**VIRGINIA FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**MORTUARY DISASTER PLAN ORGANIZATION**

**MISSION**

To develop an efficient and effective management response system in mass fatality disaster situations to facilitate the preparation, processing, and release of deceased human remains to the next of kin or family representative.

**ORGANIZATION**

The Virginia Funeral Directors Association (VFDA) is responsible for the statewide coordination of the mortuary activities in the State. Each district has a response team comprised of members who have completed training in the VFDA-approved program that qualifies them as certified disaster coordinators. The VFDA response teams will provide support in recovery, evacuation, and identification of the remains.

The State Medical Examiner's Office is by law responsible for the deceased. Virginia is divided into four medical examiner districts that include the Northern Virginia District based in Fairfax, the Western District based in Roanoke, the Central District based in Richmond, and the Tidewater District based in Norfolk.

**CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

In the event of a mass fatality disaster situation, the State EOC will contact the State Medical Examiner's Office, who will in turn notify the Virginia Funeral Directors Association (VFDA). Once contacted by the State Medical Examiner's Office, the VFDA will activate the Mortuary Response Plan and response teams. The VFDA Response Teams will operate under the direction of the District Medical Examiner of the district in which the incident occurred.

In order to ensure a prompt and professional response, the Virginia Funeral Directors Association maintains a resource manual of needed supplies, equipment, and vehicles. If additional resources are necessary to effectively respond to a disaster, the VFDA Executive Director has emergency purchasing authority up to a specified limit. The VFDA also has a specially equipped disaster trailer to assist the State Medical Examiner's Office and other funeral directors in the State with disaster field response.