

State Crime Commission

May 2007

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for Commonwealth Preparedness



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Commonwealth Preparedness**

Credentialing

During incidents such as natural and man-made disasters, there is a need to expeditiously authenticate and validate the Emergency Response Community (public and private)

- Need to have a standard credential for Emergency Response Officials (not associated with the REAL ID Act)
- Credential needs to verify the identity and other pertinent information of Emergency Responders at incident scenes
- Credential needs to allow access into and out of secured areas and across multi-jurisdictions
- Need to identify a person's status within Sectors, Agency, or Emergency Support Function (ESF) which supports the National Response Plan (NRP)
- Need a standard process and requirements to obtain the credential (trust model)
- Trust Model is established when all participants agree upon credentialing and eligibility rules and therefore trust credentials issued through a partner



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Arlington County 9/11 After Action Report

“Some firefighters said they had never seen so many volunteers, and wondered aloud if a volunteer firefighter tee shirt was the only required identification.”

“The last full activation of the EOC was in preparation for the anticipated problems associated with the arrival of the year 2000 (Y2K). As a result, although many county officials had EOC identification (ID) badges, they had long since expired. A current ID system was not in place.”

“Arlington County should work with neighboring jurisdictions and other emergency response agencies and volunteer organizations to implement a uniform identification system.”



Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina Lessons Learned

“[Complete] the development of a credentialing system ... to allow authorized volunteers and workers restoring critical infrastructure access to relief sites.”

“The Federal response should better integrate the contributions of volunteers and nongovernmental organizations into the broader national effort. This integration would be best achieved at the State and local levels, prior to future incidents. In particular, State and local governments must... credential their personnel, and provide them the necessary resource support for their involvement in a joint response.”



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Federal Credentialing Standard: HSPD 12

- Signed by President Bush in August 2004
- Mandatory for all Executive Branches of Government (ie: FBI, DEA, Secret Service, Pentagon Force Protection Agency [PFPA], etc.)
- Established a mandatory Federal Government-wide interoperable standard for secure and reliable forms of identification that:
 - Can verify an individual's identity
 - Are strongly resistant to identity fraud, tampering, counterfeiting, and terrorist exploitation
 - Can be rapidly authenticated electronically
 - Are issued through an official accreditation process



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Federal Credentialing Standard: FIPS 201 (Federal Information Processing Standards)

- Created by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
- Response to HSPD-12
- Specifies the architecture, technical and administrative requirements
- Defines requirements for:
 - Identity proofing
 - Registration
 - Issuance of identification credentials



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Needed Standards

- States, locals, and private sectors need to agree upon common credentialing standards for the Emergency Response Community
- In many high profile incidents, the lack of identity trust between jurisdictions resulted in the inability of Emergency Responders to reach incident scenes, and response and recovery activities were significantly delayed because incident scene commanders could not rapidly verify the person's identity



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State and Local Efforts

The following are voluntarily choosing to adopt the HSPD 12 and FIPS 201 standards, following Virginia's lead, thereby achieving multi-jurisdictional interoperability between the Emergency Response Community, all levels of government, and the private sector:

- **Maryland** has developed a standard FRAC for Emergency Responders which is interoperable with Virginia's FRAC
- **Illinois** is currently developing a FRAC program
- **Pennsylvania** is in the early stages of developing a FRAC program
- The **San Antonio, Texas** region is beginning the first steps toward full FIPS 201 compliance for their next generation unified ID badge for all Fire/EMS personnel and physicians
- **Denver, Colorado** is developing a FIPS 201 compliant credential and wants to implement statewide



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National Efforts

- The National Fire Academy released a report recommending a FIPS 201 compliant National Fire Service Responder Credentialing System
- National Incident Management System is developing a consensus on job requirements within each Emergency Support Function
- Transportation Worker Identification Card (TWIC) now follows FIPS 201 standards
- DHS anticipates rolling out the FRAC program first in FEMA Region 3 and then the entire East Coast
- Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA) has identified the FRAC as its preferred identification for response to the Pentagon and other leased DOD facilities within the NCR



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First Responder Authentication Credential (FRAC)

- The FRAC is a standards-based smart card that is issued to the Emergency Response Community in the NCR which will be recognized and accepted as a true representation of their identity and other pertinent data
- The FRAC is the only interoperable identity credential for all Federal, State, local and private sector Emergency Responders
- Facilitates quick identity verification
- Supports NCR preparedness objectives
- Supports EO 44 (culture of preparedness)
- COOP/COG
- Response and recovery efforts



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The Commonwealth's Progress

- The Commonwealth has developed a pilot FRAC Program using NCR UASI grant funding
- Virginia is the first nationally
- Issued over 2,200 FRACs to Arlington County and the City of Alexandria Emergency Response Community



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The Commonwealth of Virginia Pilot FRAC

Arlington County



Affiliation
Employee
Agency
Police Dept
Issued
2005DEC31
Expires
2008DEC31

**LAST,
FIRST, MI**



Employee ID
123456


Rank or ESF
Lieutenant



Emergency Response Official

This credential is the property of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The counterfeit, alteration, or misuse of this credential constitutes a violation of 18.2-204.2 of the Code of Virginia and section 499, Title 18 of the U.S. Code.

The bearer of this card is a designated Emergency Responder. After credential verification, bearer may be given access to controlled areas.



Return to: Lost Card Returns Commonwealth of Virginia FRAC
Bay O 4262 Entre Court Chantilly, VA 20151

000000006010 **00050150025**



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FRAC

The Commonwealth Pilot FRAC is designed to:

- Securely establish emergency responders' identities at the scene of an incident
- Confirm first responders' qualifications and expertise, allowing incident commanders to dispatch them quickly and appropriately
- Enhance cooperation and efficiency between federal, state and local first responders
 - Nationally
 - Regionally
 - Locally



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Next Steps

- The Commonwealth has submitted a grant application to continue the FRAC program in other regions
- Continue to educate State and local officials on the FRAC program and its interoperability with partners
- Continue to work with state agencies to implement FIPS 201 compliant FRAC programs (VSP and VDEM)
- Continue to support state and local agencies adoption of FIPS 201 compliant credentials for employee identification and physical access control



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