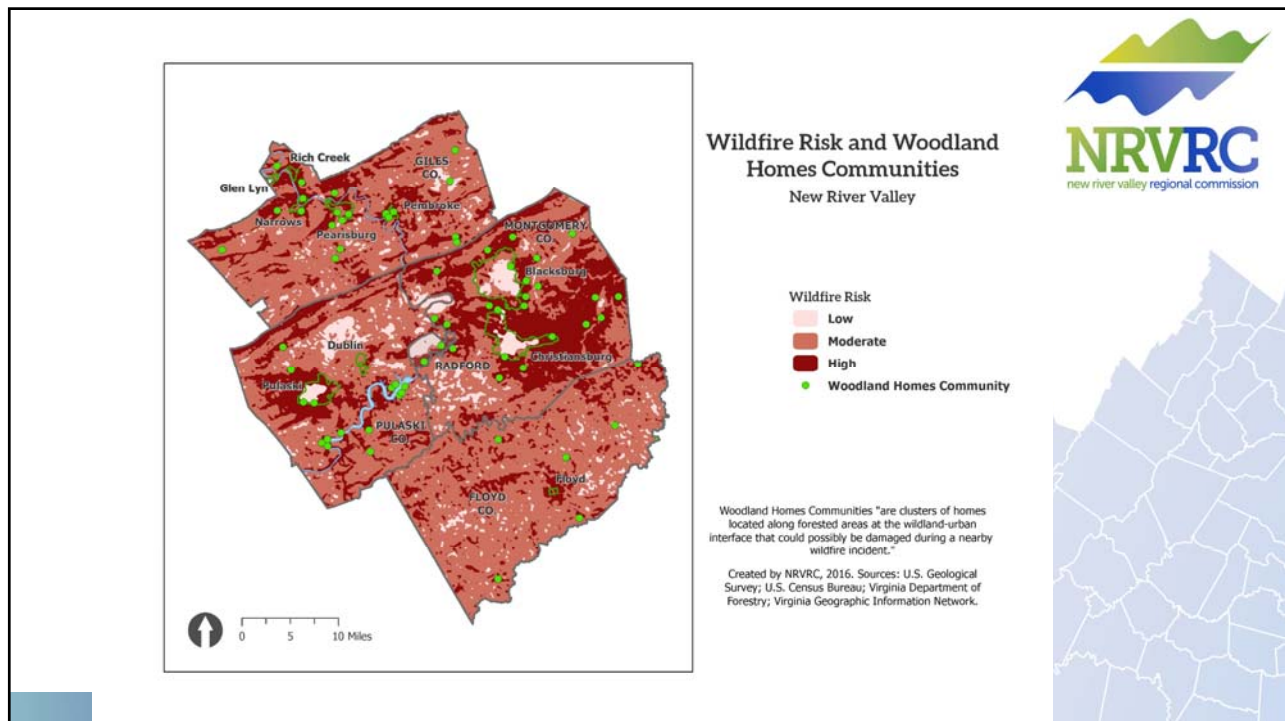
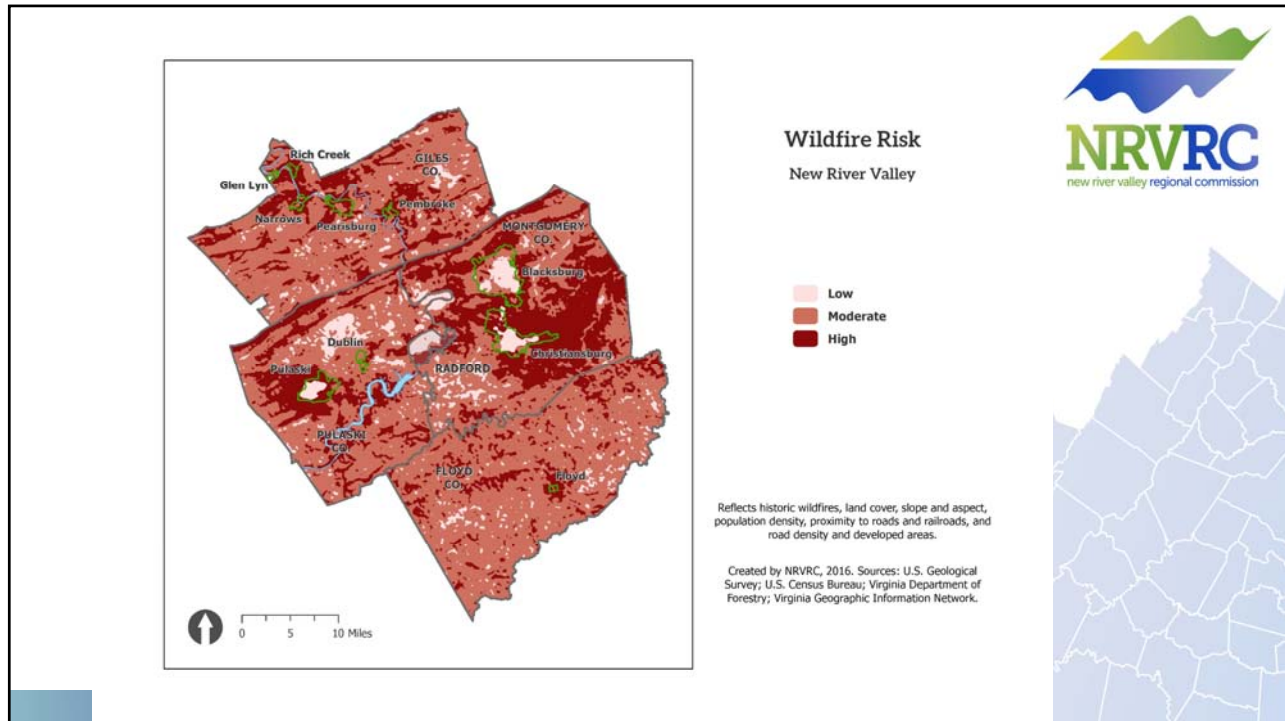
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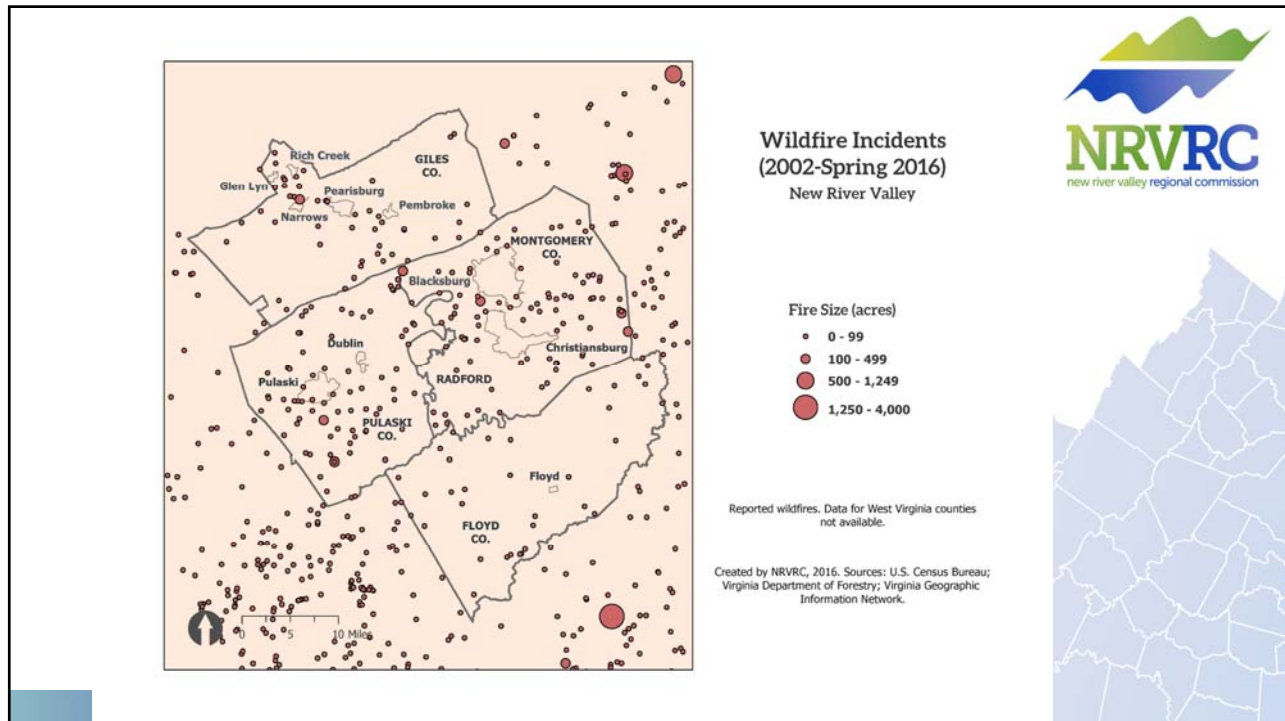
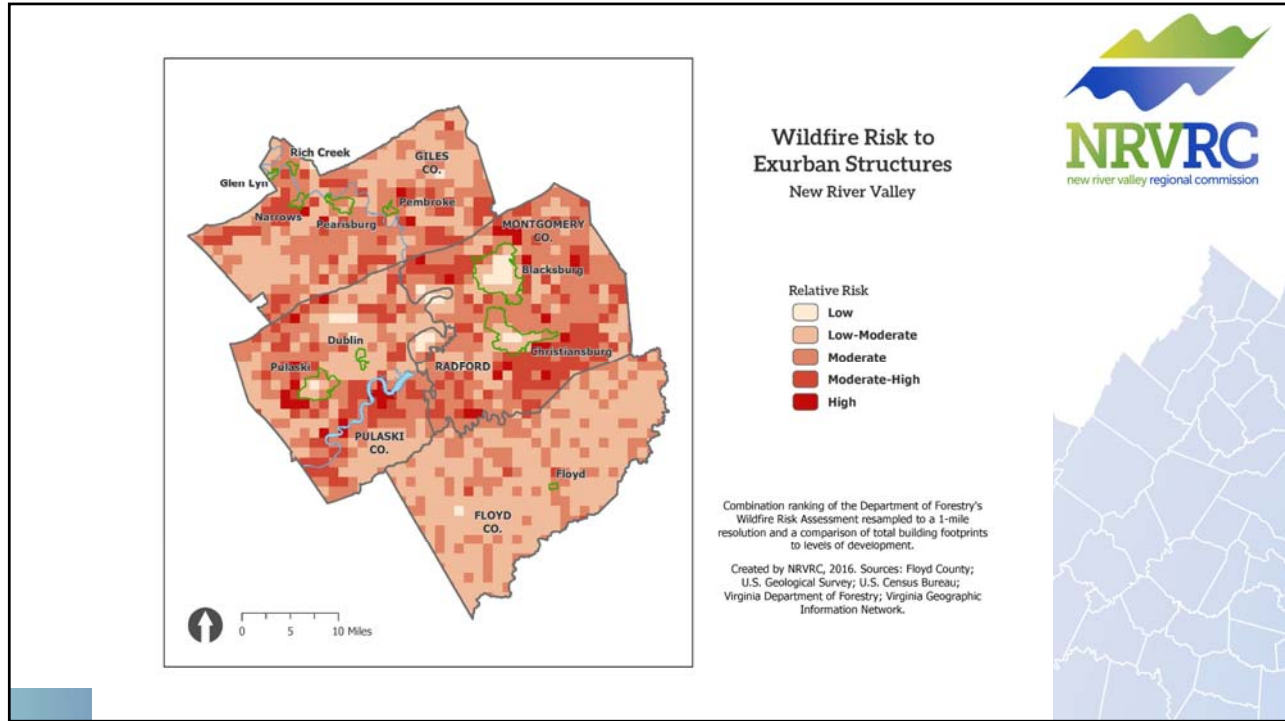
Current Fire Mitigation and Response New River Valley

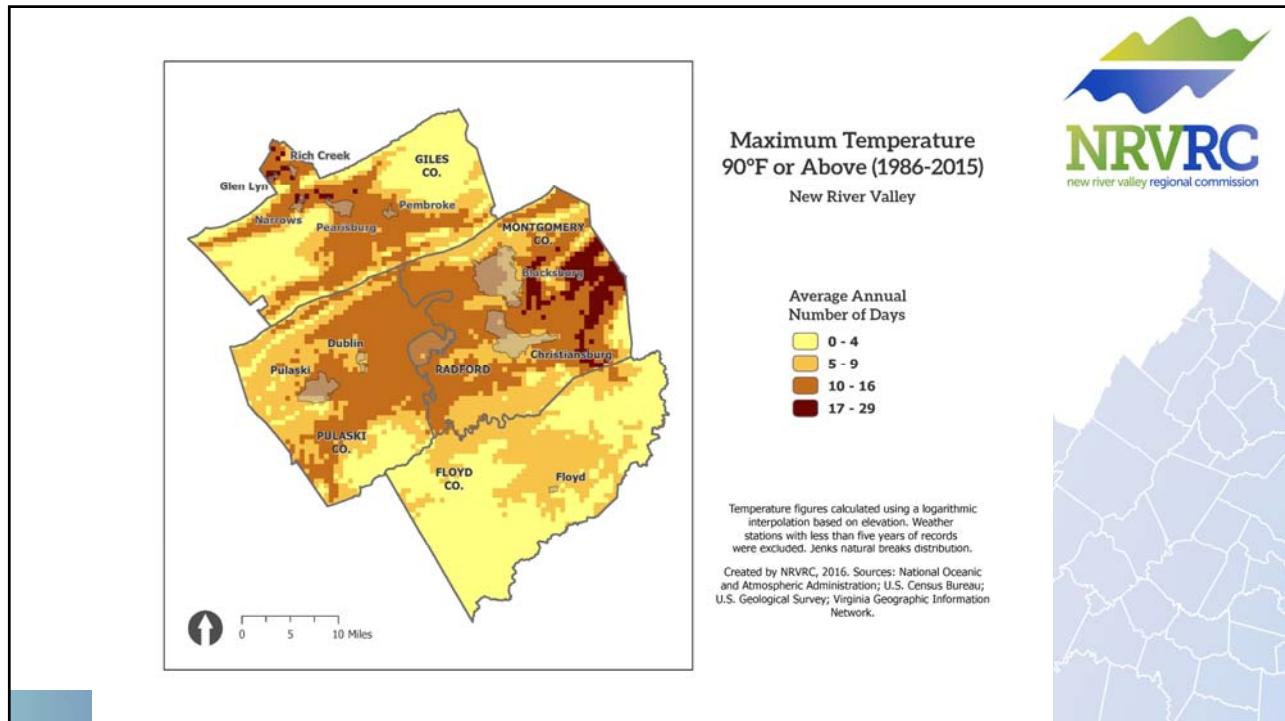
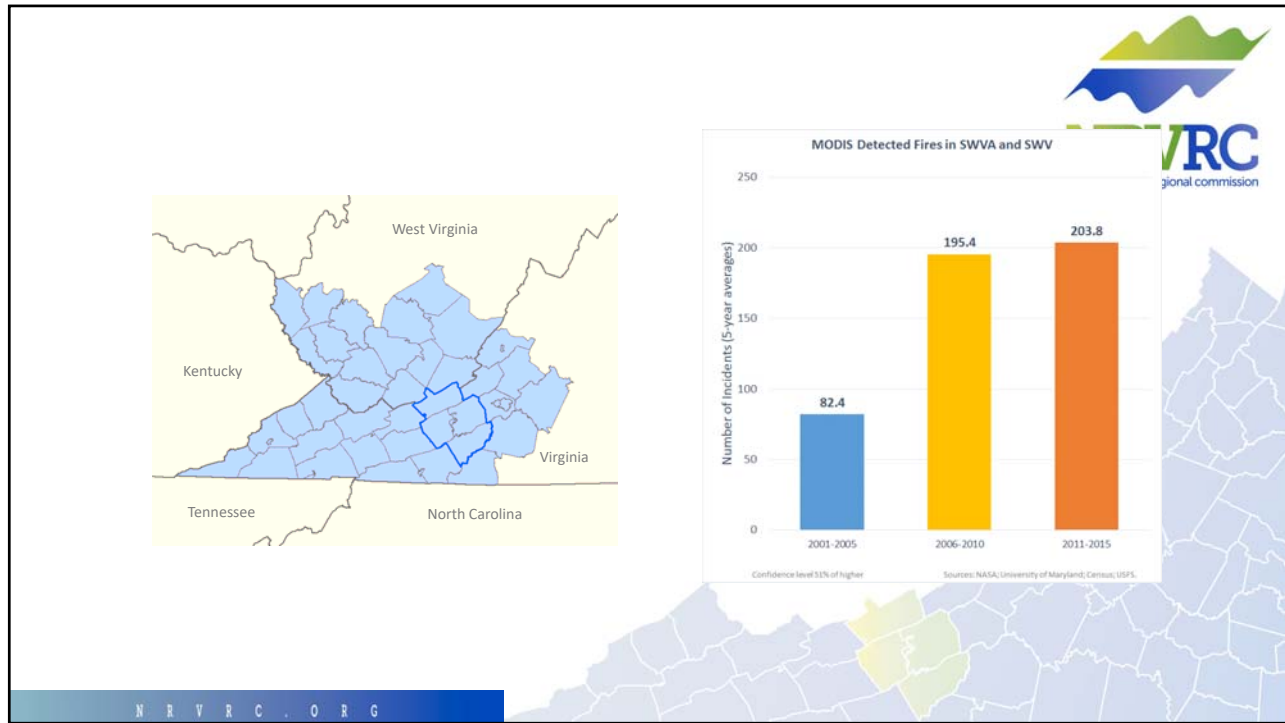


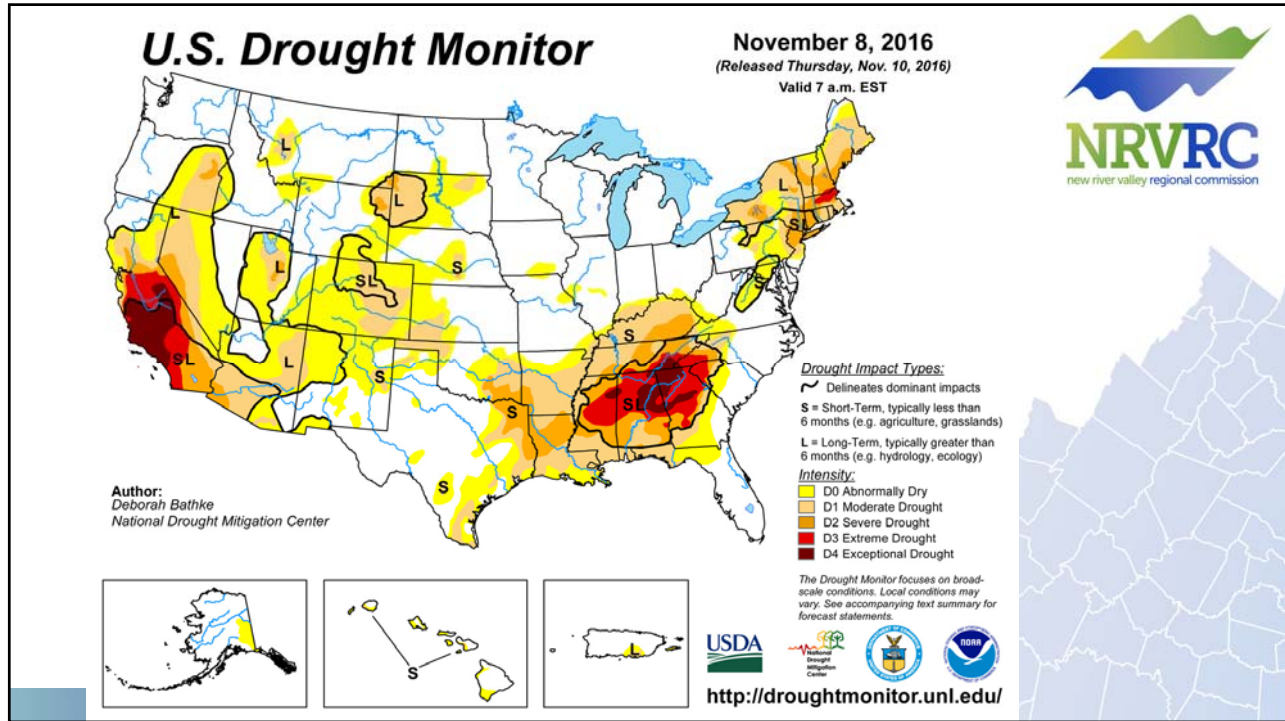
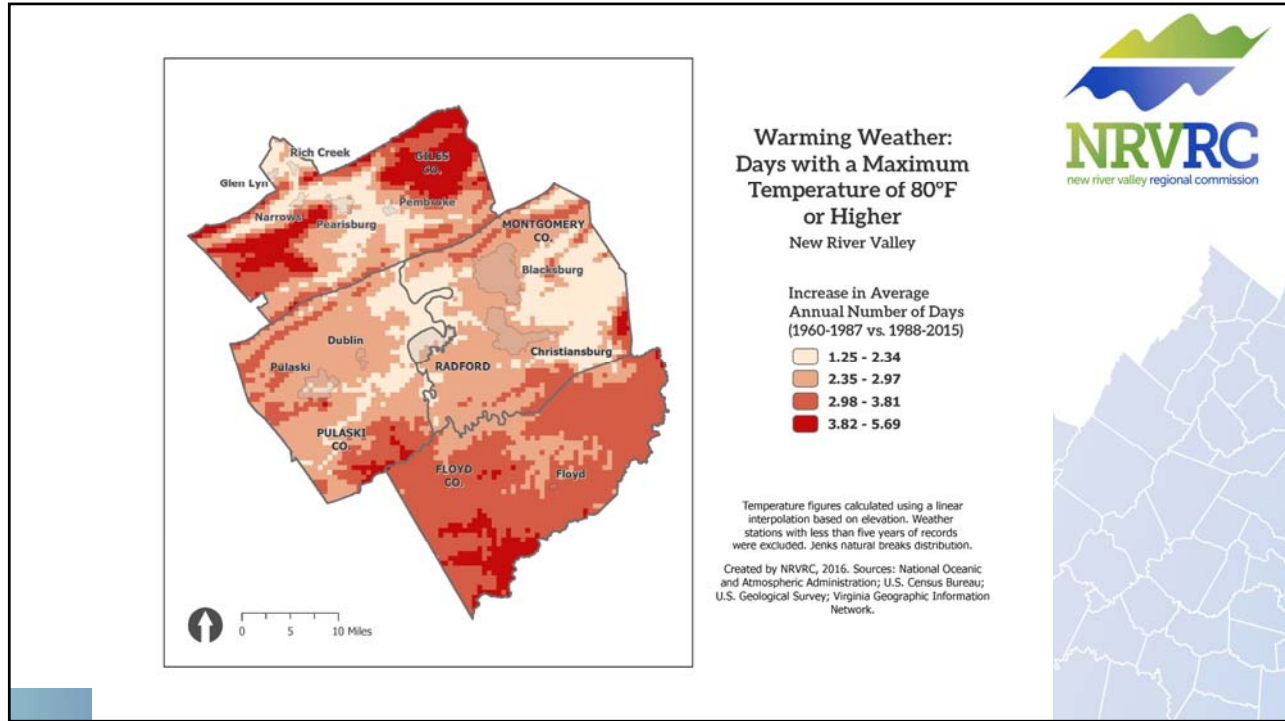
- Fire and Rescue Station
- ▲ Dry Hydrants

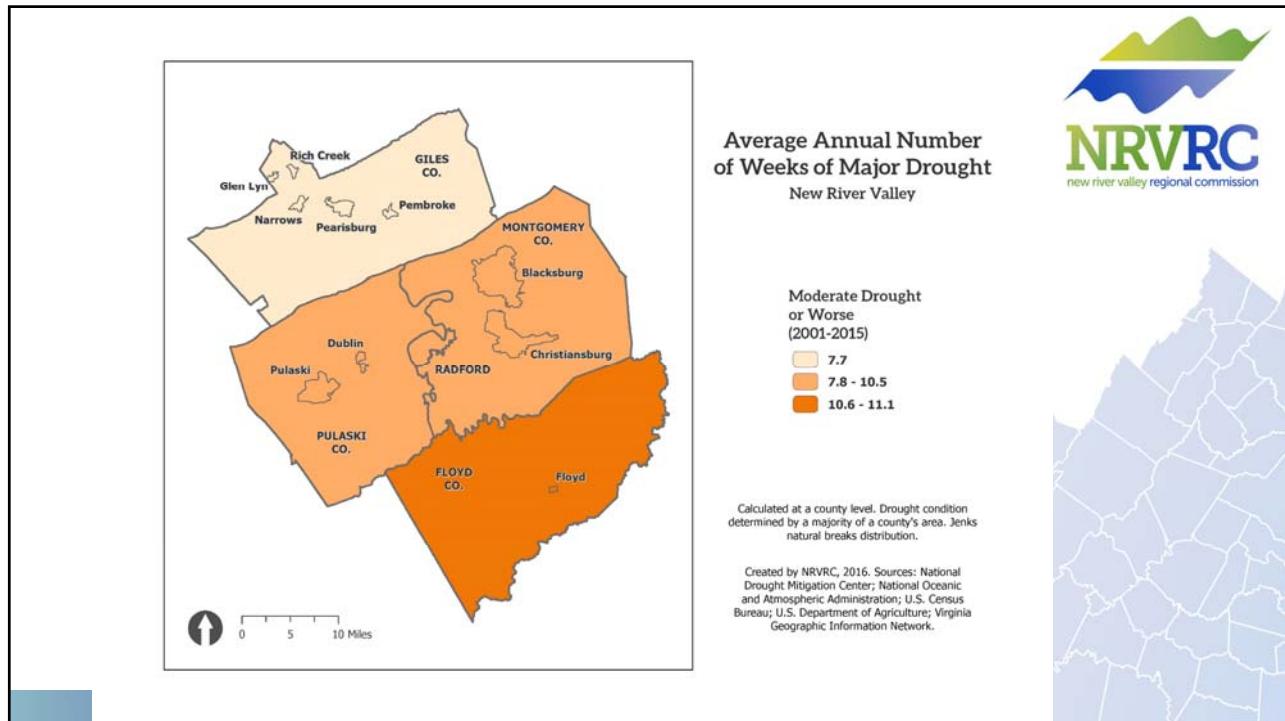
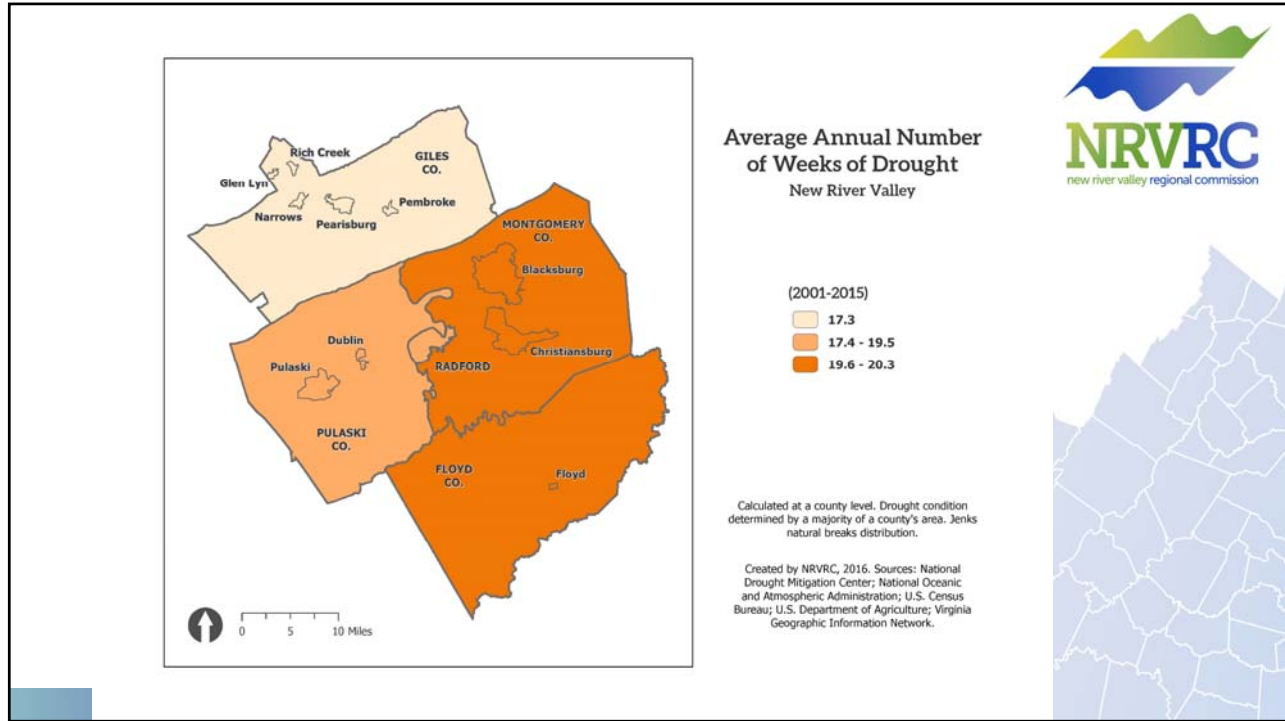
Created by NRVRC, 2016. Sources: U.S. Geological Survey; U.S. Census Bureau; Virginia Department of Forestry; Virginia Economic Development Partnership; Virginia Geographic Information Network.

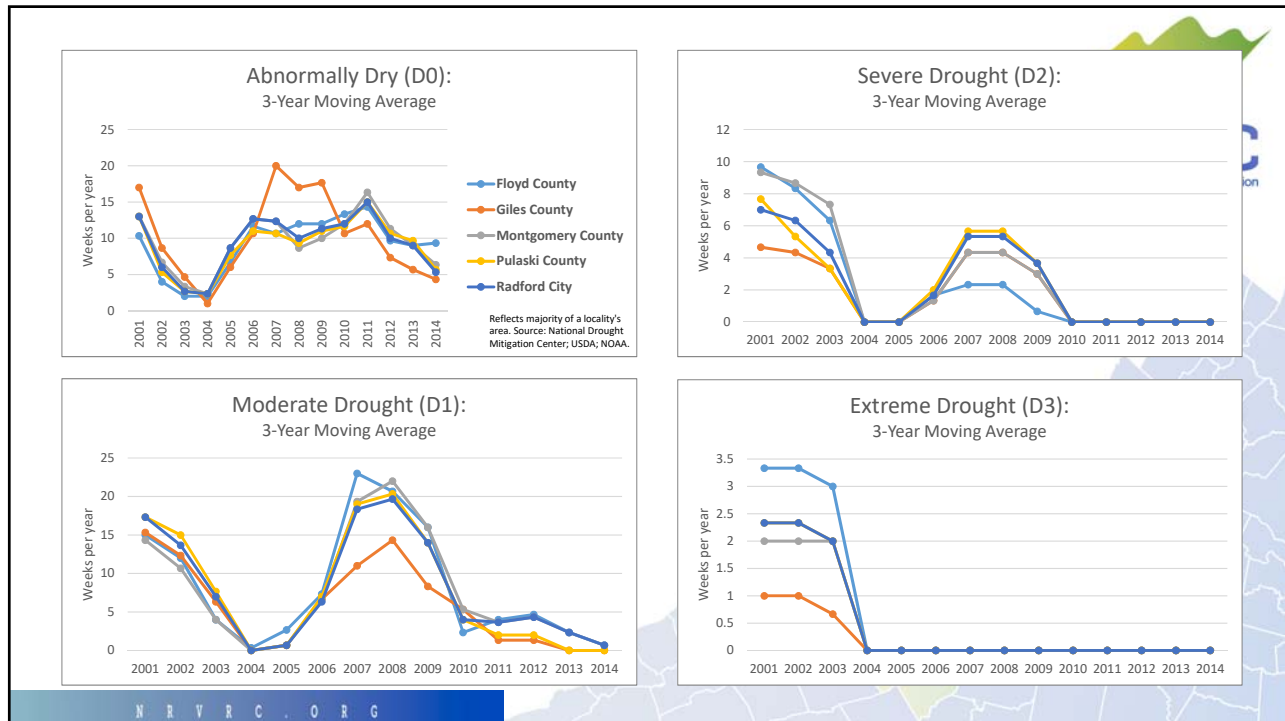
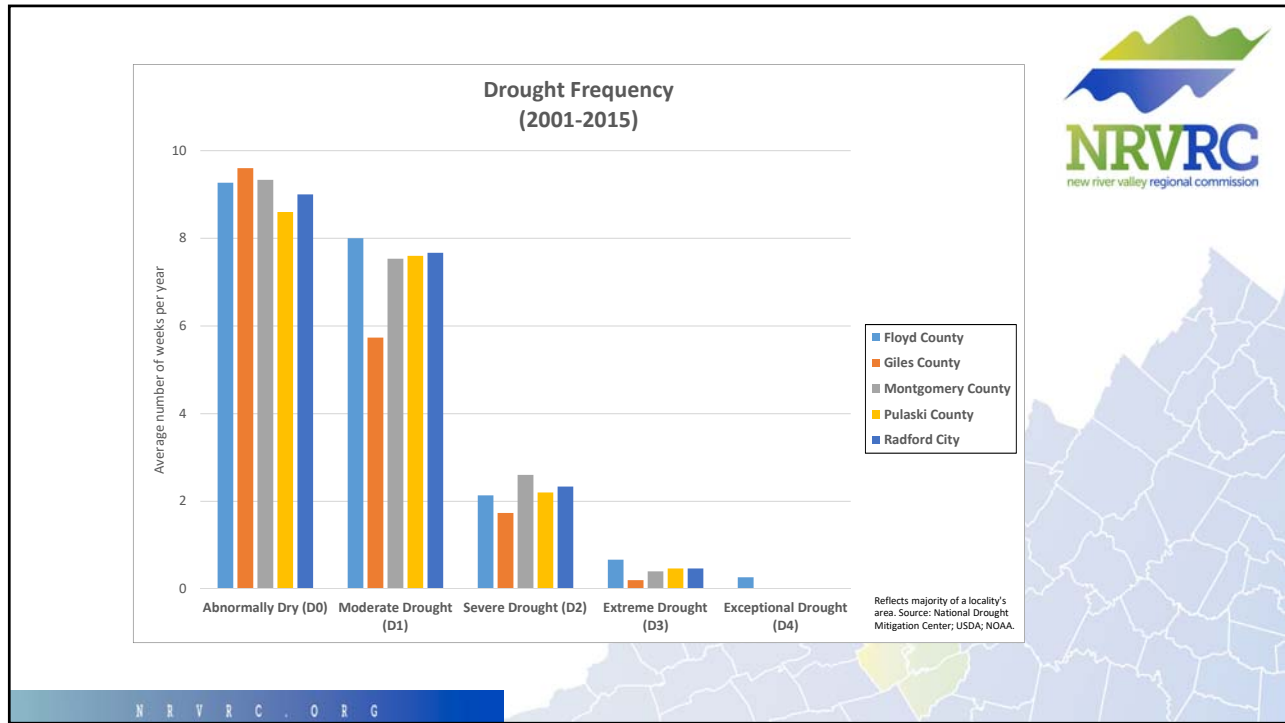


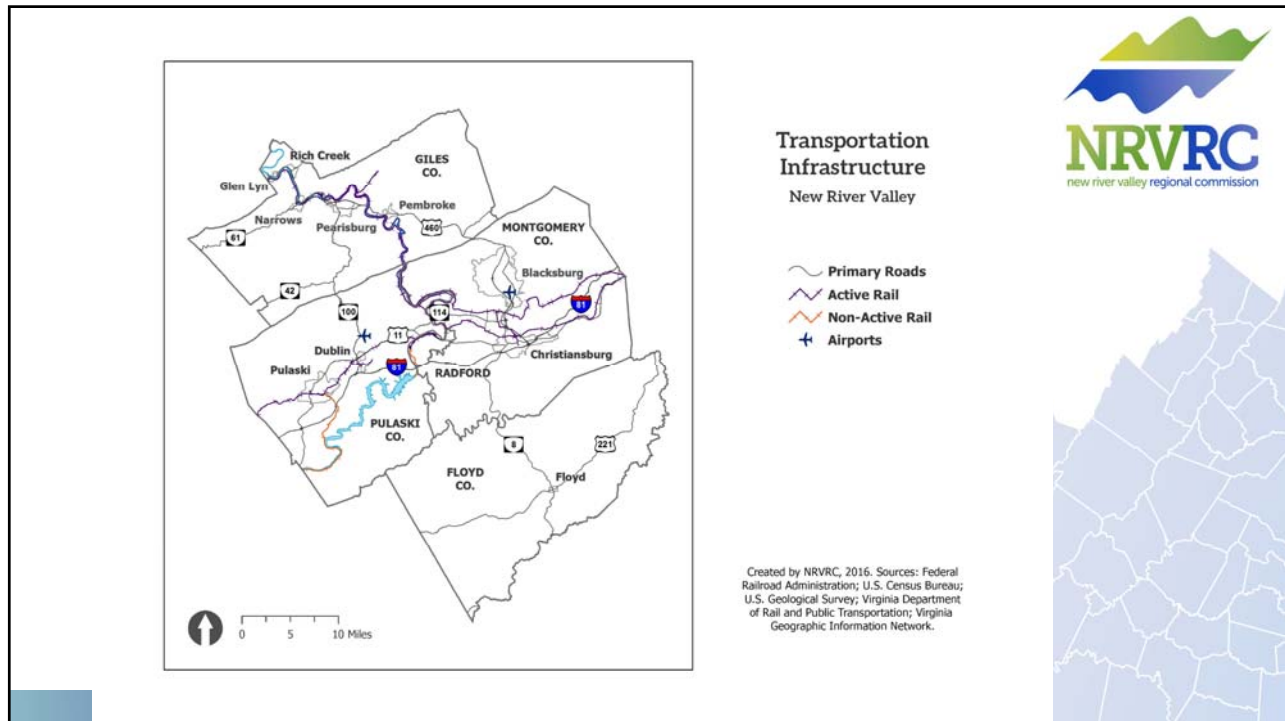
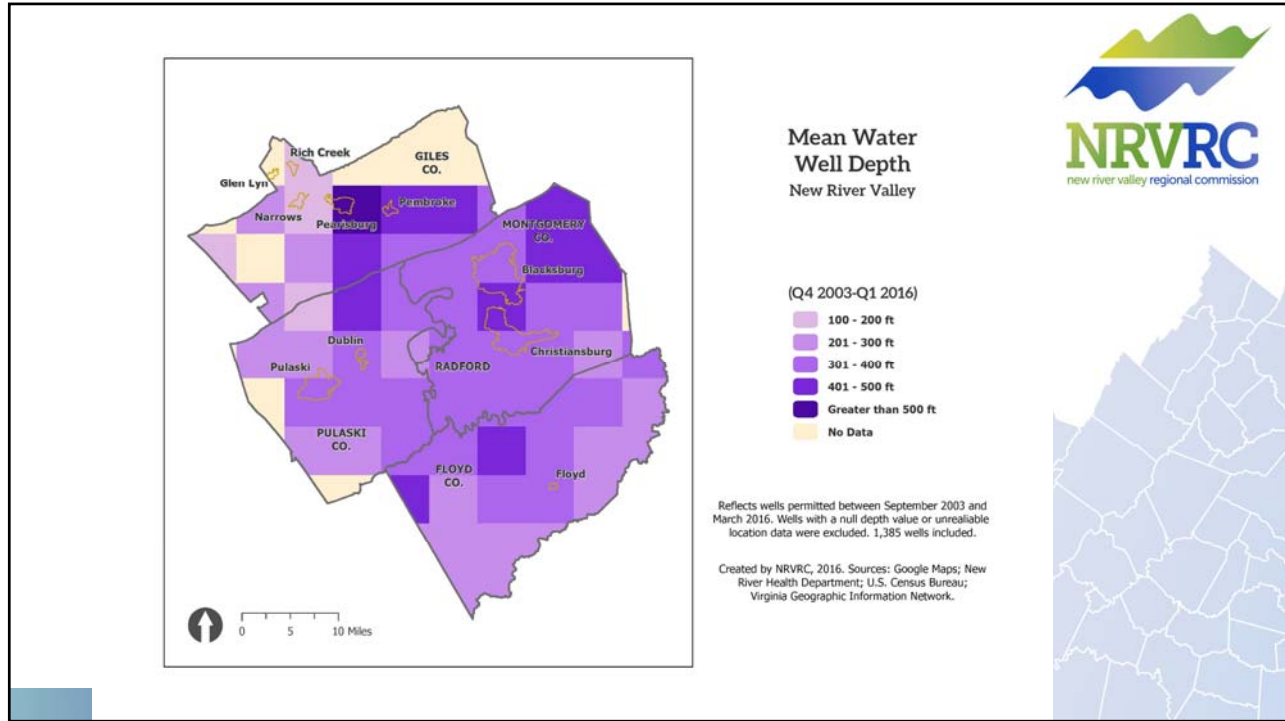


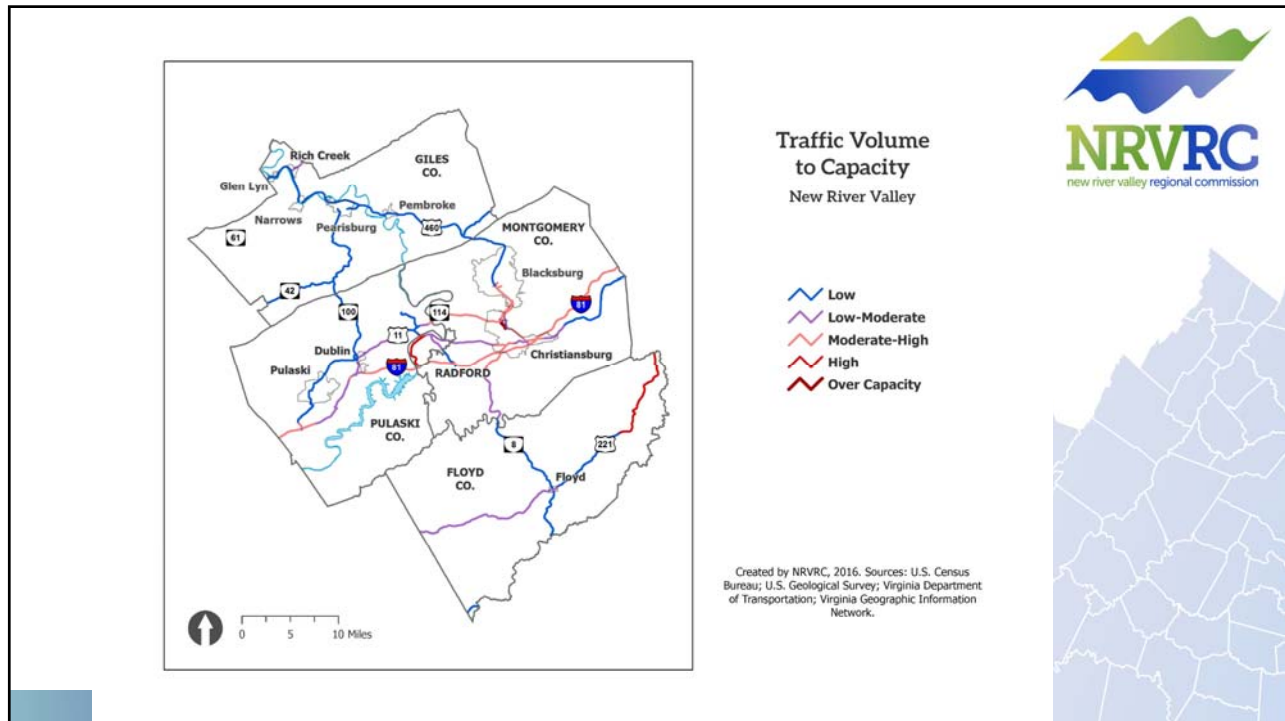
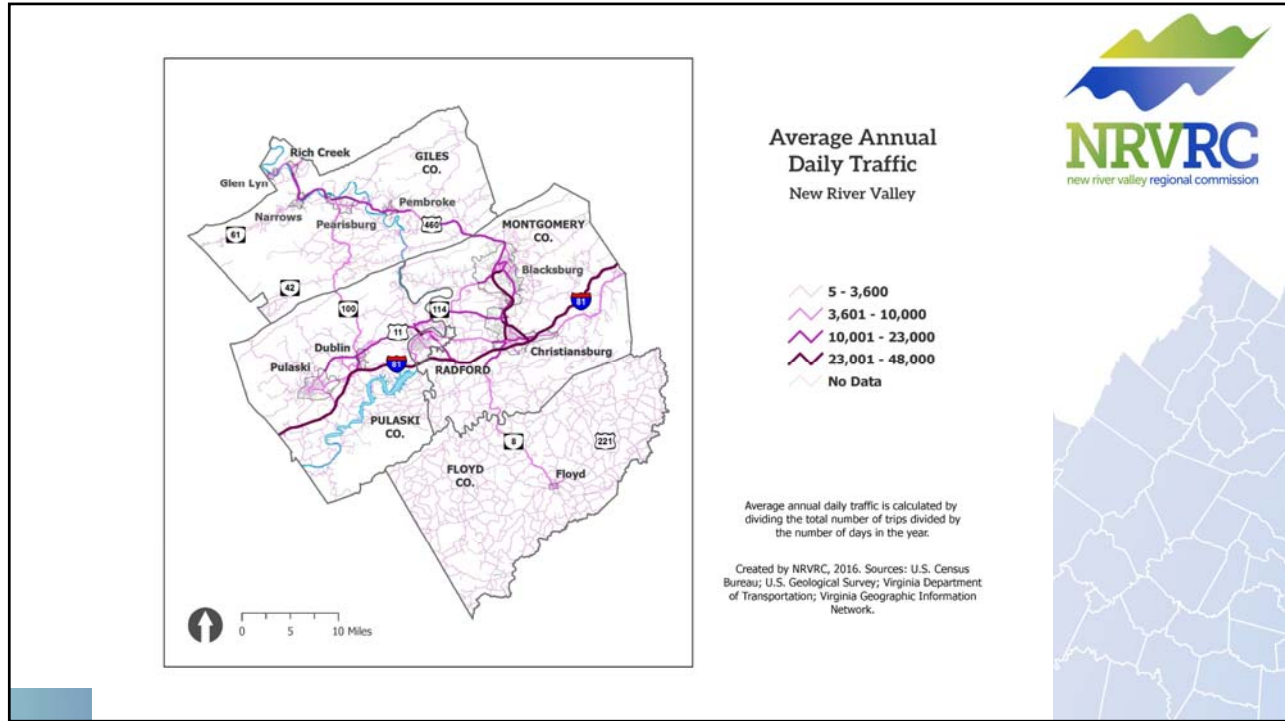


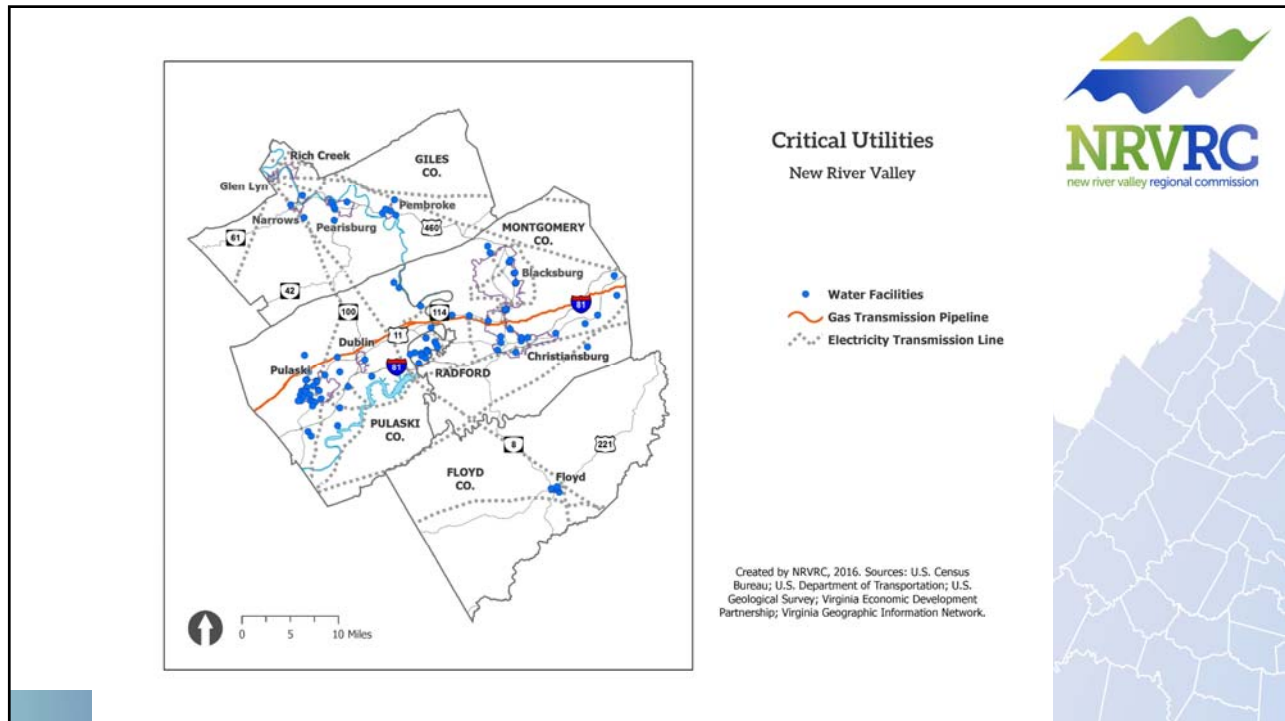
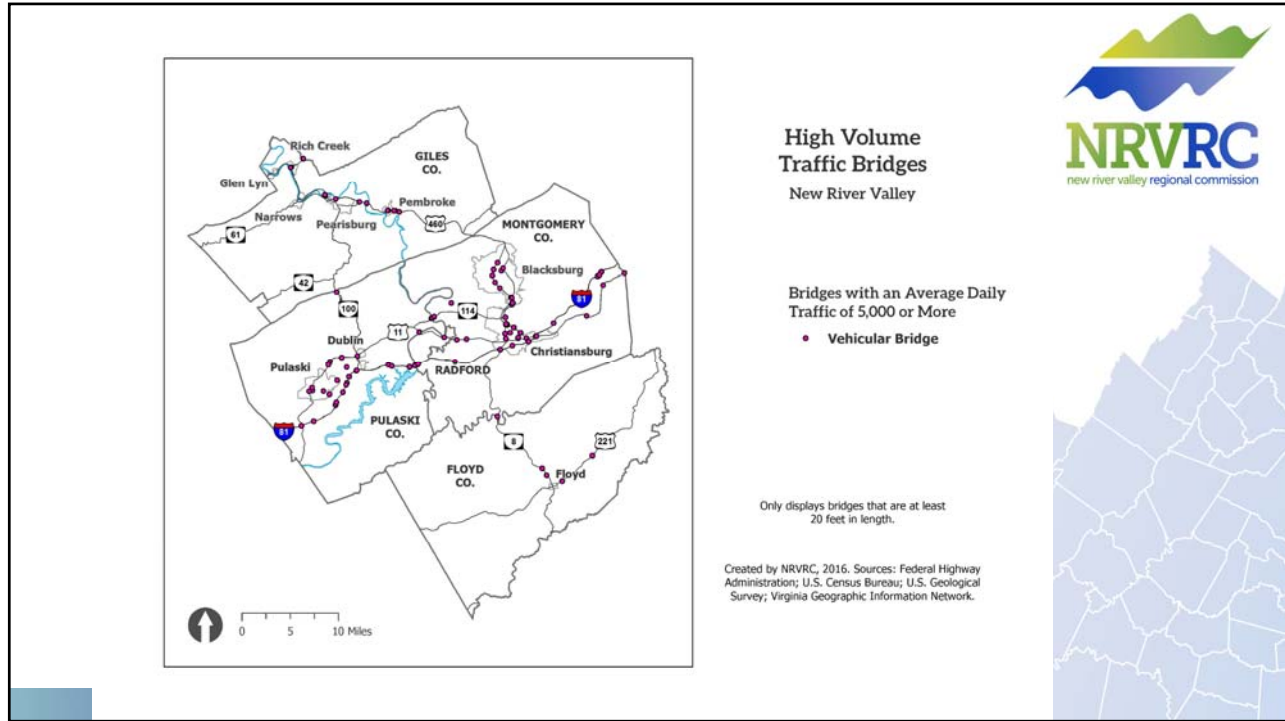


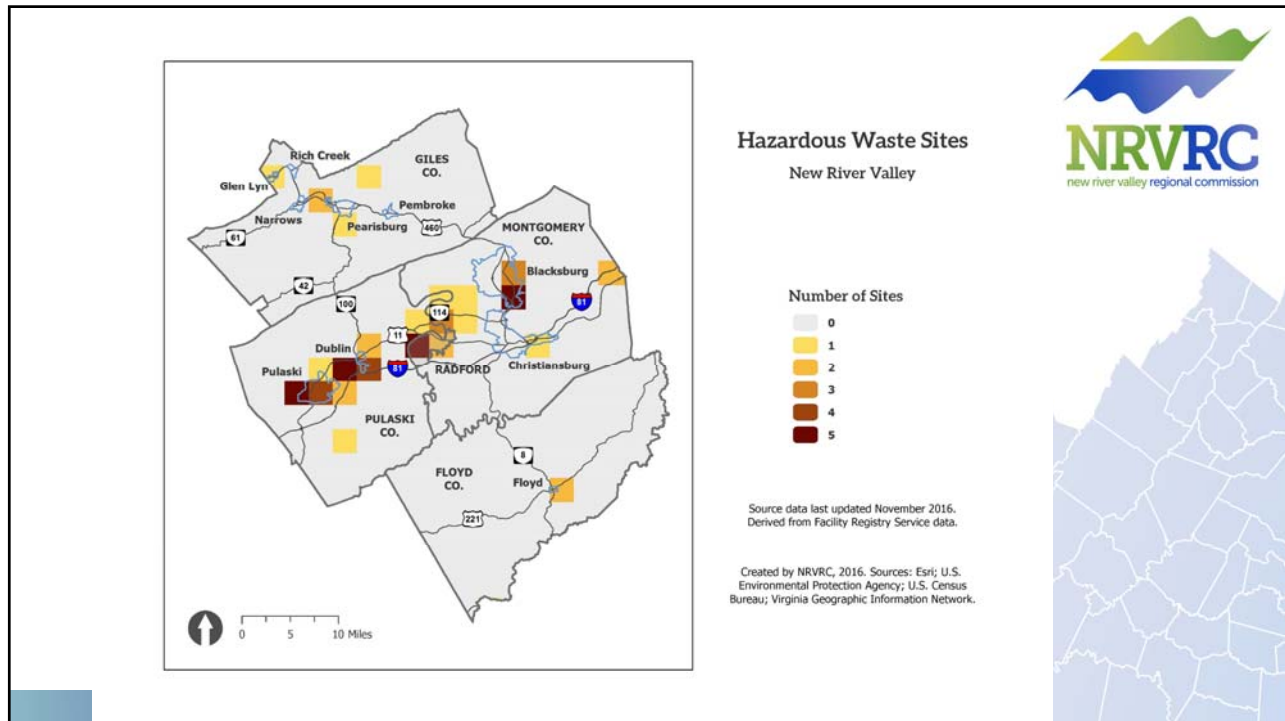
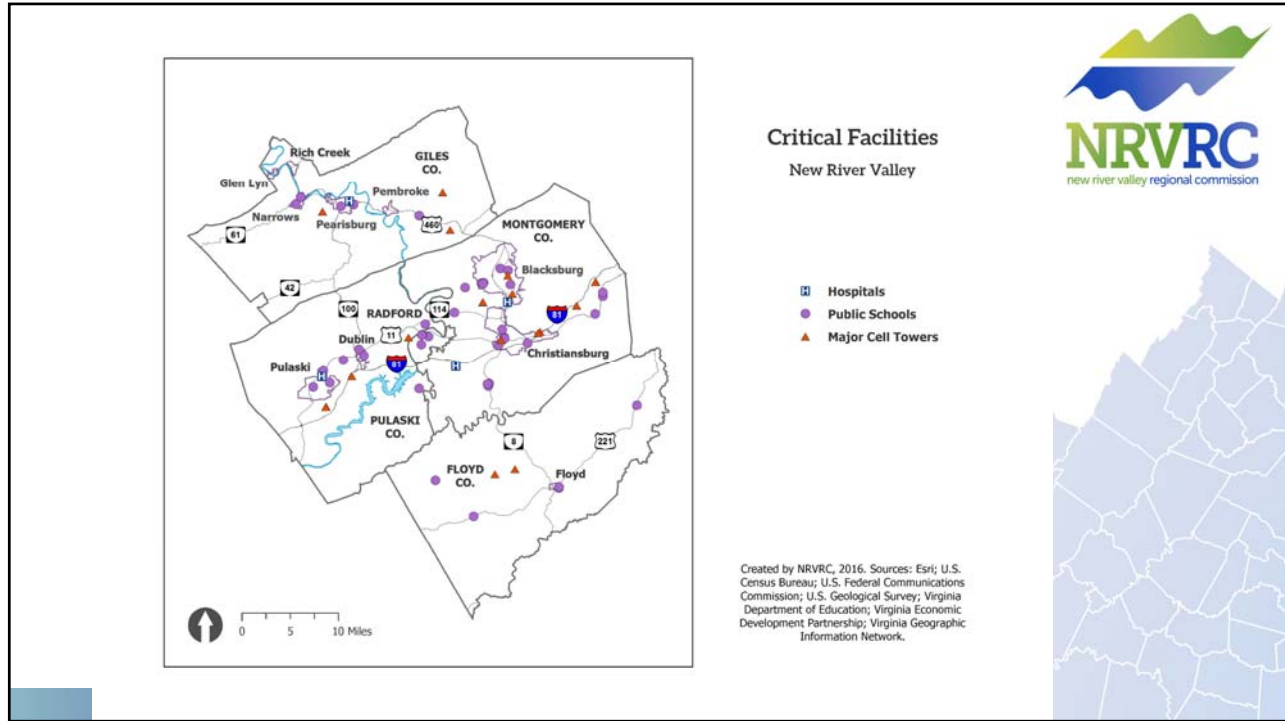












Discussion of Hazards

- Wildfire
- Drought
- Human-caused



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Goals & Strategies

- **Mission:** Minimize the loss of life and property to natural hazards by focusing on likely events, high-risks areas, and cost-effective mitigation opportunities.
- Regional and local strategies in support of goals
- Strategies can include
 - Education
 - Regional Cooperation
 - Capital improvement projects
 - Development and planning guidelines



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Wrap up



- Questions?
- Next steps
- Next meeting – February 2, 10:30 am

- Contact information for NRVRC

Christy Straight (cstraight@nrvrc.org)

Michael Gottfredson (michaelg@nrvrc.org)

Zach Swick (zswick@nrvrc.org)

540.639.9313

Thank you for coming!

N R V R C . O R G

Drought: 2011 Goals, Objectives, Strategies

Minimize economic losses and health risks during droughts.

a. Develop a set of planning tools that mitigate the impacts of drought.

- i. Improve data and inventory of water users to better assess the vulnerability of water supplies to drought and increase accessibility to public water systems.
- ii. Identify back-up water sources or increase storage capacity for public water systems.
- iii. Develop a system of notification of precipitation predictions that will assist agricultural producers in short-term decision making.
- iv. Pursue Memorandums of Understanding between localities and companies to haul in water as an alternative source of water during drought conditions.
- v. Encourage water providers in the region to take advantage of programs designed to prevent leaks and water losses in their systems.

vi. Continue efforts to promote interconnections of municipal water systems for use should an emergency situation arise.

vi.vii. Encourage the use of notification emails regarding drought alerts from the National Weather Service to water resource managers and emergency service managers.

b. Encourage research and development of prediction capabilities that will assist in decision-making during drought conditions.

vii.viii. Support the improvement of drought forecasting ~~,and~~ predictions, and resource monitoring (e.g. wells) available from government sources (i.e., NOAA, NWS).

viii.ix. Support efforts to develop and improve simulation modeling that provides information regarding all potential impacts and outcomes for decision-makers.

c. Promote educational efforts to assist residents in dealing with the impacts of drought.

ix.x. Provide information to residents of existing conservation measures and the sliding scale of prescriptive measures-, as found in local water supply plan and drought ordinances, to assist in mitigating the impacts of drought.

x.xi. Promote educational efforts developed for private well owners about proper care and maintenance of their well, as well as the potential impacts associated with drought.

Wildfire: 2011 Goals, Objectives, Strategies

Minimize wildfire losses in the “urban wildland interface” areas.

- a. *Educate residents and landowners on possible wildfire mitigation techniques.*
 - i. Educate the homeowners public about ~~where building is occurring and~~ the need to clear debris to prevent loss to wildfire.
 - ~~ii. Increase awareness of conditions that could enhance wildfire impacts.~~
 - ~~iii. Educate homeowners about the possibility of wildfires.~~
 - ii. Facilitate public awareness of local fire notices.
 - iii. Conduct practice “tagging” exercises to educate homeowners about the realities of wildfire.
 - iv. Encourage the use of Firewise standards in new development and homeowner’s associations.
 - v. Engage with landscaping companies to encourage and utilize Firewise techniques on customers’ property.
- b. *Engage in mitigation and planning activities to minimize wildfire impacts.*
 - vi. Ensure that new wildland communities are built to Firewise standards through inclusion in ~~subdivision ordinances and~~ building permits, ~~set-back ordinances and covenants.~~
 - vii. Consider Limit limiting future development in areas with slopes greater than 50% that prevent access by fire equipment.
 - viii. Work with insurance to improve incentives for homeowners engaging in Firewise activities.
 - ix. Improve physical access to community for fire and rescue personnel and equipment.
 - x. Encourage county-wide fire plans and Community Wildfire Protection Plans.
 - xi. Search for funding to increase equipment, training, and personnel to fight wildfires.
 - xii. Enforce existing regulations that home numbers at the road are easily visible for first responders.
 - xiii. Improve 911 mapping systems for improved access by first responders.
 - xiv. Work with land and home owners with gates or locks to improve fire access.

- xv. Encourage mitigation activities that prevent wildfire damage to structures, including creating a defensible space around a vulnerable structure, structural protection through ignition resistant construction activities, and hazardous fuels reduction activities.

Human-caused: 2011 Goals, Objectives, Strategies

Support existing efforts in addressing potential impacts of future human-caused events.

- a. Develop information on man-made hazards that impact human health and quality of life, e.g., air, water and soil quality in the NRV.*
- b. Encourage the development and coordination of a regional evacuation plan.*
- c. Encourage the development of added capacity to regional communication systems.*
- d. Support furthering regional response efforts.*