Bennington County REMC 2025 State Emergency Management Plan Briefing

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Objective

Provide a general overview of the Vermont State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) and some of the significant changes that were made for 2025.

Agenda

1. SEMP Overview
2. 2025 Revisions
3. Discuss current planning projects

What is the SEMP?

The Vermont State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) is the State's **overarching framework** for preparing for, responding to, mitigating, and recovering from emergencies.

Local Emergency Management Plans

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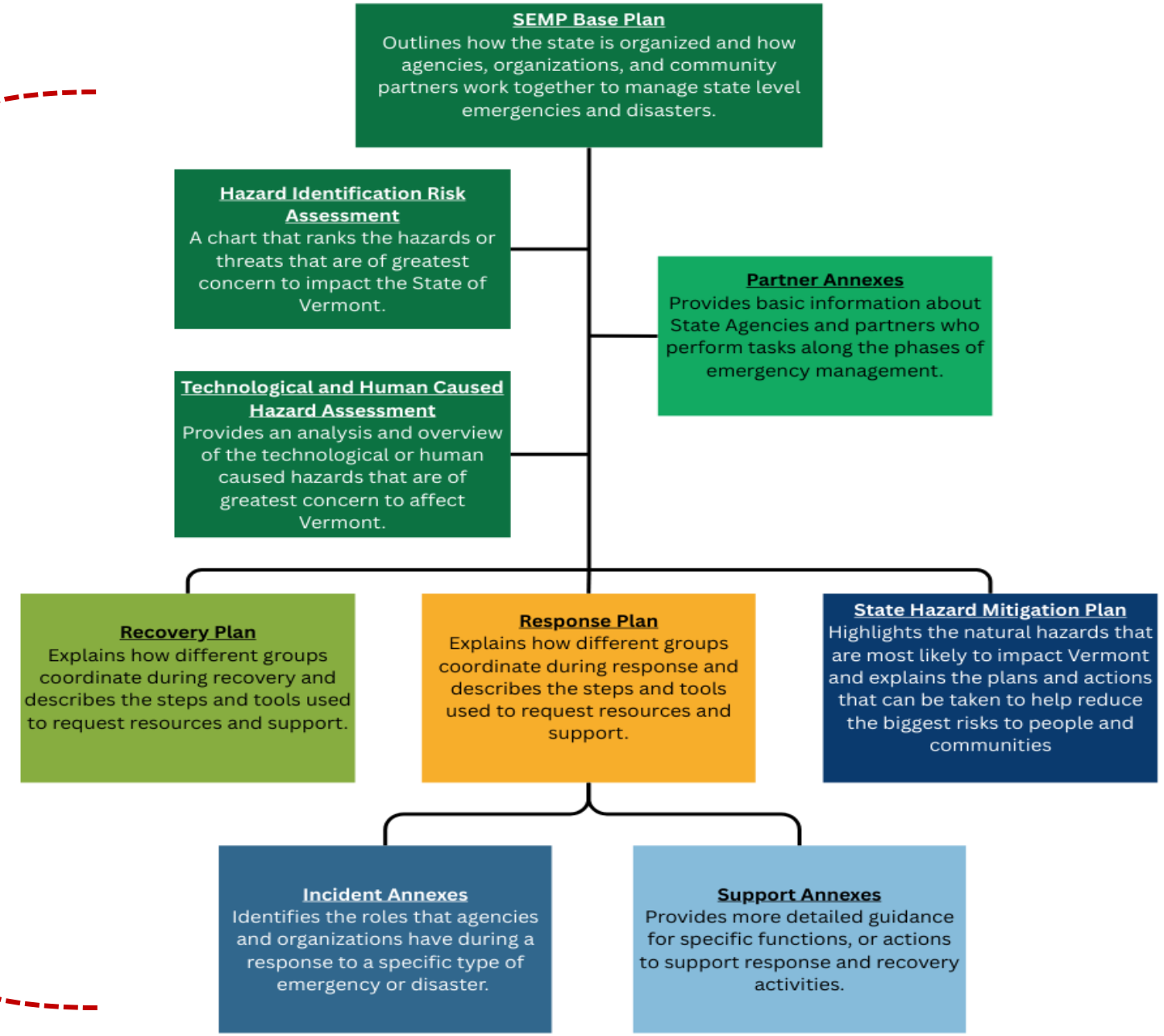
Local Hazard Mitigation Plans



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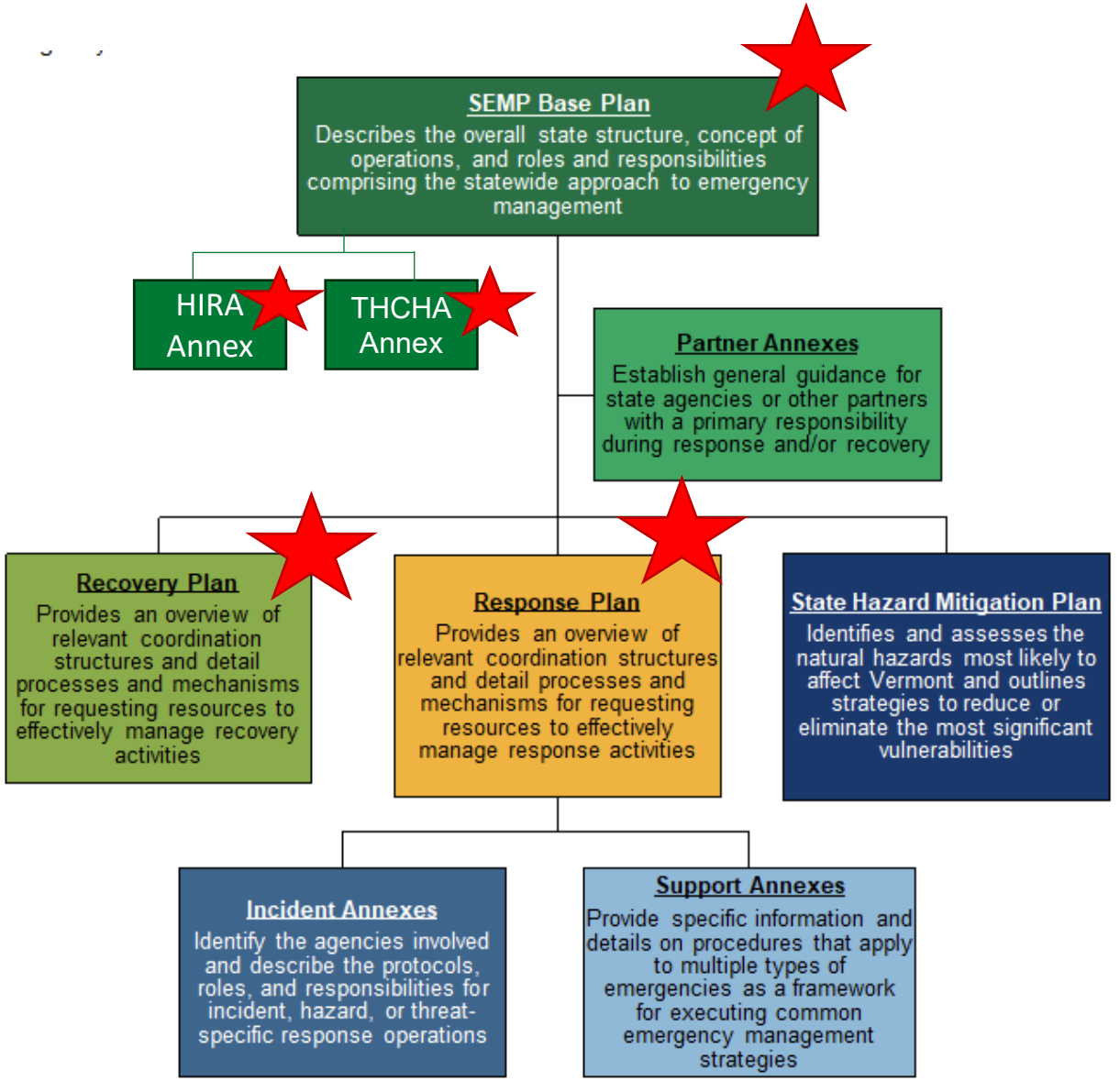
2025 SEMP Revision Documents

★ **Plans/Annexes covered in the 2025 SEMP revision**



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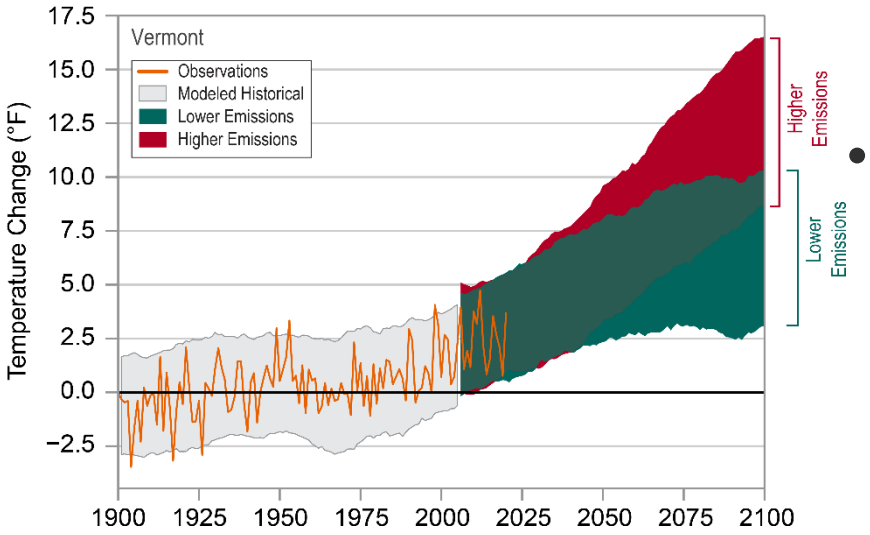
SEMP Base Plan

Describes the overall state structure, concept of operations, and roles and responsibilities comprising the statewide approach to emergency management

Base Plan Significance

- Provides a snapshot overview of Vermont's Emergency Management Framework
- Covers the structure of the State Emergency Management Plan and the hierarchy of components within it.
- Provides geographic and demographic summaries and their relationship to emergencies and disasters.
- Provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities from the Governor level to the local level.

Figure 3: Vermont's Observed and Projected Temperature Change (1900-2100)



Base Plan:

At-risk individuals with access and functional needs were incorporated into the Base Plan to establish consistent terminology and clearly identify the populations that must be accounted for before, during, and after emergencies, ensuring all Vermonters and those within the state are appropriately considered

Population	#	%	Definition
Total VT	648,493		
Children[13]	117,177	18.10%	Under 18 years of age
People with Disabilities[13]	92,624	14.30%	Civilian noninstitutionalized people with a disability
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and Non-English Speakers[13]	7,536	1.20%	Population 5 years and over speaking English less than "very well"
People Who Live In Institutionalized Settings[13]	5,049	0.80%	
People with Chronic Conditions[14]	345,355	65.00%	Vermont Adults with at least one chronic disease
People of Low Socioeconomic Status[13]	66,795	10.30%	People whose income in the past 12 months was below poverty level
Older Adults[13]	134,141	20.80%	65 years and older
Pharmacological Dependency[15]	323,598	49.90%	Percent of people in the US who used at least one prescription drug in the last 30 days; count assumes this percentage is the same in Vermonters
People Experiencing Homelessness[16]	3,458[17]	0.50%	Point in Time (PIT) count is a nationwide count of persons experiencing literal homelessness that occurs on a single, uniform day across the country
Pregnant Women[13]	5,652	0.90%	Number of women 15 to 50 years old who had a birth in the past 12 months
Limited Access to Transportation[13]	40,700	6.30%	Estimated number of people living in a home without a vehicle available

Response Plan

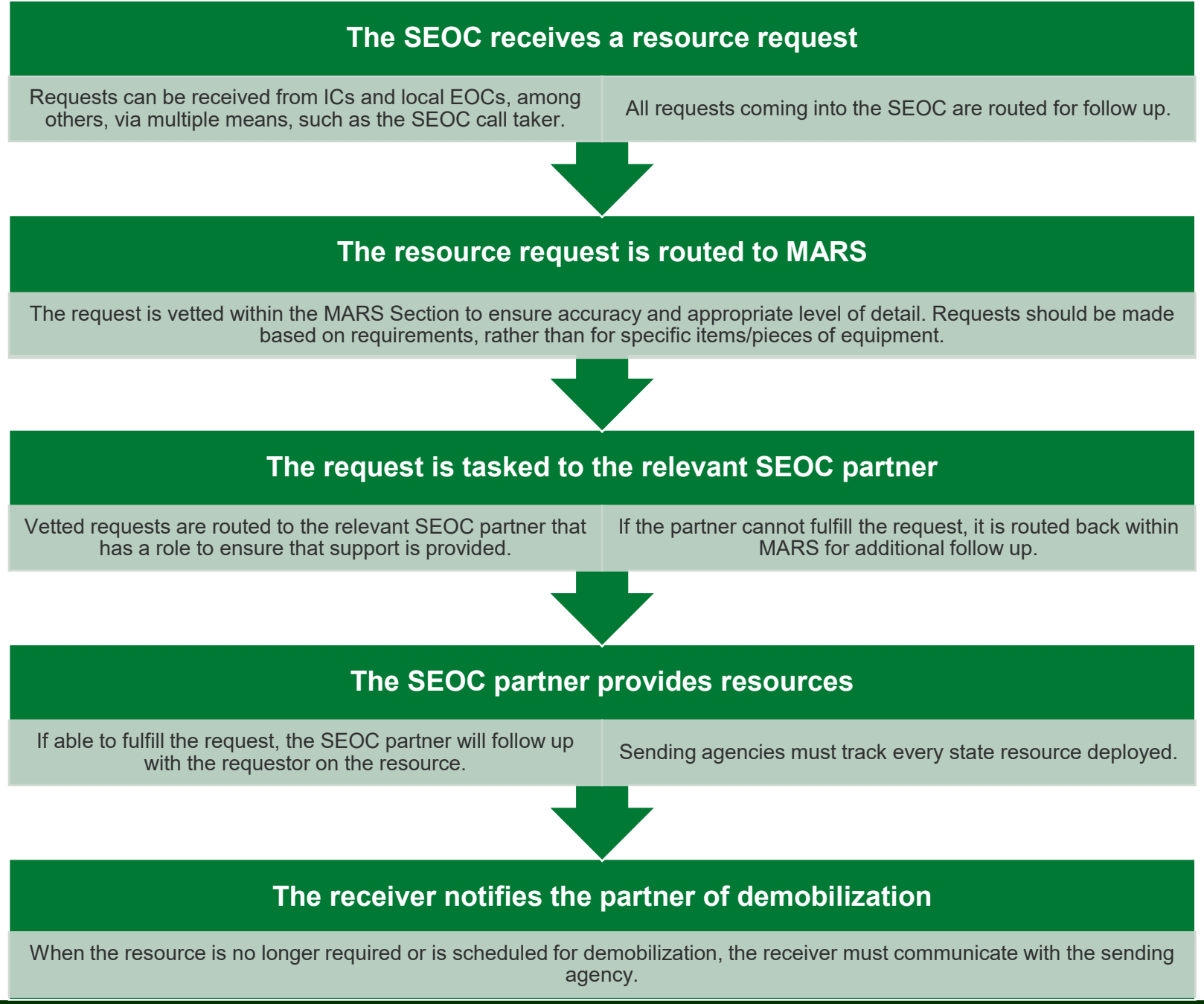
Provides an overview of relevant coordination structures and detail processes and mechanisms for requesting resources to effectively manage response activities

Response Plan Significance

- Sets the structure for State Response to disasters and emergencies.
- Establishes the State Emergency Operations Center, the parameters around its usage, and its roles and responsibilities.
- Provides an overview of how information and resource requests flow amongst stakeholders during an incident.

Response Plan:

Provides an overview of how information and resource requests flow amongst stakeholders during an incident.



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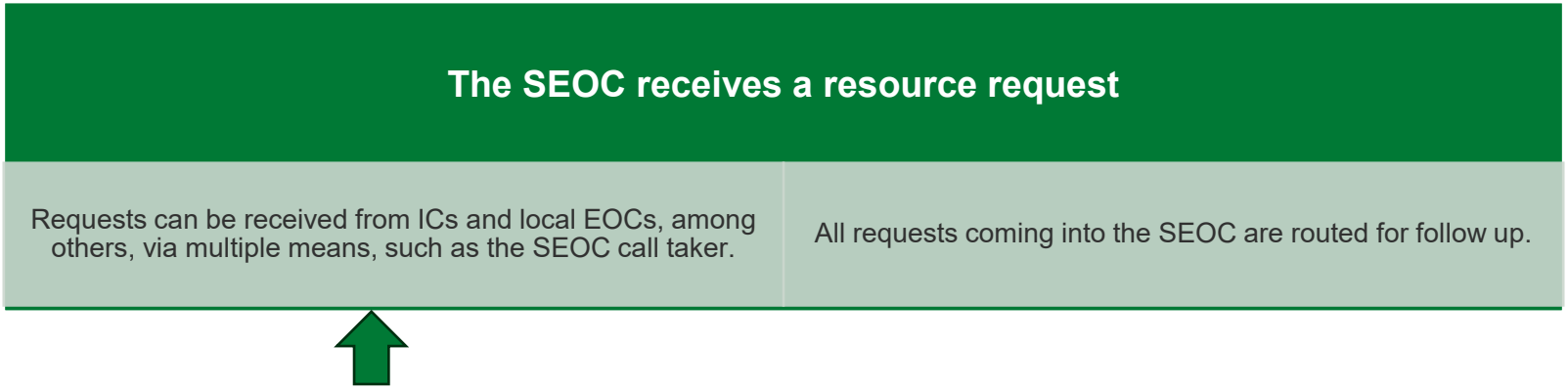
Response Plan:

Provides an overview of how information and resource requests flow amongst stakeholders during an incident.

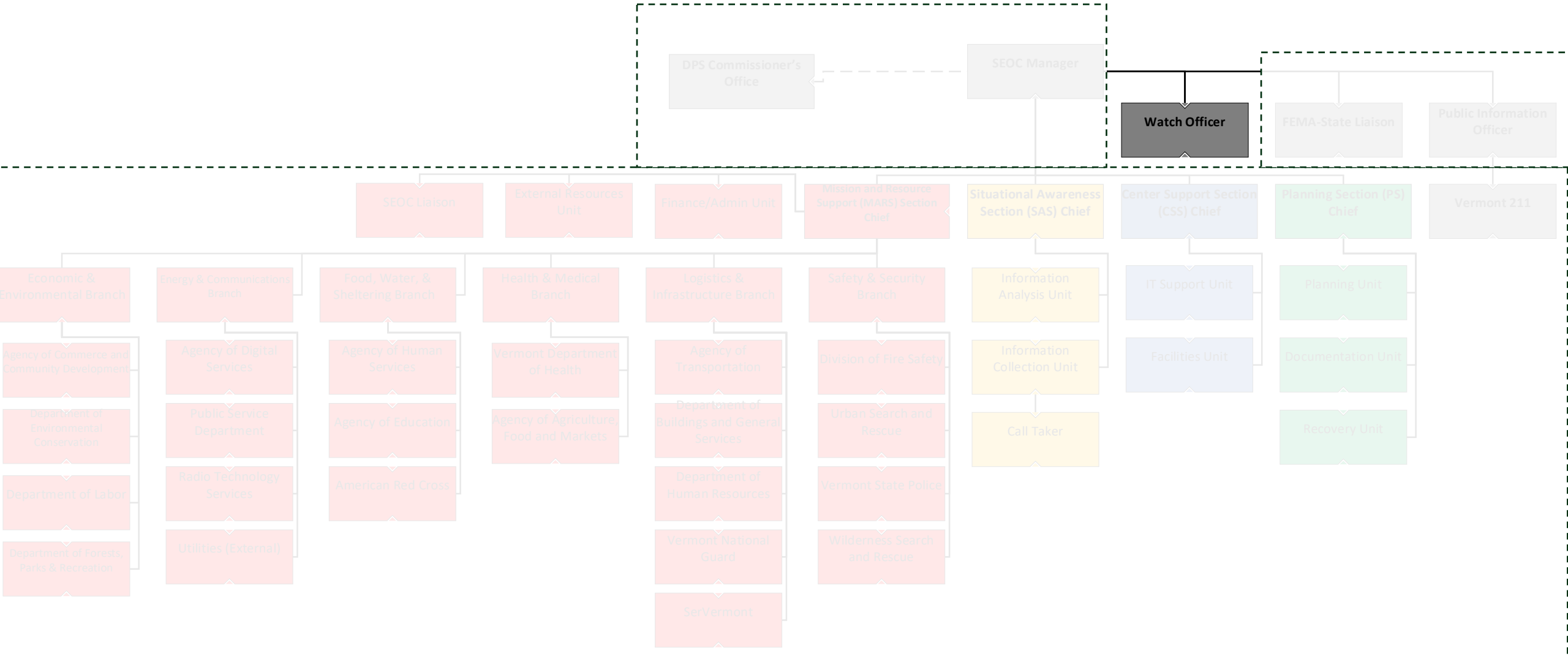


The 2025 SEMP Removed the requirement for local disaster declarations as a trigger for resource requests.

SEOC Activation Levels (2019 SEMP)

- **Partial Activation:**
  - Watch Officer is monitoring ongoing activities and weather events that may be occurring.
  - VEM Staff and some, but not all partner agencies activated in the SEOC
- **Full Activation**
  - Include representation of all SEOC partners, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) personnel, and potential assistance from external resources.

Partial Activation (2019 SEMP)



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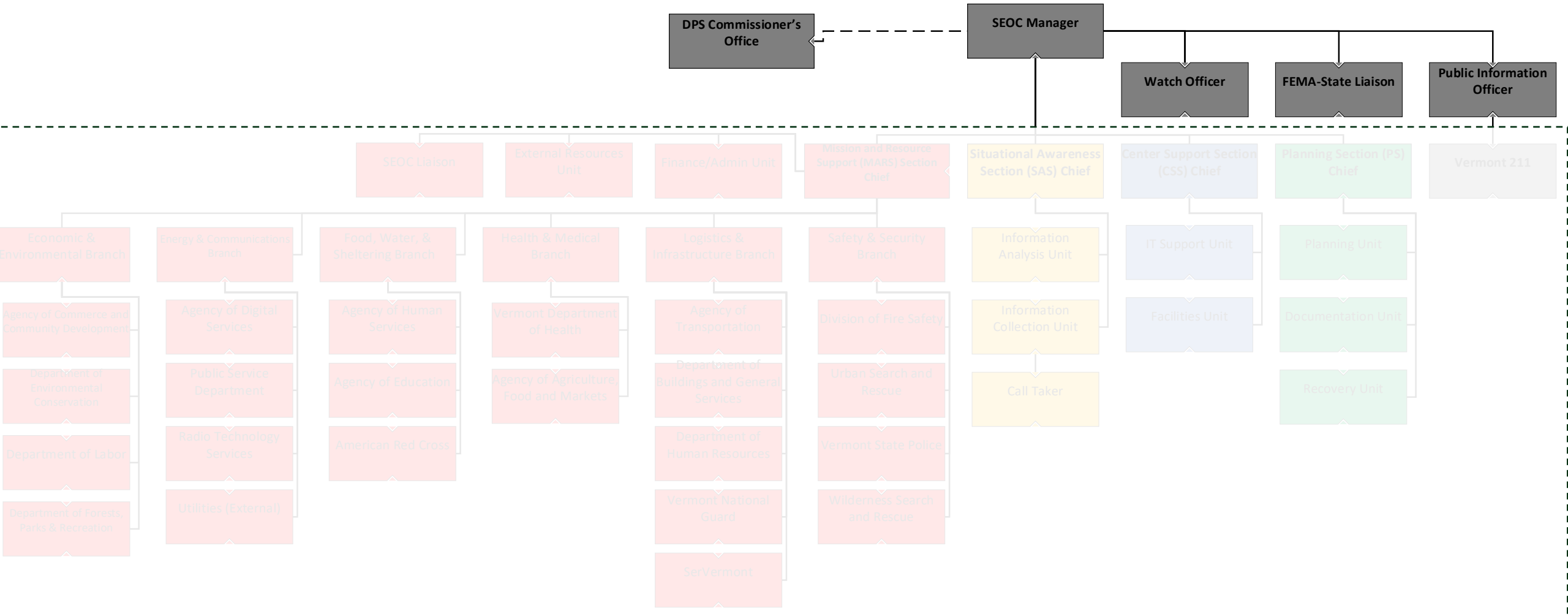

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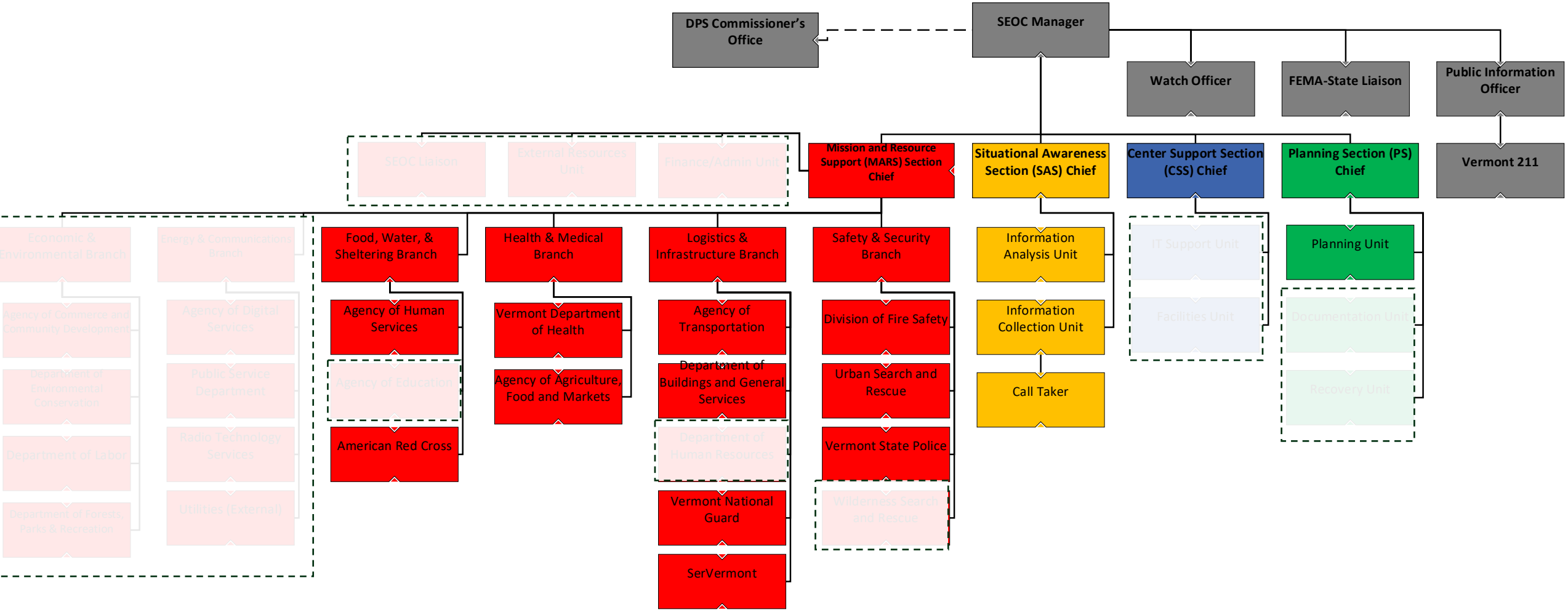

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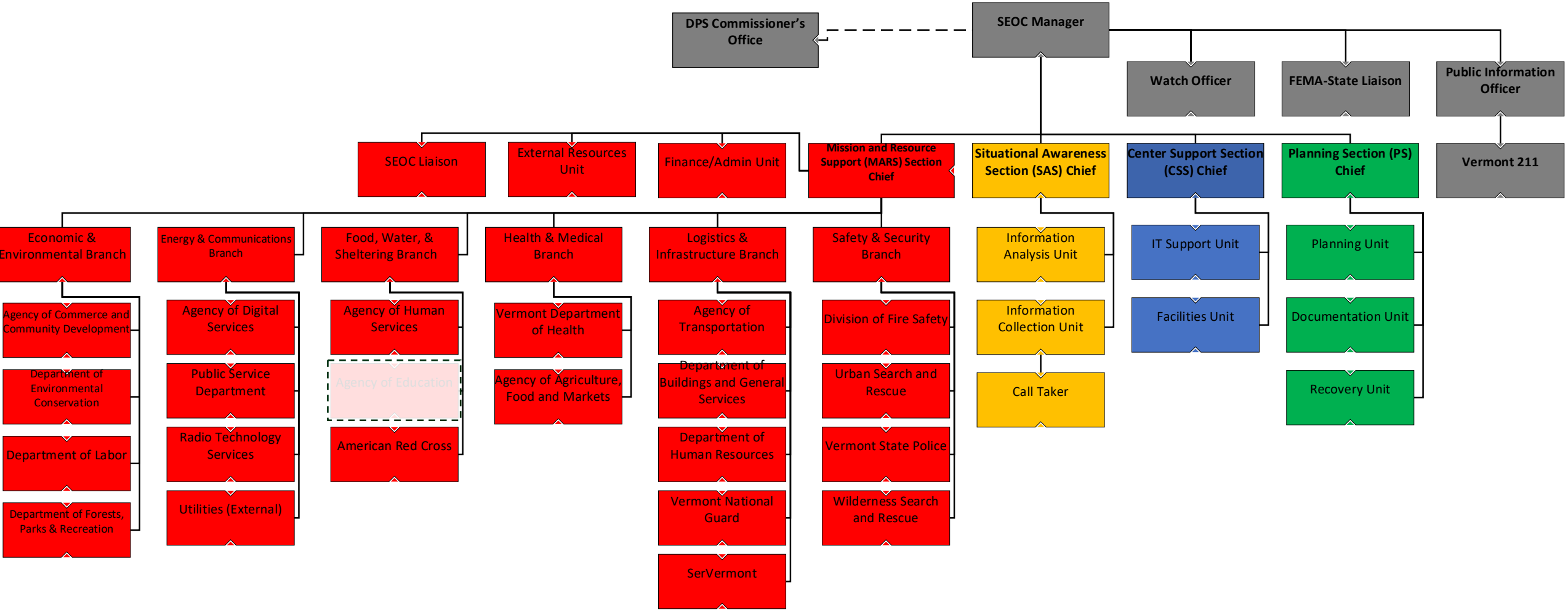

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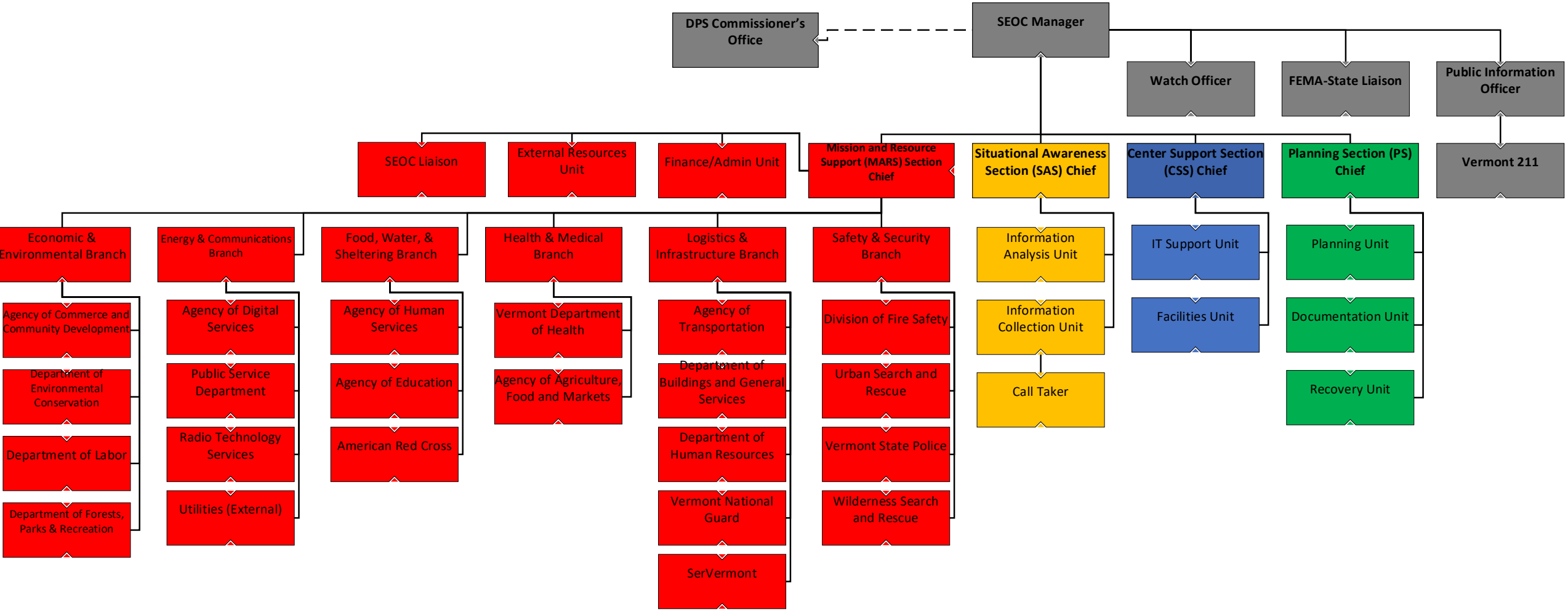
FULL Activation (2019 SEMP)

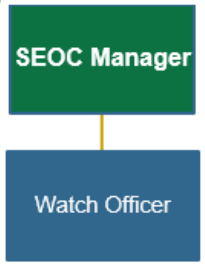


2025 SEMP Activation Levels

Activation Levels		
Level 1: Normal Operations	• Steady-state preparedness with Director's Office monitoring and Watch Officers on standby.	Example Products: • VEM Daily Situation Report • WebEOC Activity Log
Level 2: Enhanced Operations	• Additional staff within VEM are notified or put on standby to support Watch Officers and Director's Office allowing for enhanced situational Awareness and Readiness. • Often in consultation with NWS • Additional SEOC staff and/or stakeholders may be alerted	Example Products: • VEM Daily Situation Report • WebEOC Activity Log • limited briefings
Level 3: Partial Activation	• Limited SEOC Sections activated, Watch Officers integrated into SEOC Sections • Additional external support activated to based on needs (example- MARS Partners, RPCs, NWS, etc.) • All SEOC staff and stakeholders (SEOC Info Listserv) are alerted	Example Products: • WebEOC Event • SEOC Activation Report • IAP • SITREP • Briefings
Level 4: Full Activation	• **All SEOC Sections are activated** (MARS, SAS, Planning, Center Support, Recovery) • **May include** Federal and/or interstate (EMAC) resources or capabilities • All SEOC staff and stakeholders are alerted	Example Products: • WebEOC Event • SEOC Activation Report • IAP • SITREP • Graphics/Mapping • COP Dashboard • Briefings

2025 SEMP Activation Levels

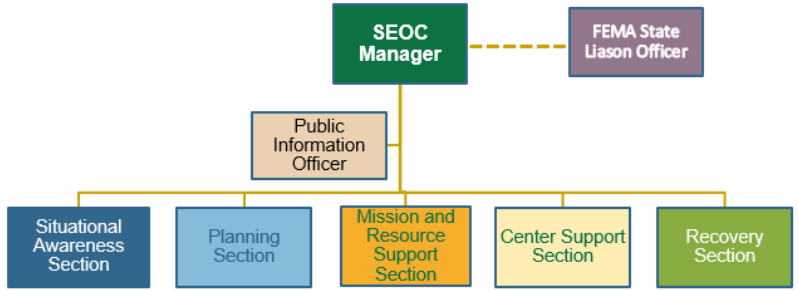
Level 1: Normal Operations



Level 2: Enhanced Operations

Level 3: Partial Activation

Level 4: Full Activation



Activation Levels Bottom Line

- Provides levels for the activities historically considered outside of an Activation
- Allows for “Full activation” when each **SECTION** is staffed
- Promotes “SEOC being activated to some level 24/7”
- Levels increasing in number value consistent with size is most easily understood by the public

New SEOC Recovery SECTION

- To better integrate recovery planning and considerations, and to do so as early as possible, the recovery unit was elevated to a section in the SEOC.

Bottom Line:

- Recovery will now have a section within the SEOC and be part of the Planning P
- Ensures Recovery is initiated as early as possible, and that SEOC objectives are supporting recovery activities/needs.

Recovery Plan

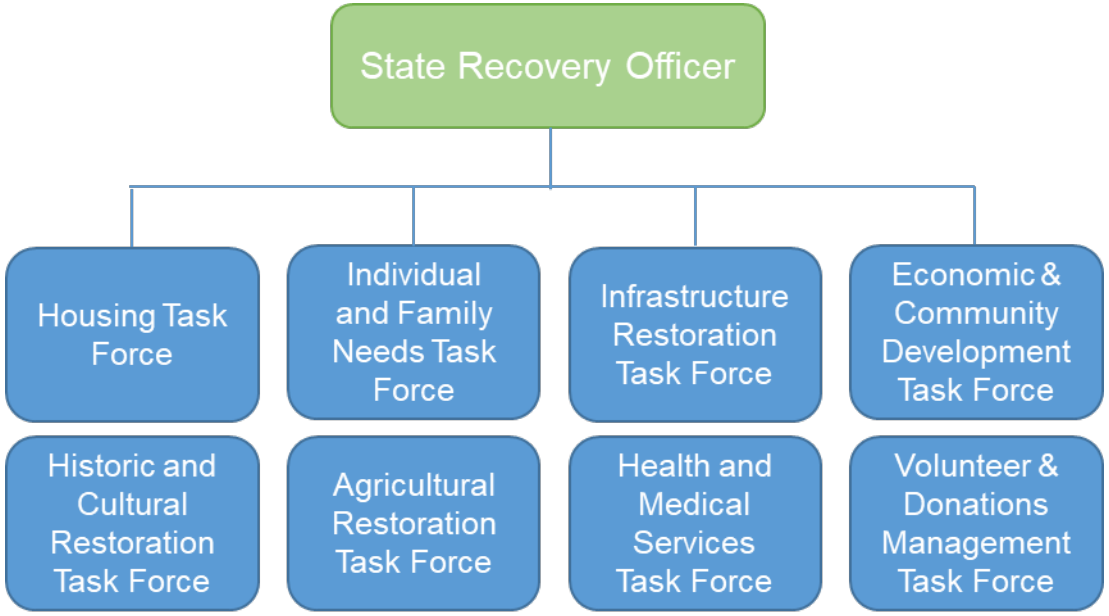
Provides an overview of relevant coordination structures and detail processes and mechanisms for requesting resources to effectively manage recovery activities

Recovery Plan Significance

- Provides guidance to state and local emergency management personnel for effectively managing immediate and long-term recovery activities.
- Establish the roles and responsibilities of State Partners and personnel in support of disaster recovery.
- Describes processes and mechanisms for requesting and using federal recovery assistance programs.

Recovery Plan:

Establish the roles and responsibilities of State Partners and personnel in support of disaster recovery.



Technological and Human-Caused Hazard Assessment

Provides an analysis and overview of the technological or human-caused hazards that are of greatest concern to affect Vermont.

THCHA Significance

- Adapted from a formally non-public facing plan known as the Prevention and Protection Plan.
- Adopts the same methodology used in the SHMP to assess the risks of 10 technological or human caused hazards.
- Used knowledge from subject matter experts to conduct a review of the potential impacts associated with 10 technological and human caused hazards.

THCHA Continued

Table 1: Participating Agencies, Departments, or Organizations	
Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets	Public Service Department
Agency of Digital Services	Vermont Department of Health
Agency of Education	Vermont Electric Company
Agency of Human Services	Vermont Emergency Management
Agency of Natural Resources	Vermont Hazardous Materials Response Team
Agency of Transportation	Vermont Intelligence Center
Buildings and General Services	Vermont National Guard
Division of Fire Safety	Vermont State Police

Table 2: Technological and Human Caused Hazards Assessed
Cyber-based Incident
Transportation-based Accident
Hazardous Materials
Known & Emerging Contaminants
Terrorism/Mass Violence
Aging Infrastructure
Civil Disturbance
High Consequence Livestock/Poultry Disease
Conflagration
Long-term Utility Outage

THCHA Continued

Table 3: Hazard Assessment Ranking Criteria		
	Frequency of Occurrence: Probability of a plausibly significant event impacting the community or regional scale based on previous occurrences and climate change projections.	**Potential Impact:** Severity and extent of damage and disruption to built and natural environments, people, and the economy
1	Unlikely: <1% probability of occurrence per year	Negligible: isolated occurrences of minor built or natural environmental damage, potential for minor injuries, health, or well-being impacts, or minimal economic disruption.
2	Occasionally: 1–10% probability of occurrence per year, or at least one chance in next 100 years	Minor: isolated occurrences of moderate to severe built or natural environmental damage, potential for injuries or health or well-being impacts, minor economic disruption.
3	Likely: >10% but <75% probability per year, at least 1 chance in the next 10 years	Moderate: severe built or natural environmental damage on a community scale, injuries, fatalities or impacts to individual and community well-being, short-term economic impact.
4	Highly Likely: >75% probability in a year	Major: severe built or natural environmental damage on a community or regional scale, multiple injuries or fatalities or severe long-term impacts to individual and community well-being, significant long-term economic impact.

THCHA Results

Table 4: Risk Assessment Results							
Threat/Hazard	Probability	Potential Impact				Overall State-wide Risk:	
		Built Environment	People	Economy	Natural Environment	Average Impact	Risk Score
Cyber-based Incident	4	3	4	3	2	3	12
Transportation-based Accident	4	3	3	3	2	2.75	11
Hazardous Materials	4	3	2	3	2	2.5	10
Known & Emerging Contaminants	4	3	2	3	2	2.5	10
Terrorism/Mass Violence	3	2	4	4	2	3	9
Aging Infrastructure	3	3	3	3	2	2.75	8.25
Civil Disturbance	4	2	2	2	2	2	8
High Consequence Livestock/Poultry Disease	3	2	3	3	2	2.5	7.5
Conflagration	2	2	3	4	3	3	6
Long-Term Utility Outage	1	4	4	4	3	3.75	3.75

Hazard Identification Risk Analysis

A chart that ranks the hazards or threats that are of greatest concern to impact the State of Vermont

HIRA Significance

- Formerly know as Consequence Analysis Table.
- Depicts a simplified chart of all hazards assessed in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHM) and THCHA and lists them according to the hazards risk score.
- Each hazard is provided with a brief commentary as to the specific impacts the hazard could have on:
  - Property
  - Public Confidence in Governance
  - Continuity of Operations
  - Natural Environment
  - Public
  - Responders
  - Economy

HIRA Example

Hazard	Impact Areas						
	Built Environment	People				Economy	Natural Environment
	Property, Facilities, and Infrastructure	Public	Public Confidence	Responders	Continuity of Operations including Continued Delivery of Services	Economic Condition of the State	Environment
Fluvial Erosion **Overall risk score: 16**	Expected impact on property and infrastructure is significant. Severe property and environmental damage on a community or regional scale is expected during a severe event. During Tropical Storm Irene, impacts due to erosion included road washouts, and houses outside of the special flood hazard area were washed away.	Expected impact on life and the public is moderate: injuries or fatalities would be expected from a significant event. Homes and highly populated areas located in the river corridor are potentially vulnerable to fluvial erosion hazards. Due to unknown potential location of erosion, it can be difficult to issue location specific warnings to the public prior to an event.	Governmental response, on all levels – state, and municipal, requires direct actions that must be immediate and effective to maintain public confidence.	In a significant event, towns or areas of the state may be cut off, making it difficult for responders to reach them during an incident. Swift Water Rescue Teams may be at a higher risk for injury during significant events.	COOPs are a requirement of the state. COOPs provide the framework to ensure that state government continue to perform essential functions under a broad range of circumstances, such as erosion. Many state facilities are located in the river corridor and special flood hazard area, making them highly susceptible to inundation and erosion impacts.	Expected impact on the economic condition of the state is significant. Severe economic damage would be sustained on a community or regional scale because of a severe event. This damage is expected to have long term impacts due to communities being cut off and impacted businesses.	Expected impact on the environment is significant. Severe environmental damage would be expected on a community or regional scale during a severe event. Erosion during a severe event could result in landslides and could create blockages and could change the way rivers flow.

Where to find SEMP Documents:

https://vem.vermont.gov/plans/state

Planning Horizon- What We Are Working On

- **Common Operating Picture (COP) Dashboard**
  - *How we share information*
- **Distribution Management Plan**
  - *How the state distributes resources to locals*
- **Communications Support Annex**
  - *How we communicate*
- **Volunteer and Donations Management Plan**
  - *How we integrate volunteers and donations to support those in need*
- **Cyber Support Annex**
  - *How to deal with cyber incidents*
- **Event Event-specific annexes for all hazards identified in the HIRA**

What questions do you have for me?