The University of Louisville must be prepared to respond in the event of a major emergency. In order for the University’s response to be coordinated and effective a plan must be available to faculty and staff to use in the critical moments of a disaster. This plan is known as the Emergency Operations Plan or EOP. Additionally, Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD#5) requires governmental entities, including universities, to develop an EOP that is compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Attached you will find an Interim EOP that has been developed by the Department of Environmental Health and Safety. Effective immediately, this interim plan shall serve the University as its EOP. This interim plan is a living document. It describes existing procedures and personnel, serves as the vehicle for analysis of current capabilities, and provides a comprehensive framework to plan and enhance resources for operational capabilities.

Dennis Sullivan, the University’s Emergency Coordinator, will lead the effort to revise the interim plan and ensure that it is comprehensive and has the approval of all stakeholders. The stakeholders will be formalized into the Emergency Planning Committee with Dennis serving as the chair. Upon the recommendation of this Emergency Planning Committee, I will withdraw the interim plan and replace it with the new NIMS compliant plan.

In order to meet the requirements of HSPD#5, this effort must be completed and tested through exercises prior to September 30, 2006. I am asking that you cooperate fully in the development, exercising and implementation of the EOP.

In summary, the University of Louisville must be prepared for the possibility that a disaster will strike the University or an adjacent area that could be of such magnitude as to be beyond the normal day-to-day capability of the University. This plan provides the outline of action to be taken by individuals, departments and other units to reduce the destructive effects that such a disaster would create.

Dr. James R. Ramsey
President
University of Louisville