

# NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

## 2022 Resilience Strategy Report

The North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NCDMVA) is committed to ensuring that all those who served, and their loved ones, are made aware of and maximize all the benefits and resources available. In particular, NCDMVA manages the State Veterans Homes and State Veterans Cemeteries.

North Carolina is a geographically and climatically diverse state with a climate already defined by extreme and changeable weather. As natural and climate disasters increase in frequency, magnitude, and duration, the NCDMVA has identified the following vulnerabilities and risks to its services:

- a. Hurricanes and other severe weather events may impact personnel transportation to and from the place of business for the primary workforce. NCDMVA structures are primarily leased, and our workforce, other than cemetery staff, is office-based with little outdoor or off-site requirements.
- b. Extreme heat and extreme cold damages the State Veterans Cemeteries, both facilities and the burial sites. Primarily these conditions generate additional personnel requirements to manage additional watering of lawns and repair and replace grave markers.
- c. Extreme weather may damage existing Department facilities, such as State Veterans Homes, more frequently. Power outages may become more frequent, affecting communications systems and facility operations. Some events may generate major repair and renovation requirements at the Homes. Flooding may be a concern at some locations.

The NCDMVA has identified the following activities to help the Department respond to and prepare for these risks and vulnerabilities:

Activity	Status	Completion Date
<i>1.0. Critical Facilities</i>		
1.1. Install back-up power options for State Veterans Homes and State Veterans Cemeteries	Complete	Prior to 2021
1.2. Partner with local power utilities to fortify services to and from DMVA facilities.	Complete	Prior to 2021
1.3. Coordinate with facility owners of leased property supporting Veteran Service Centers to ensure the facilities are prepared for natural disasters	Planned	TBD
1.4. Protect the State Veterans Homes from flooding	Planned	Estimated: Summer 2027
<i>2.0. Communication Networks</i>		
2.1. Install backup mechanisms for the DMVA communications systems	Complete	Prior to 2021
2.2. Develop and distribute a contacts list to keep necessary services up and running before, during, and after a disaster.	Planned	TBD
<i>3.0. Mission Critical Projects</i>		

3.1. Design the new State Veterans Homes in Wake County for resilience to natural disasters	Planned	TBD
3.2. Design the Fayetteville and Black Mountain State Veterans Cemeteries for resilience to natural disasters	Planned	TBD

**Activity Progress**

**1.0. Critical Facilities**

**1.1. Install back-up power for State Veterans Homes and State Veterans Cemeteries** **COMPLETE**  
 All Homes and Cemeteries have back-up generators installed. All back-up generators are tested monthly to ensure continued operation.

**1.2. Partner with local power utilities to fortify services to and from DMVA facilities** **COMPLETE**  
 Plan to develop agreements with local power companies to prioritize repair of utility services at DMVA facilities in the event of natural disaster.

**1.3. Coordinate with facility owners of leased property supporting Veteran Service Centers to ensure the facilities are prepared for natural disasters** **PLANNED**  
 Lease contracts for all leased facilities include owner’s responsibility reference care for facility in the case of natural disaster.

**1.4. Protect the State Veterans Homes from Flooding** **PROPOSED**  
 Evaluate any additional protective measures that should be taken if a flooding incident takes place near the facility.

**2.0. Communication Networks**

**2.1. Install backup mechanisms for the DMVA communications systems** **COMPLETE**  
 Appropriate backup mechanisms have been provided by the NC Department of Information Technology.

**2.2. Develop and distribute a contacts list to keep necessary services up and running before, during, and after a disaster** **PLANNED**  
 The DMVA plans to develop and internally distribute a local, state, and federal contacts list to facilitate disaster preparedness and response.

**3.0. Mission Critical Projects**

**3.1. Design the new State Veterans Homes in Wake County for resilience to natural disasters** **PLANNED**  
 Once approved, design will begin on this facility. Environment concerns and planning for natural disaster responses will be included in the design.

**3.2. Design the Fayetteville and Black Mountain State Veterans Cemeteries for resilience to natural disasters.**

**PLANNED**

Once approved, design will begin on this facility. Environment concerns and planning for natural disaster responses will be included in the design.

**Looking Ahead**

In the coming years, the NCDMVA plans to open a new, environmentally-friendly State Veterans Home in Kernersville, NC. Additionally, the Department plans to replace the roof on three of the existing State Veterans Homes with materials more resilient to the extreme weather patterns of the state. Finally, NCDMVA will begin design of a new State Veterans Home in Wake County that will incorporate all facets of environmental responses into the design and construction of the new facility.