



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Emergency Management

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Memorandum

To: The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine
Members of the General Assembly

From: Michael M. Cline 

Subject: § 44-146.18 - Status of State and Local Emergency Operations Plans

The Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan (COVEOP), dated April 2004 has undergone a complete realignment and revision to incorporate the basic outline and structure of the National Response Plan (NRP) and draft National Response Framework (NRF), lessons learned from Virginia's stakeholder communities, and operational experience. The COVEOP (2007 edition and revision) is currently in the process of being promulgated by the Governor. The Commonwealth functions under the operational concept of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS) and this fact is reflected in the revised COVEOP.

Of the 140 local governments responsible for an emergency management program, 107 jurisdictions, or approximately 76 percent have updated plans in the last five years. While these numbers reflect a decrease from the previous year's percentage, there are several factors that should be considered in this discussion. There are an additional 10 jurisdictions that have completed final drafts and intend to adopt the EOPs by the end of March 2008. This will bring the total to 117 current plans, greater than 82 percent.

Some of the smaller jurisdictions throughout Virginia may not have the manpower to routinely revise their EOPs. Turnover among the emergency coordinators, particularly in smaller localities, could also impede the plan revision process. The Local Planning Assistance Branch (LPA) within the Preparedness Division of this agency will continue to reach out to these jurisdictions and provide technical assistance.

If you have questions, please contact me.

MMC/gonu

cc: The Honorable John W. Marshall
The Honorable Robert P. Crouch, Jr.
Division of Automated Legislative Services