

## **First Responder Sub Panel**

### **Legislative Update**

The First Responder Sub Panel (FRSP) was presented with and reviewed 2 pieces of legislation for the upcoming General Assembly Session.

One piece of legislation proposed a restriction of the sale of novelty lighters to minors. This legislation was reviewed by the FRSP and it was determined that more information was needed on the financial impact this legislation would have. The FRSP presented it to the Secure Commonwealth Panel who decided to table this information until next year pending quantitative data.

The second piece of legislation reviewed by the FRSP would allow for Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) to be in place between private university/college police departments and the locality or localities around the school. These MOUs would be used in the event of a mutual aid situation. This legislation was approved by the FRSP and has been forwarded to the Governor's Office for review and possible inclusion as a bill in the upcoming Session.

### **Regional Preparedness Advisory Committees**

The Office of Commonwealth Preparedness has been holding a series of seven Regional Preparedness Advisory Committees (RPACs) during December. These meetings are being held in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) to discuss upcoming grant guidance and project prioritization with the regions.

All 2009 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) project proposals will be due to VDEM on January 9, 2009. VDEM will forward the proposals to the project capability leads for prioritization and submission to the Governor for consideration. Please see the VDEM website for additional details: <http://www.vaemergency.com/grants/index.cfm>

The Office of Commonwealth Preparedness will also be holding a series of seven Regional Preparedness Advisory Committees for Interoperability (RPAC-Is) meeting in late January and early February. These meetings will be held in conjunction with the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA). The tentative dates for these meetings are listed below. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator's Office (CICO) at [cico@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:cico@governor.virginia.gov) or 804-692-0137.

- Wednesday, 21 January - Region III (Lynchburg)
- Friday, 23 January - Region II (Culpepper)
- Monday, 26 January - Region IV (Abingdon)
- Tuesday, 27 January - Region VI (Roanoke)
- Thursday, 29 January - Region I (Richmond)
- Friday, 30 January - Region VII (Northern Virginia)
- Monday, 2 February - Region V (Tidewater)

### **Events Calendar**

The FRSP continues to collect information on upcoming events, conferences and meetings that may impact the First Responder community. If you are aware of any activities that may be useful to the First Responder community, please send the information to the CICO at [cico@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:cico@governor.virginia.gov).