

Tinker Creek Fish Kill

November 15, 2017

John Giese

RRT3 Meeting



Covering...

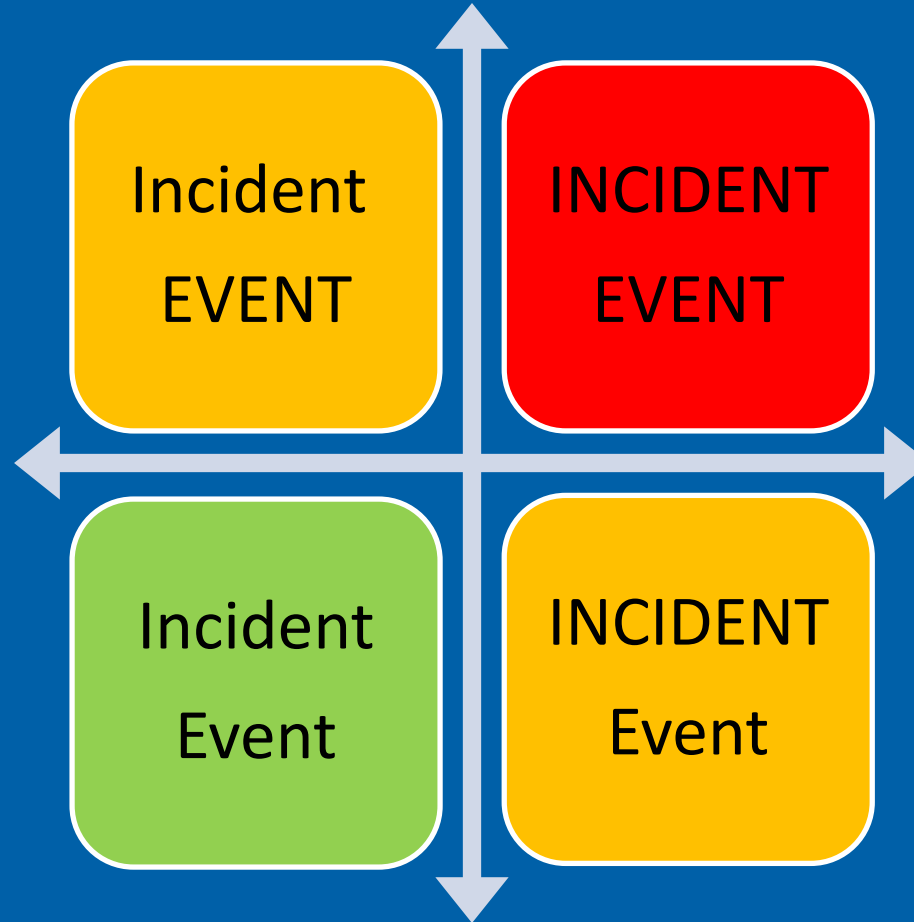
- The Incident
- The Event
- Lessons Learned

Impacts/threats/complexity
of spill

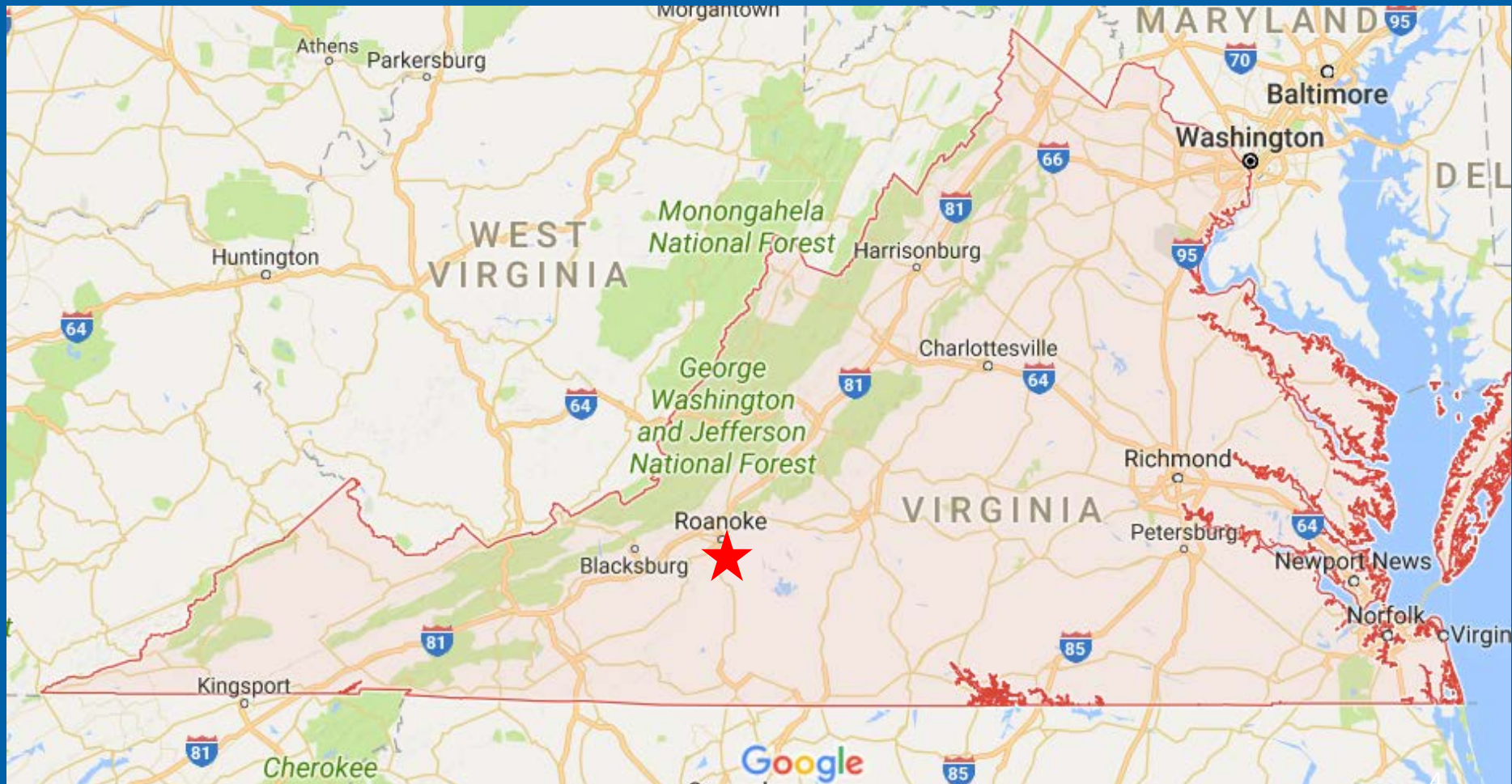
HIGH

Social, Political,
Media Interest

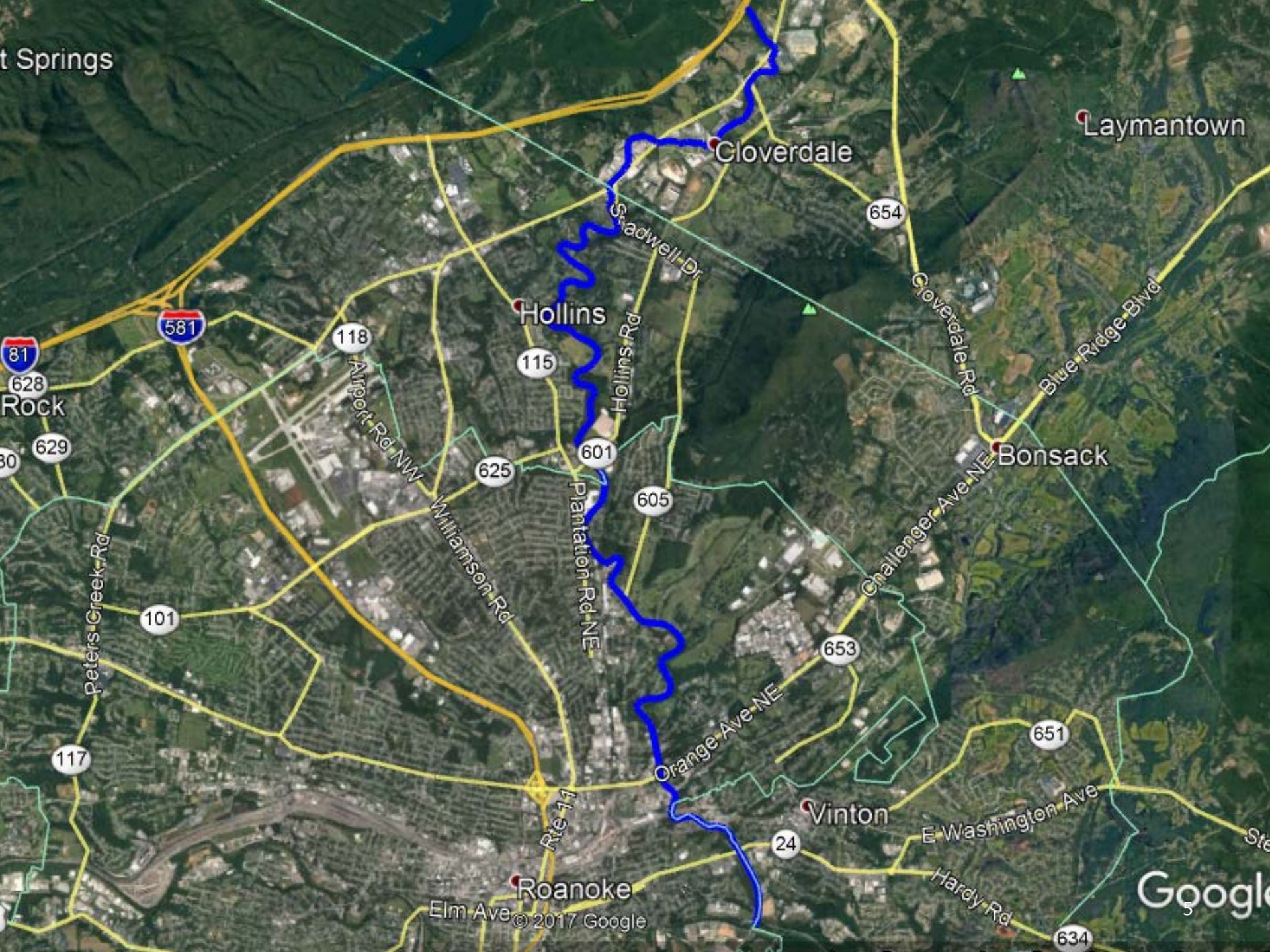
LOW



Location



t Springs



Laymantown

Cloverdale

Hollins

Bonsack

Vinton

Roanoke

81

581

118

115

654

628

629

101

625

601

605

653

117

651

24

Elm Ave

Google

634

30

Peters Creek Rd

Airport Rd NW

Williamson Rd

Shadwell Dr

Hollins Rd

Plantation Rd-NE

Orange Ave-NE

Cloverdale Rd

Blue Ridge Blvd

Challenger Ave-NE

E Washington Ave

Hardy Rd

Rte 11

Ste

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The Incident

Saturday, July 29, 2017

- 0730 - VDEM and VDEQ requested to respond by Roanoke County Fire/Rescue to fish kill and unknown substance in creek
- 0800 - VDEM and VDEQ arrive on scene

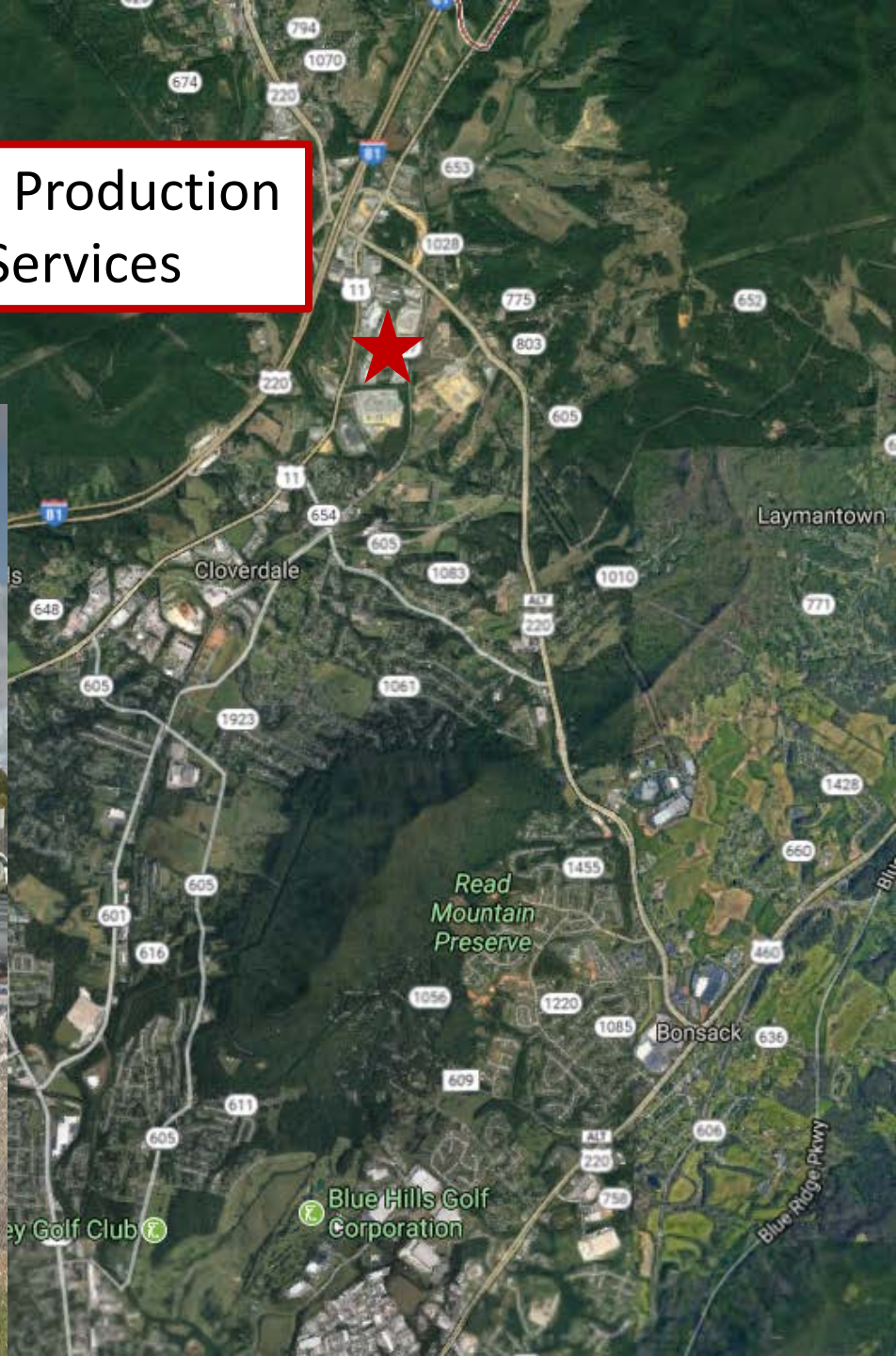




0900 - *Possible* Sources Identified

- Crop Production Services
- Lawrence Trucking

Crop Production Services



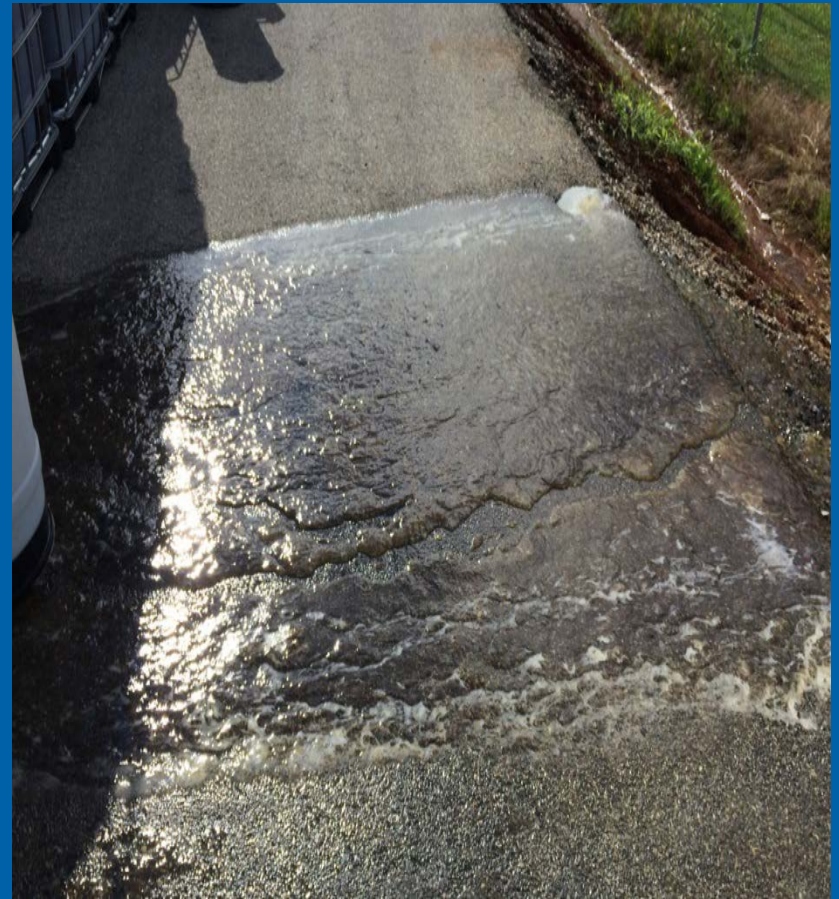
Crop Production Services

- Discover 275 gallon leaking tote
- Termix 5301, UN 3267
- Corrosive and Toxic to aquatic life



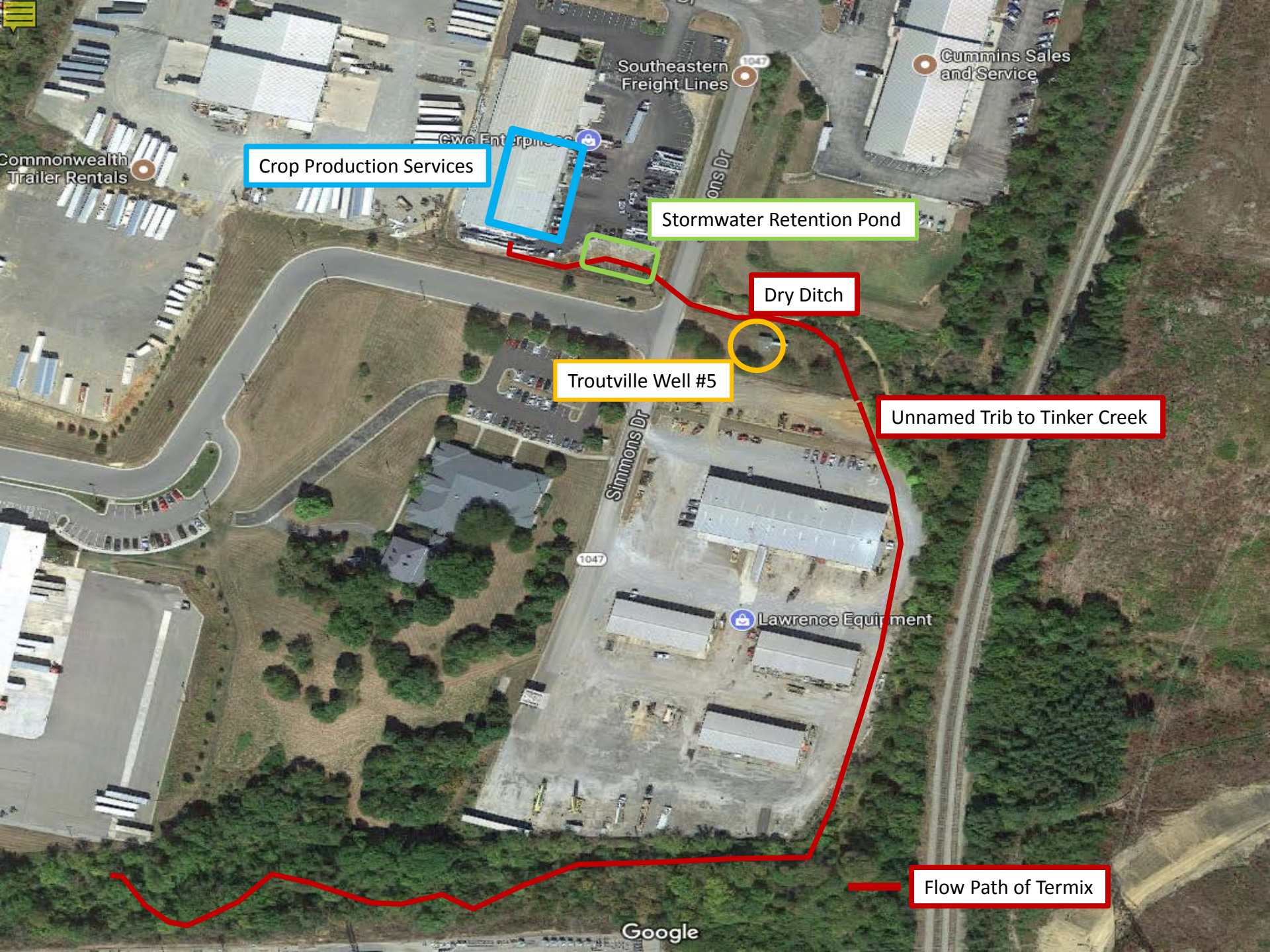


Crop Production Service



Crop Production Services





Crop Production Services

Stormwater Retention Pond

Dry Ditch

Troutville Well #5

Unnamed Trib to Tinker Creek

Flow Path of Termix

Southeastern Freight Lines

Cummins Sales and Service

Commonwealth Trailer Rentals

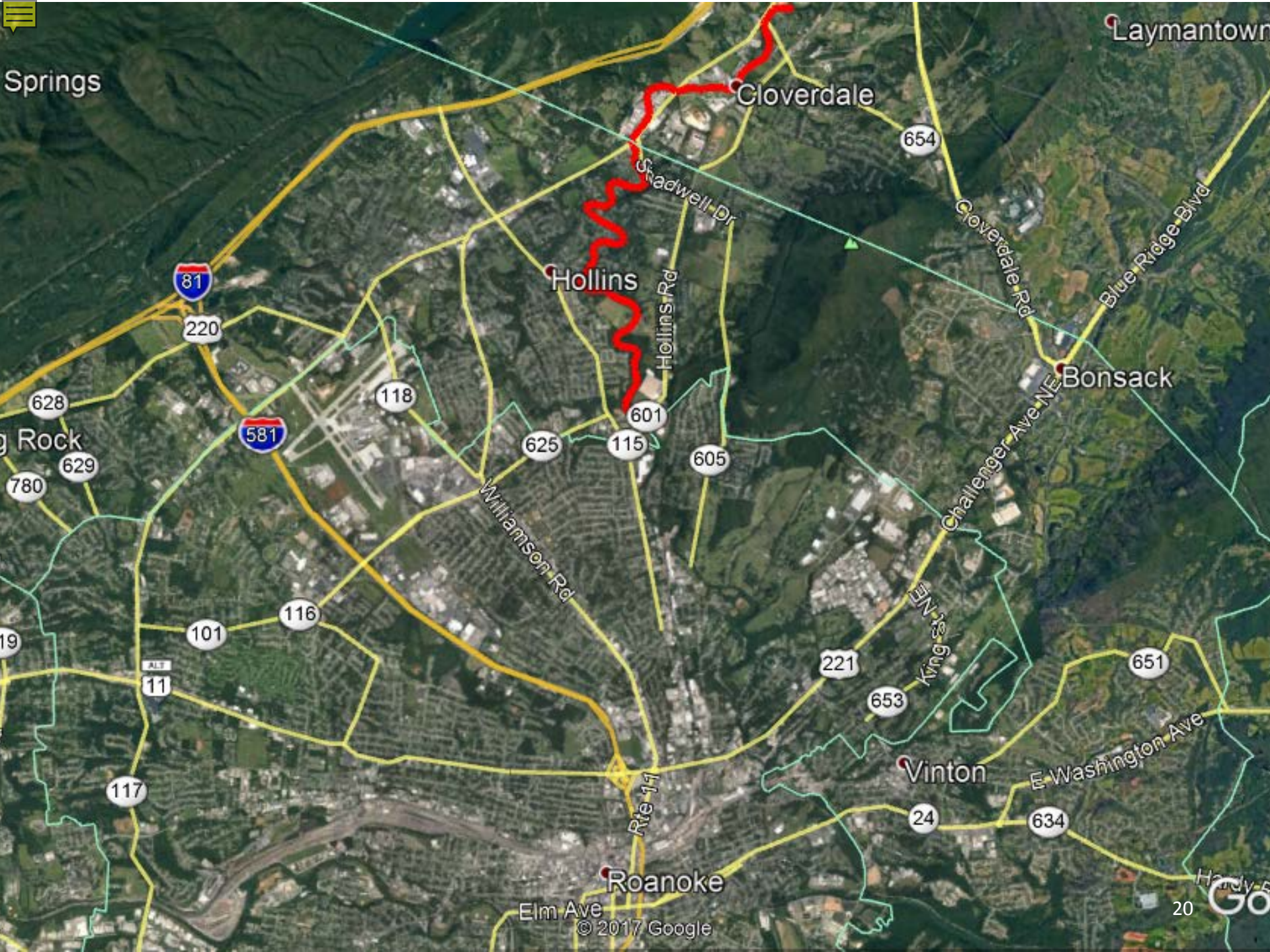
Lawrence Equipment

Simmons Dr

Google

Fish Kill Investigation





Laymantown

Springs

Cloverdale

Hollins

Bonsack

g Rock

Vinton

Roanoke

Elm Ave

© 2017 Google

20

Go

The Event



Reverse 911 Message

BOTETOURT COUNTY FIRE AND EMS ALONG WITH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IS ON SCENE OF A PRODUCT RELEASE IN SOUTHERN BOTETOURT COUNTY THAT HAS CAUSED A VISIBLE CONTAMINATION OF TINKER CREEK SOUTH OF THE I-81 CORRIDOR INTO ROANOKE COUNTY. AT THIS TIME REFRAIN FROM ANY ENTRY OR USE OF TINKER CREEK OR CONNECTING STREAMS INCLUDING PETS. PLEASE CALL THE STATE OF VIRGINIA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER FOR QUESTIONS AND INFORMATION

The Unraveling

- VDEM HMO providing regular updates to VDEM PIO
- VDEM PIO handling media inquiries (without conferring with DEQ)
- Media presence in the affected neighborhoods
- Public talking to media



The Fix

- Conference Call:
 - VDEM PIO, HMO
 - DEQ PIO, Pollution Response
 - VDH Epidemiology, PIO
 - VDH Office of Drinking Water

The Fix

- FAQs on Web Page

The screenshot shows the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) website. At the top, the Virginia.gov logo and navigation links for Agencies and Governor are visible. Below this is the DEQ logo and a navigation menu with categories like My DEQ, Permits, Laws & Regulations, Programs, Locations, About Us, and Connect. A breadcrumb trail reads: Connect With DEQ > Environmental Information > Tinker Creek fish kill. On the left, a sidebar menu lists various topics, with 'Tinker Creek fish kill' highlighted. The main content area features the article title 'Tinker Creek fish kill', an update date of 'Updated October 27, 2017', and a paragraph of text describing the incident on July 29, 2017, involving a chemical release from Crop Production Services.

Virginia.gov Agencies | Governor

DEQ
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

My DEQ ▾ Permits ▾ Laws & Regulations ▾ Programs ▾ Locations ▾ About Us ▾ Connect

Connect With DEQ Environmental Information Tinker Creek fish kill

Coal Ash Permits
Dan River Coal Ash Spill
Radford Army Ammunition Plant
Tinker Creek fish kill
Education
Project WET
Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences
Reports & Publications

Tinker Creek fish kill

Updated October 27, 2017

On July 29, 2017, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) received notification from the Virginia Emergency Operations Center that Roanoke County reported a fish kill in Tinker Creek near Ardmore Drive. VDEM and DEQ immediately responded to the reported fish kill and began working with Roanoke County and Botetourt County to identify a possible cause of the fish kill. The emergency responders observed foam along with deceased fish and other aquatic life.

Working upstream in Tinker Creek, Botetourt County public safety personnel observed a chemical release at Crop Production Services, located at 218 Simmons Drive. The chemical was identified as Termix 5301 – a type of surfactant.

Lessons Learned

- Lack of resources
- Lack of Incident Command Structure
- Lack of coordinated information management
- Not all PIOs geared for after-hours action
- Lack of H&S plan
- Lack of personnel accountability

Media & Public Relations



Where we are...



..and where we need to be.

Social Media Plan for ER

- Dark Sites
- Pre-Scripted Social Media Messages
- Target audiences
- Target timeframes for messaging & follow up

Questions?

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