

**M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: November 28, 2001  
TO: The Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Richard M. Miller, Fire Chief  
SUBJECT: Terrorism Preparedness

---

Since the attacks on September 11, 2001, there has been an increased awareness of terrorism and terrorism preparedness throughout the nation. I would like to brief the Board on activities James City County has been involved in before and after the September 11 events and future activities James City County will be conducting to maintain our state of readiness.

Our efforts can be classified into regional and local efforts.

**Regional Efforts**

Prior to September 11, James City County participated as an active partner in Hampton Roads Regional Planning District (HRPDC) activities identifying terrorist threats, resources available, training, and planning efforts required in the event of such an attack. This effort began in 1997. James City County is an active partner in the Regional Emergency Management Technical Advisory Committee (REMTEC) to the HRPDC. James City County maintains representation on the Metropolitan Medical Response System Committee as well as on the regional radio system subcommittee. Both of these Committees provide regional planning and recommendations on a regional approach to an area wide emergency. The HRPDC has recently released a draft of our regional medical response plan and a video is currently showing on the Cox Cable system demonstrating our planning efforts, roles, and responsibilities of each function. It is anticipated the plan will be validated by the Federal Government and operational in early 2002.

In addition, James City County staff has participated in many training events around potential terrorist activities. These include training courses offered by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Department of Fire Programs, the National Fire Academy and the Hampton Roads Planning District. Training topics have included emergency response, law enforcement, water supply and emergency planning. Staff from fire, police, emergency management, and the JCSA have all attended the training.

In 1998, James City County was invited to participate in a Mid-Atlantic Governors Conference in Williamsburg on Federal and State response to terrorist activities. From that conference, Governor Gilmore was appointed the Chair of a Governor's Task Force on Response to Terrorist Activities. The initial report led to dialog between the key players of such a response including the local, State and Federal law enforcement community, the Fire/EMS responders, the health care providers, and the Federal Emergency Planning Agency. Training and equipment needs were identified for priority along with future funding requirements.

We have reviewed our regional and state communication networks to evaluate effectiveness and to confirm communication channels for information sharing. James City County has participated in statewide conference calls for the purpose of information sharing. We also attended briefings by Dominion Virginia Power on the security of the nuclear power plants.

Our Emergency Operating Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors in November 2000, included an annex on response to a terrorist event. This annex mirrors the annex included in the State Emergency Operating Plan.

### **Local Efforts**

Fire, Police, and JCSA staff participated with State and Federal authorities on potential terrorism target identification in January 2000.

Selected staff have received specific training in various types of terrorist activities including serving as monitors/evaluators in mock response drills in Chesapeake. Training included command and control, detection and monitoring, decontamination, and public information.

Monitoring equipment and limited personnel protective equipment has been purchased and placed on fire apparatus throughout the County. Additional resources needed have been identified for future purchase.

Response procedures appropriate for potential or actual terrorist events have been implemented. These procedures have been coordinated between fire and police.

A full page insert was included in the October 24 Virginia Gazette, providing the public a proactive report on planning and preparation activities in James City County. In addition, the insert provided the public suggested procedures to follow in the event of an emergency in James City County.

Presentations on our preparedness level have been given to neighborhood groups, community service groups, and local industry and businesses.

### **Future Activities**

The Federal Government has established an Office of Homeland Defense and the Governor of Virginia has established a Blue Ribbon Panel studying terrorism. Both are working on evaluation of our current state of readiness and will make recommendations on additional improvements the Federal, State and local governments can take to improve our response capability. Once those reports are finalized, James City County will evaluate them for our planning efforts and subsequent financial impact.

We will continue to provide public information and citizen guidance on actions they can take to be prepared for a local emergency.

We will be continuing our training efforts of emergency responders in all County departments. We will continue to evaluate our existing local government security measures and provide recommendations to County departments on emergency preparedness.

We will be continuing our interaction with local industry and business on emergency planning and maintaining strong communication links with neighboring jurisdictions, State government, and Federal authorities.

In conclusion, while we cannot predict a specific terrorist event, we have performed an evaluation of our risk, developed and revised our emergency planning efforts, and increased our training and equipment capability to respond to an event in our community.

I will be glad to provide any additional information.

---

Richard M. Miller