



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Virginia Department of Fire Programs

L. Brad Creasy  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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May 19, 2025

**TO:** County Administrators, City and Town Managers, and Fire Chiefs

**FROM:** Brad Creasy, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Mandated Fire Reporting as a Condition for Aid to Localities Payment

Legislation passed during the 2025 General Assembly session directed the Virginia Fire Services Board to adopt a policy that would require localities, as a condition to receive Aid to Localities funding, to report emergency incidents to the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) starting July 1, 2026. NERIS is a national effort to develop and launch a new interoperable fire information and innovative analytics platform to replace the current platform, NFIRS. The requirement that localities report to receive funding is a *new* requirement.

Fire and emergency response data is a vital component of making informed decisions to better address community risk. Many localities and fire departments already report incidents, but a significant number do not. According to the current federal plan, Virginia departments are scheduled to begin onboarding in September of 2025. For questions concerning onboarding to NERIS, please contact the United States Fire Administration or visit their website [National Emergency Response Information System \(NERIS\)](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/neris/).

The Virginia Fire Services Board, and staff from the Department of Fire Programs, will begin drafting the policy during the summer of 2025. We encourage localities and their fire departments to be involved in the process. The Virginia Fire Services Board will meet on the below dates and all meetings can be found by accessing [VFSB Meeting Dates - Virginia Department of Fire Programs](#).

June 6, 2025, VDFP Headquarters, Glen Allen, VA  
September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, Harrisonburg, VA  
December 2, 2025, VDFP Headquarters, Glen Allen, VA.

Written comment can be provided throughout the process by emailing [Policyoffice@vdfp.virginia.gov](mailto:Policyoffice@vdfp.virginia.gov) or by mailing:

Government Affairs Division  
1005 Technology Park Drive  
Glen Allen, VA 23059  
ATTN: NERIS Reporting Policy

The agency looks forward to working with the Virginia Fire Services Board, localities, and fire departments to ensure all are compliant with the new law and that fire reporting provides better data to address community risk throughout the Commonwealth.

Respectfully,



Brad Creasy

CC:

Keith Johnson, Chairman, Virginia Fire Services Board  
Ken Brown, Community Risk Reduction Coordinator, VDFP  
Spencer Willett, Government Affairs Manager, VDFP

