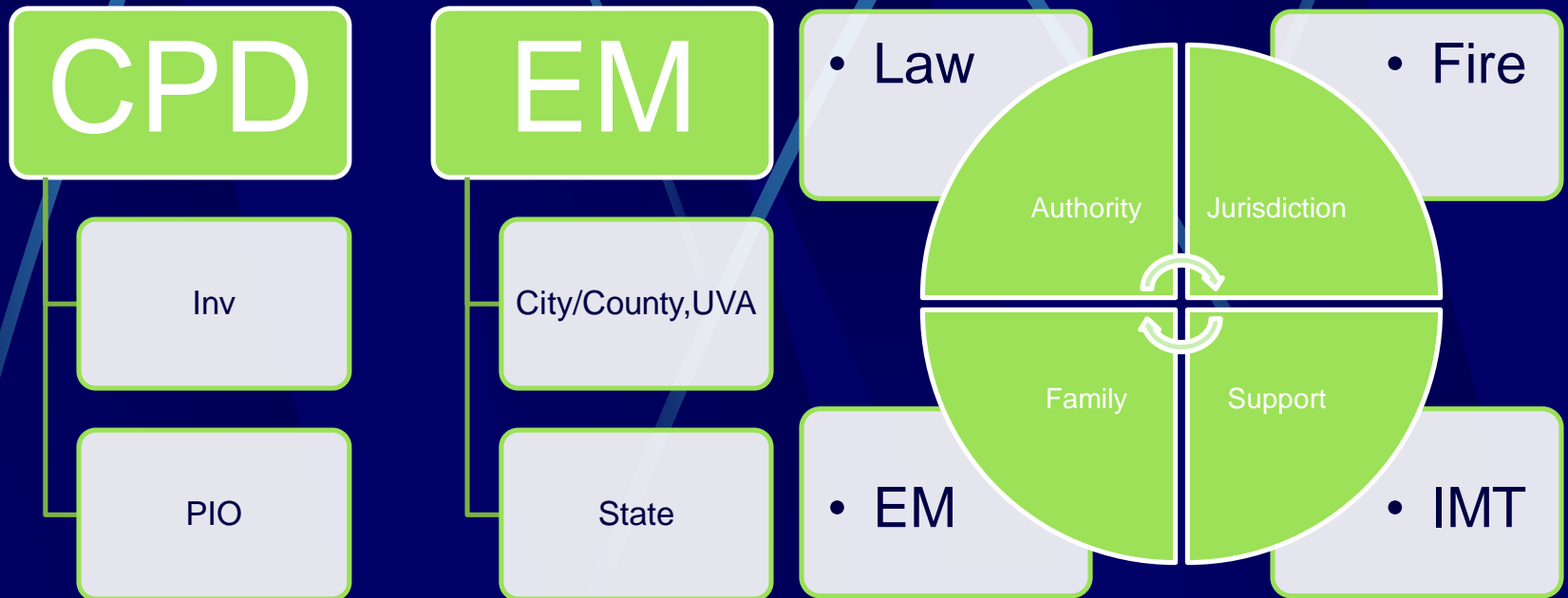




# **Central Virginia All Hazards Incident Management Team helps coordinate massive search for Hannah Graham**



# Command Structure





**This presentation will  
NOT focus on anything  
related to investigation  
or evidence by Law  
Enforcement-ONLY the  
Searches coordinated  
by Emergency  
Management**



## Hannah Graham Search

Charlottesville-Albemarle



Emergency Management



### OPERATIONAL PERIOD(S)

Date From: 9/20/2014 Date To: 9/20/2014

Time From: 0600 Time To: 1900

Date & Time Prepared: 9/19/2014 @ 2030

# The Search for Hannah Graham



# Hannah

- 18 years old female student at UVA
- Northern Virginia native
- UVA ski team
- 5' 11" thin, blue eyes, brown hair
- Left a party on 9/13/14, alone & reportedly intoxicated, on her way home
- Got lost

# Timeline

- Video in her apartment building shows her at 2130 hours Friday, 9/12/14
- Left party at 0015 hours on Saturday, 9/13/2014
- Last heard from on 9/13/14 at 0120 hours in a text to that she was lost
- Security video placed her near downtown with someone following her
- CPD notified at 1634 hours on Sunday, 9/14/15

# Charlottesville, Virginia

- County Seat for Albemarle County
- 45,000 population
- 10 square miles-urban
- Home to the University of Virginia



# Charlottesville Public Safety

- Police Chief Tim Longest
- Fire Chief Charles Werner
- Sheriff James Brown
- Emergency Manager Kirby Felts

# The “Face” of the media



# Charlottesville, Virginia





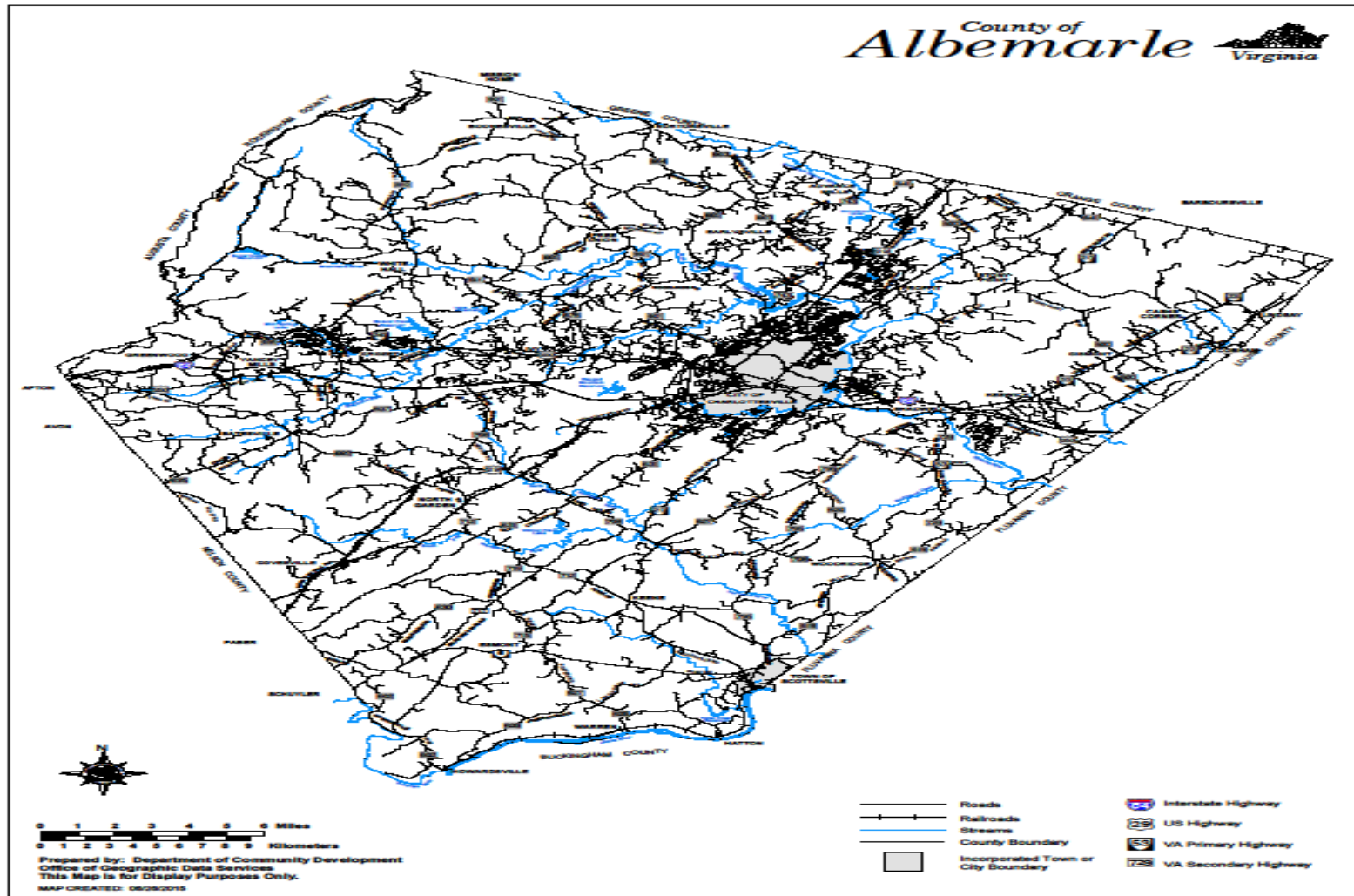
# Albemarle County, Virginia

- Surrounds the City of Charlottesville
- 93,000 population
- 726 square miles-suburban and rural
- Home to Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe (James Madison nearby)

# **Albemarle Public Safety**

- Sheriff Chip Harding
- Police Chief Steve Sellers
- Fire Chief Dan Eggleston
- Emergency Manager Kirby Felts

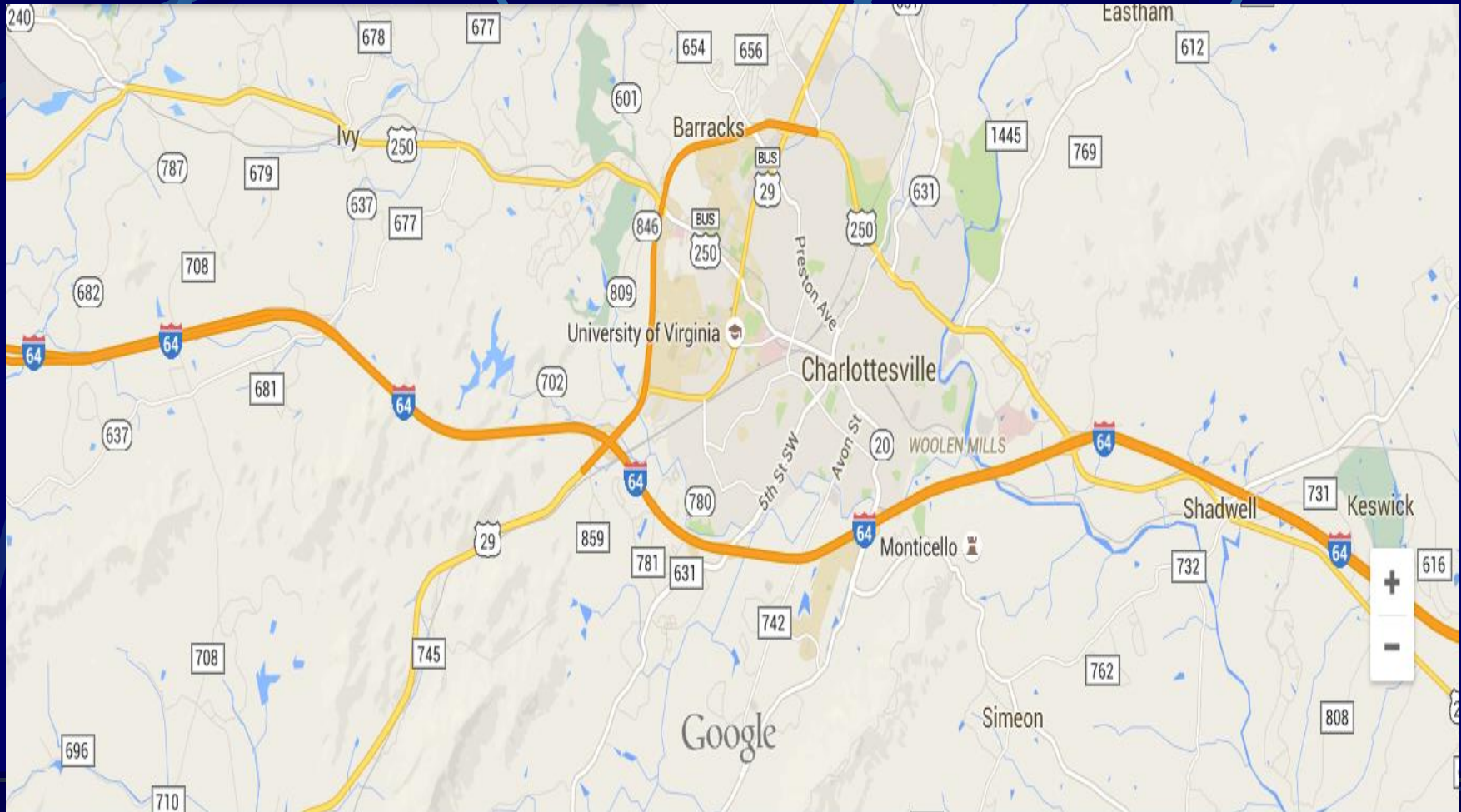
# Albemarle County, Virginia



# University of Virginia

- 20,000 students
- University Police Chief Michael Gibson
- University Office of Emergency Preparedness Director Marge Sidebottom

# University of Virginia





# **Virginia Department of Emergency Management**

- State Coordinator Jeff Stern
- SAR Coordinator Mark Eggeman
- Region 3 Coordinator Gene Stewart

# Virginia Department of Emergency Management



# Last minute instructions



# Central Virginia All Hazards Incident Management Team







# Key words

- Collaboration
- Cooperation
- Consensus
- Consistency



# Pitfalls

- Interpersonal Dynamics
- “Turf Battles”
- Competition
- Personality Conflicts



# The Beginning of the Search

- Delay in reporting due to typical college lifestyle
- Investigation began as a typical missing college student
- Soon transitioned into possible criminal activity and Law Enforcement expanded their command structure
- Local EM requested VDEM support
- Attracted National Media attention



# One of many media trucks







# End Result

- Developed into the largest coordinated search ever conducted in the Commonwealth of Virginia
- The CVAHIMT was able to be very successful in a supporting role and receive many accolades from all
- The downside is that Hannah's body was found a few weeks later



# How we got there

- VDEM began assisting local EM and Fire in support of local PD
- VDEM Coordinator Jeff Stern called the CVAHIMT Program Manager Lee Williams on Thursday, 9/18 to pre-alert us for a potential activation
- Official alert came at 1900 hours for a report to the ICP on 9/19 at 1000 hours



# The Journey

- Many reservations by state and local officials on whether an IMT was needed and how we could “add value”
- Request for a maximum of 14 members in order to not overwhelm the localities
- Advance Team departed at 0700 to get SA and in-briefing



# Used our previous AARs and Lessons Learned

- Search for Robbie Wood in Hanover, VA
- Type 1 and Type 2 IMTs on Wildfire Training Assignments
  - Texas
  - New Mexico
  - Washington (2 fires)
  - Montana (3 fires)



# Robbie Wood Search







# Initial Situational Awareness

- Separate ICP for EM and PD
- EM ICP being relocated to JPJ
- Initial assignment was to support local IC with Plans, Logistics, Safety, and Liaison
- Political plan was to support trained SAR teams with several hundred citizen volunteers



# Agency Administrator Briefing

- Citizen groups set up a registration website to solicit volunteers
- CERT members would be brought in to assist the CVAHIMT
- The search could not interfere with routine public safety staffing in the area
- The search could not interfere with the public safety communications system



# The PLAN

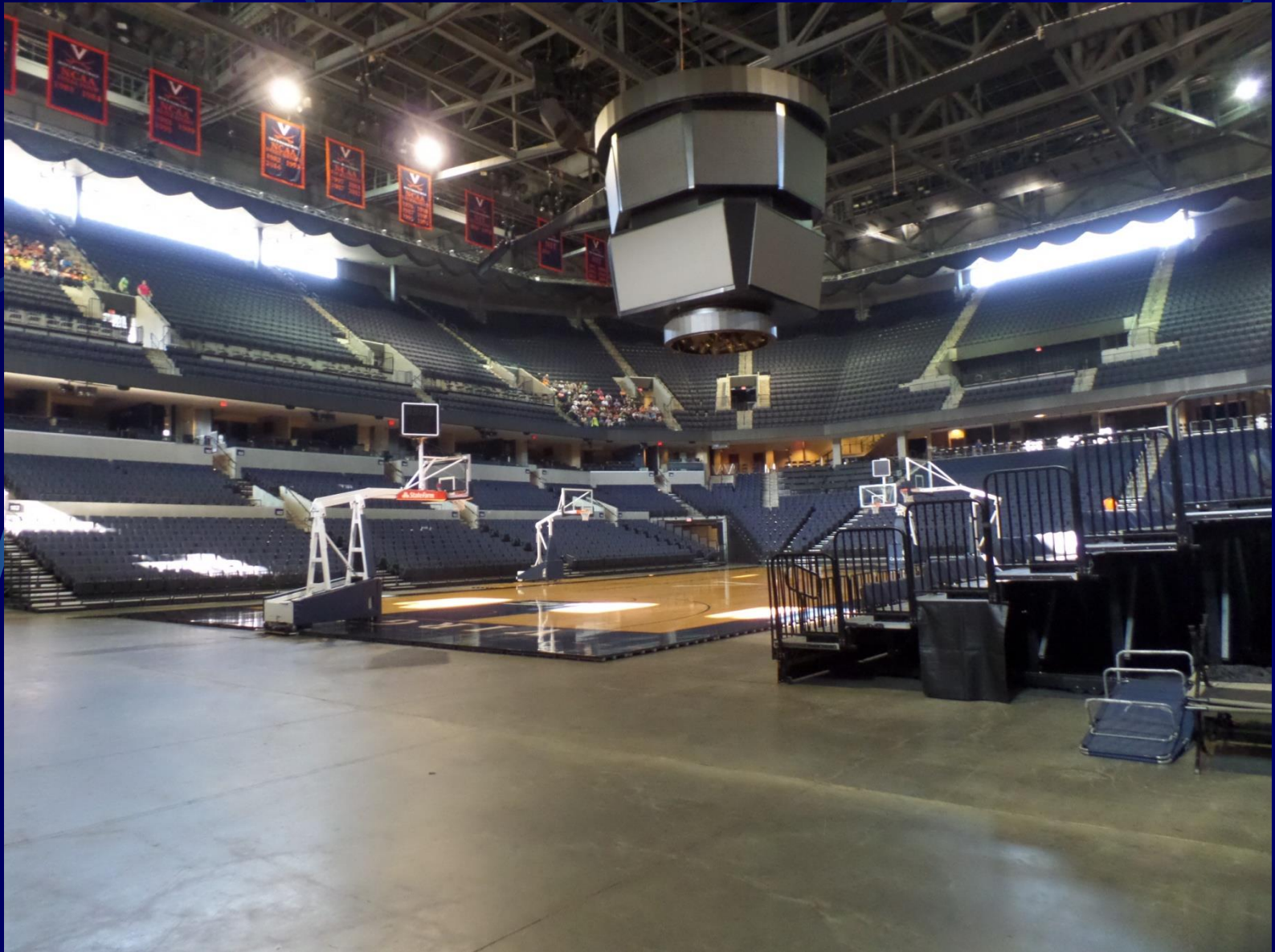
- Get Unified Command to agree on Objectives
- Develop IAP to support objectives
- Friday afternoon-deliver JIT training to 80 CERT members to support the CVAHIMT in administrative functions
- Develop IAP and OPS Briefing for 1400 volunteers who had signed up online





# Command and General Staff Meeting







# Additional jobs

- Call back for additional CVAHIMT members!
- Brief approximately 50 media representatives from local and national media outlets
- Coordinate Communications Plan with 5 Virginia Radio Caches
- Conduct Ops Briefing in John Paul Jones Arena for 1400 searchers





# Media Briefing





# CERT Just in Time Training





# Communications Cache





# Ops Briefing







# Ops Briefing







# Ops Briefing





# Additional jobs

- Develop check in procedure for citizen volunteers based on health and background
- Develop organization plan for the OSC to be able to manage citizen volunteers-
- Utilized 5 Divisions on Saturday and 6 Divisions on Sunday



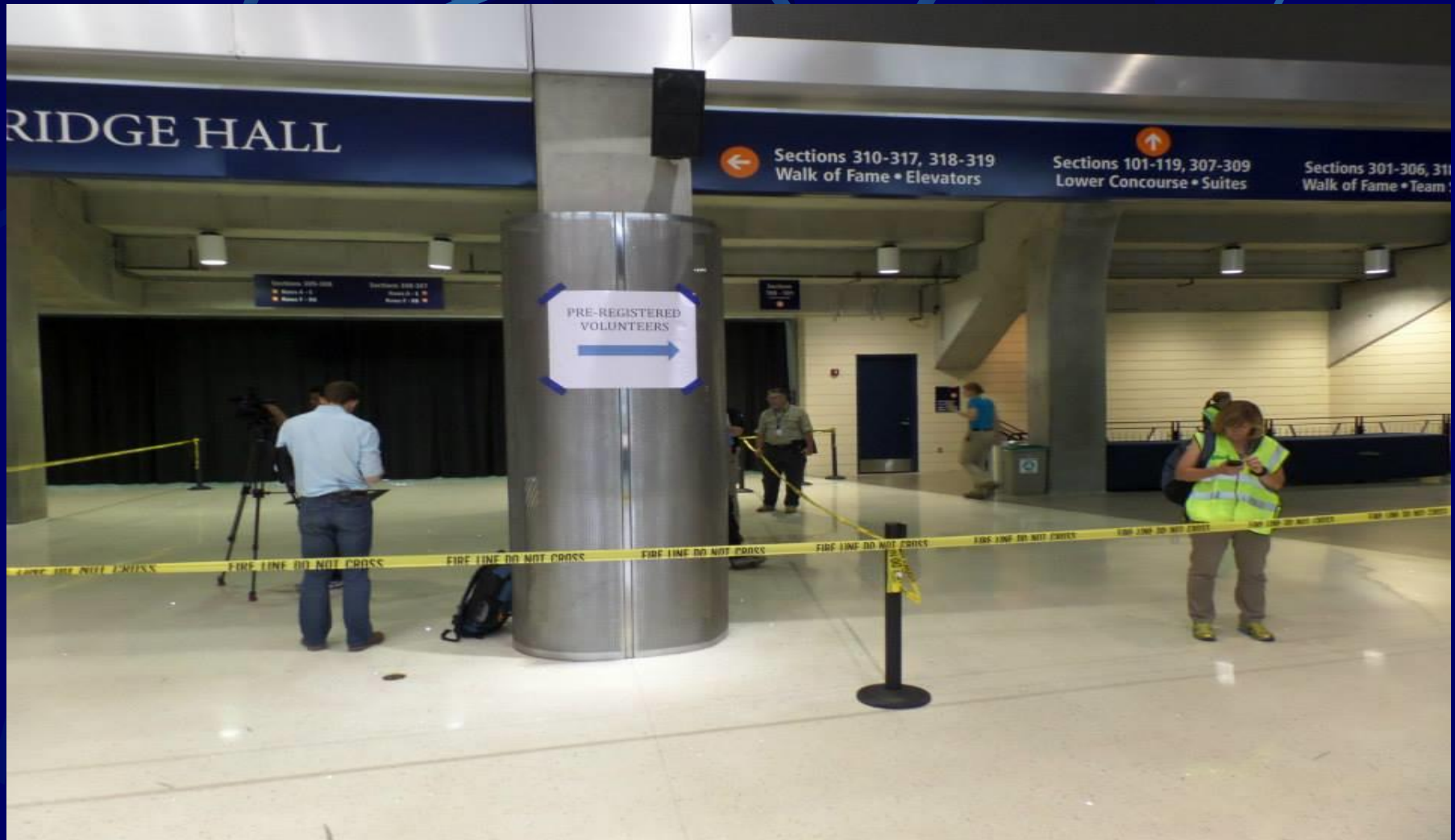
# Incident Check in





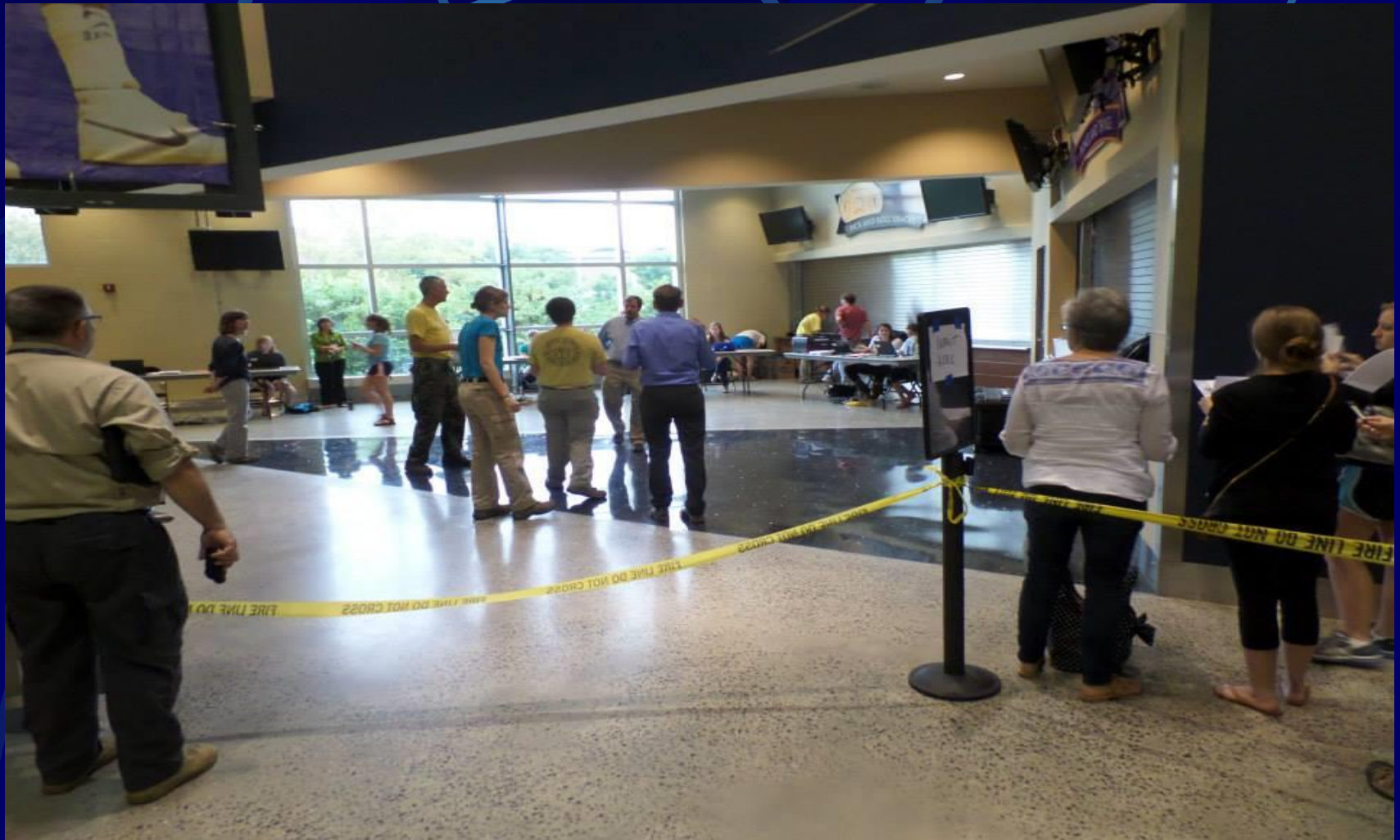


# Pre-registered Check in





# Use of Media







# Resource Unit





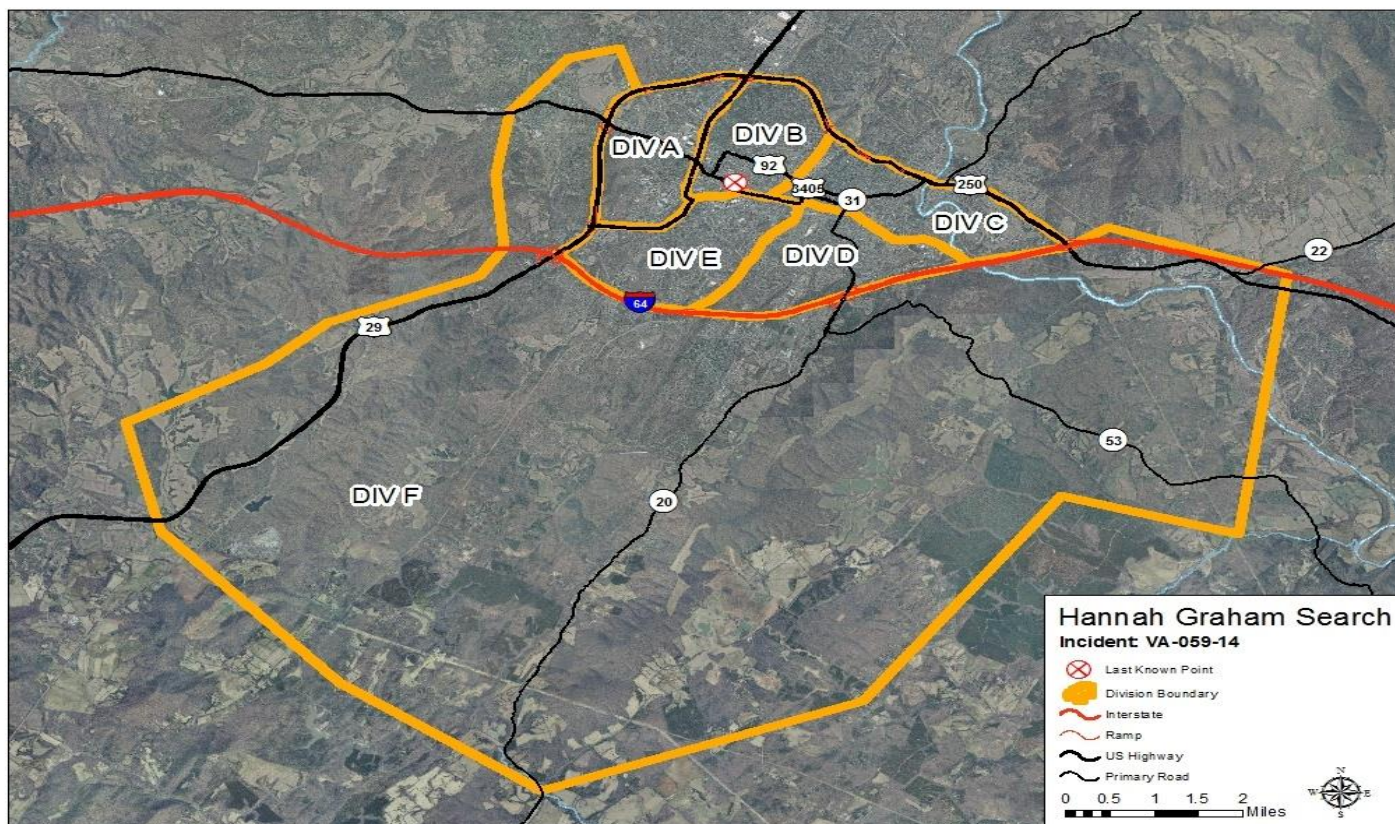
# Division Briefings







# Division Boundaries





# Additional jobs

- Develop Traffic Plan utilizing University Transit Bus System
- Develop Food Unit utilizing University Caterers for John Paul Jones Arena
- Develop Rehab Plan to insure adequate rotation of crews
- Develop Safety Briefing, Medical Plan, and Forensic Plan



# Traffic Plan







# Food Unit





# Additional Jobs

- Staff a Resource Unit to insure accountability
- Staff a Situation Unit to update the IC and OSC throughout the day
- Staff a Liaison Officer to coordinate Assisting and Cooperating Agencies
- Develop a Demob Plan



# Saturday morning

- Website had expanded and we checked in 1865 untrained volunteers and 200 SAR team members
- All plans worked according to IAP
- Maintained 100% accountability for 2065 operational resources
- Treated 3 injuries with only 1 transported (bee sting)



# Saturday morning

- Repeaters and portable antennas worked as planned
- LOFR coordinated with 37 Assisting and Cooperating Agencies
- Located numerous clues to have Forensic Unit identify and investigate
- Completed 9397 manhours of searching





# Command Post







# Plans Section







# CVAHIMT Results

- The Benefits will outweigh the obstacles
- Develop Regional Support
- Develop lasting Relationships



# Vision

- Prepared to help when you need us most.





# Mission Statement

- *The mission of the Central Virginia All Hazards Incident Management Team is to respond upon request; providing a trained, qualified team capable of supporting and assisting communities in the management of events and incidents.*



# Value Statement

- We will serve as stewards of our communities rooted in the value sets of compassion, competency, and commitment.



# Team Success

- Requested to work additional ops period
- Coordinated among all agencies
- Numerous accolades from Local and State Agencies
- Recognition from Virginia Secretary of Public Safety, Deputy Secretary, and Coordinator of VDEM



# Questions?

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