

2009 Virginia Emergency Management Conference



“It Happened...What Next?”

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§ [23-9.2:9](#). Institutional crisis and emergency management plan; review required.

The board of visitors or other governing body of each public institution of higher education shall develop, adopt, and keep current a written crisis and emergency management plan. Every four years, each institution shall conduct a comprehensive review and revision of its crisis and emergency management plan to ensure the plan remains current, and the revised plan shall be adopted formally by the board of visitors or other governing body.

§ [23-9.2:9](#) (continued)

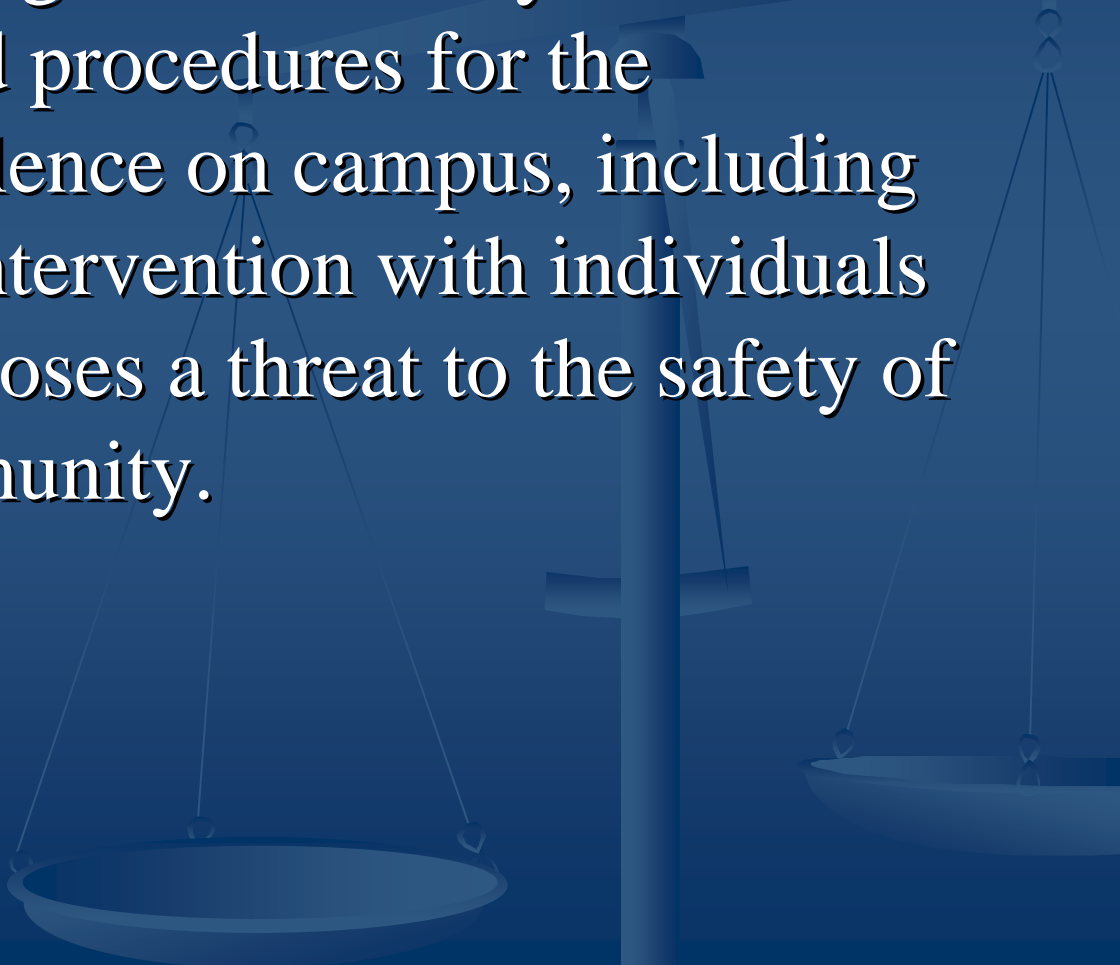
Such review shall also be certified in writing to the Department of Emergency Management. The institution shall coordinate with the local emergency management organization, as defined by § [44-146.16](#), to ensure integration into the local emergency operations plan.

(2008, cc. 450, 526.)

A faint, stylized illustration of a scale of justice is visible in the background of the slide. It features a central vertical pillar supporting a horizontal beam with two pans hanging from it. The image is rendered in shades of blue and white, blending into the dark blue background.

§ [23-9.2:10](#). Violence prevention committee; threat assessment team.

A. Each public college or university shall have in place policies and procedures for the prevention of violence on campus, including assessment and intervention with individuals whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of the campus community.

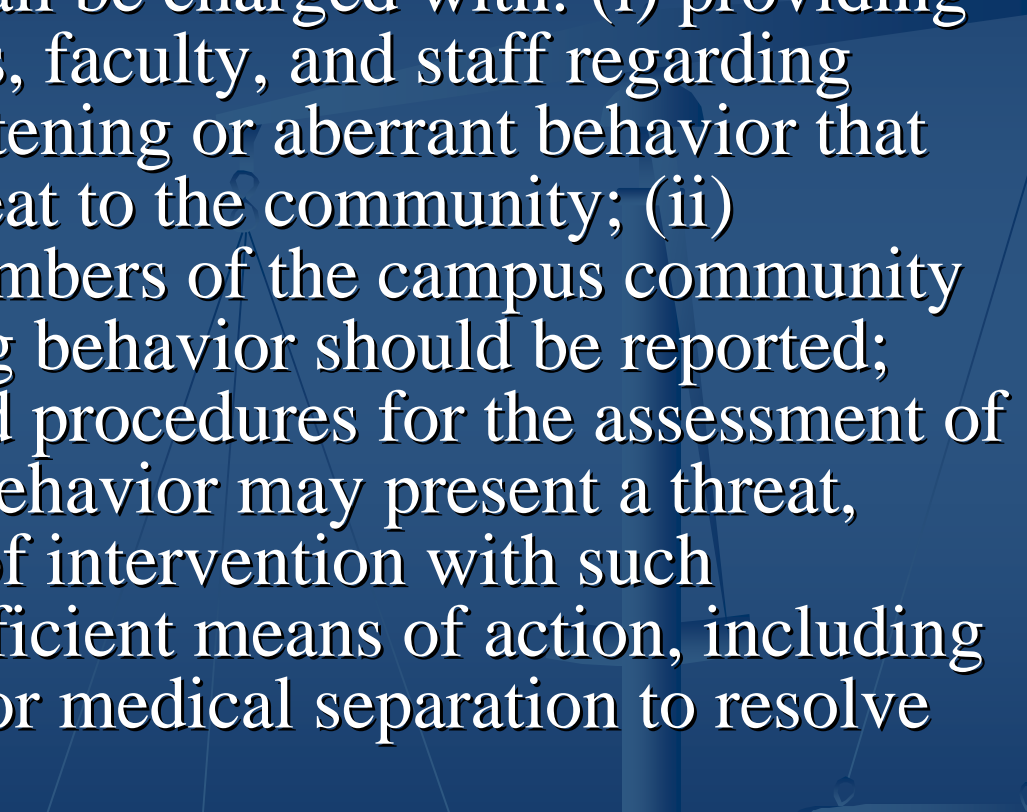
A faint, stylized image of a scale of justice is visible in the background of the slide. The scale is positioned on the right side, with its central pillar and horizontal beam extending across the middle. Two pans are suspended from the beam by thin lines. The entire image is rendered in a light blue color, matching the overall theme of the slide.

§ 23-9.2:10 (continued)

B. The board of visitors or other governing body of each public institution of higher education shall determine a committee structure on campus of individuals charged with education and prevention of violence on campus. Each committee shall include representatives from student affairs, law enforcement, human resources, counseling services, residence life, and other constituencies as needed. Such committee shall also consult with legal counsel as needed. Once formed, each committee shall develop a clear statement of: (i) mission, (ii) membership, and (iii) leadership. Such statement shall be published and available to the campus community.

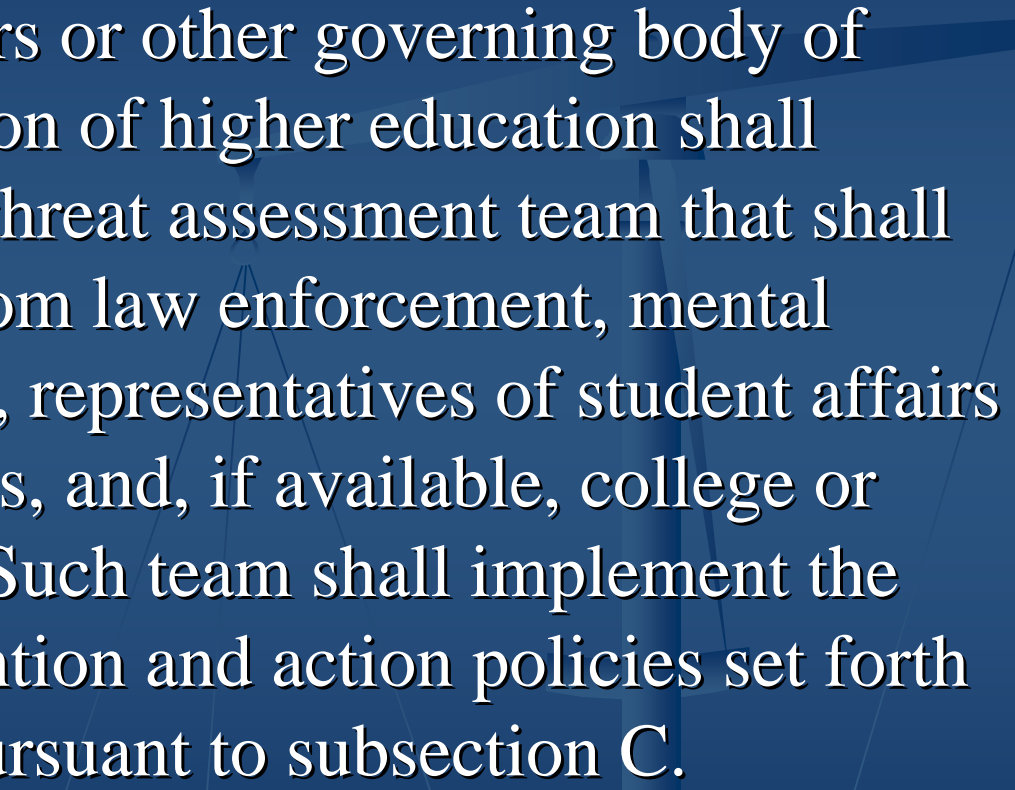
§ 23-9.2:10 (continued)

C. Each committee shall be charged with: (i) providing guidance to students, faculty, and staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the community; (ii) identification of members of the campus community to whom threatening behavior should be reported; and (iii) policies and procedures for the assessment of individuals whose behavior may present a threat, appropriate means of intervention with such individuals, and sufficient means of action, including interim suspension or medical separation to resolve potential threats.



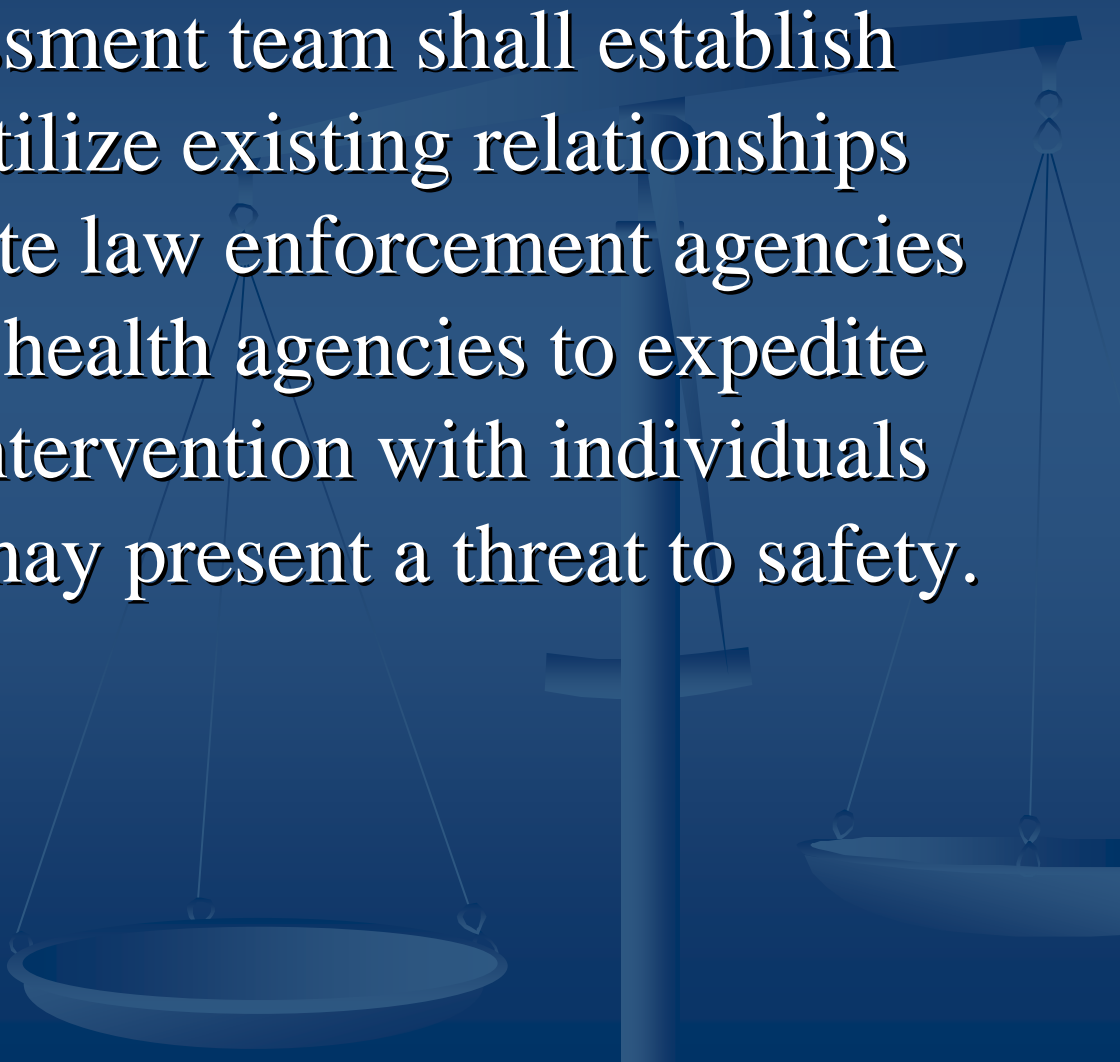
§ 23-9.2:10 (continued)

D. The board of visitors or other governing body of each public institution of higher education shall establish a specific threat assessment team that shall include members from law enforcement, mental health professionals, representatives of student affairs and human resources, and, if available, college or university counsel. Such team shall implement the assessment, intervention and action policies set forth by the committee pursuant to subsection C.



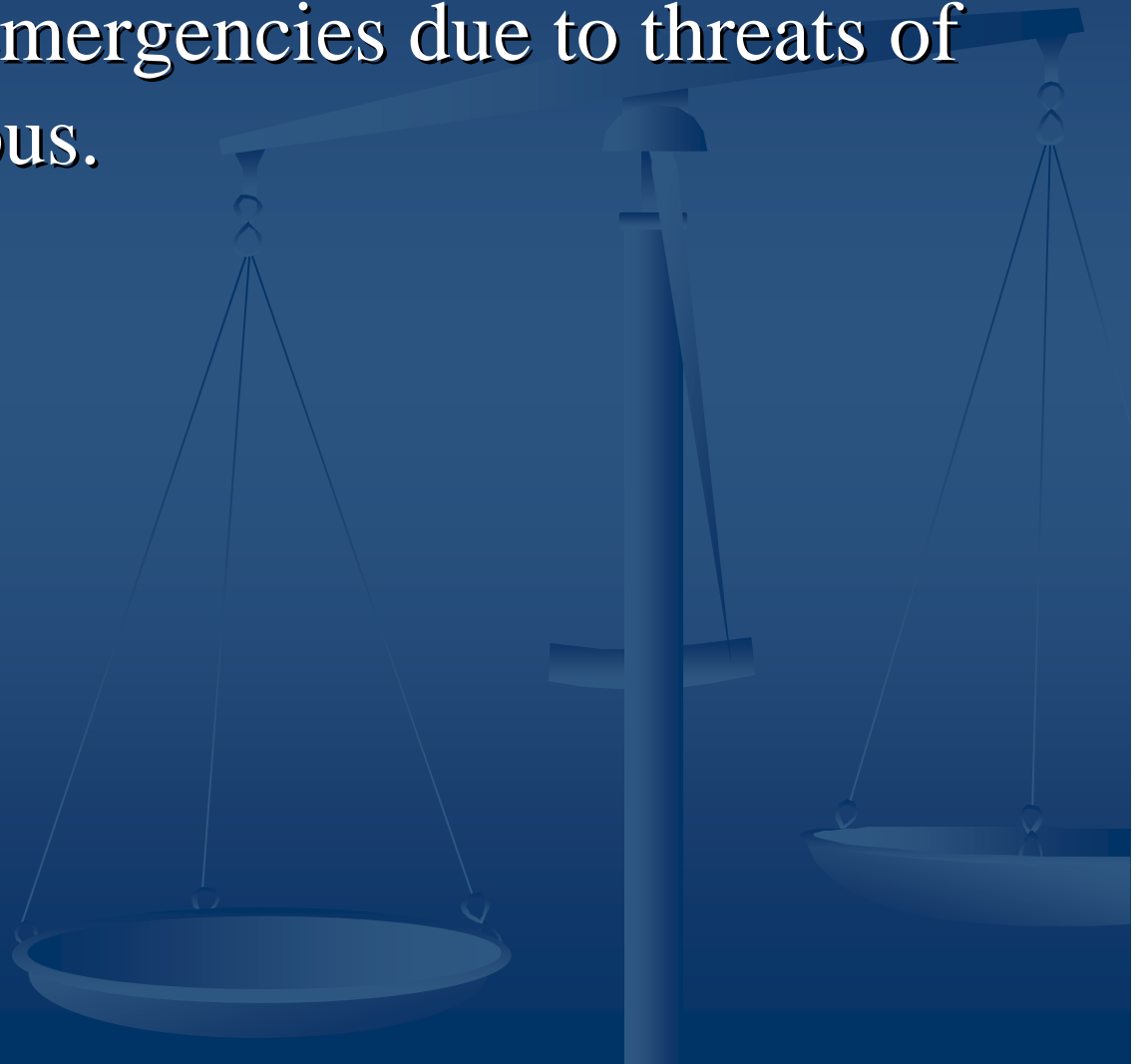
§ 23-9.2:10 (continued)

E. Each threat assessment team shall establish relationships or utilize existing relationships with local and state law enforcement agencies as well as mental health agencies to expedite assessment and intervention with individuals whose behavior may present a threat to safety.

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Goal of § [23-9.2:10](#).

Reduce campus emergencies due to threats of violence on campus.



Virginia Tech Response:

The Board of Visitors at Virginia Tech adopted a resolution creating two separate committees:

- I. Campus and Violence Workplace Prevention and Risk Assessment Committee.
 - A.) Chaired by the Vice President for Administrative Services.
 - B.) Creates high visibility.
 - C.) Recommends violence prevention training programs on campus.

Virginia Tech Response (continued):

II. Threat Assessment Team.

A.) Membership – Chief of Police (Chair)

Student Affairs Representative

Director of Counseling Center

Human Resources

Vice Provost

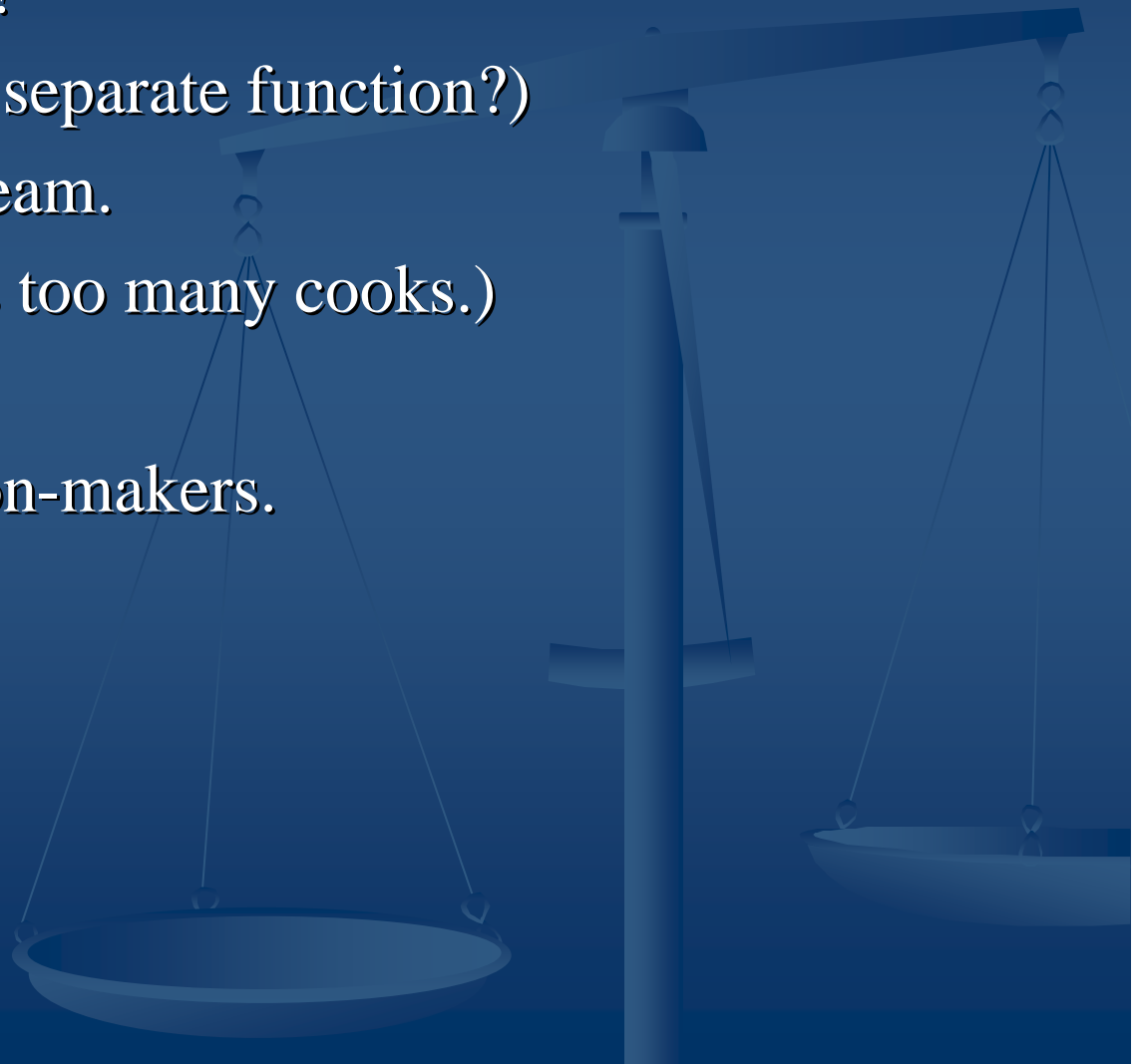
B.) Advisory Capacity – University Legal
Counsel.

C.) Report to President.

D.) Broad ranging responsibility to analyze
individual threats and make recommendations.

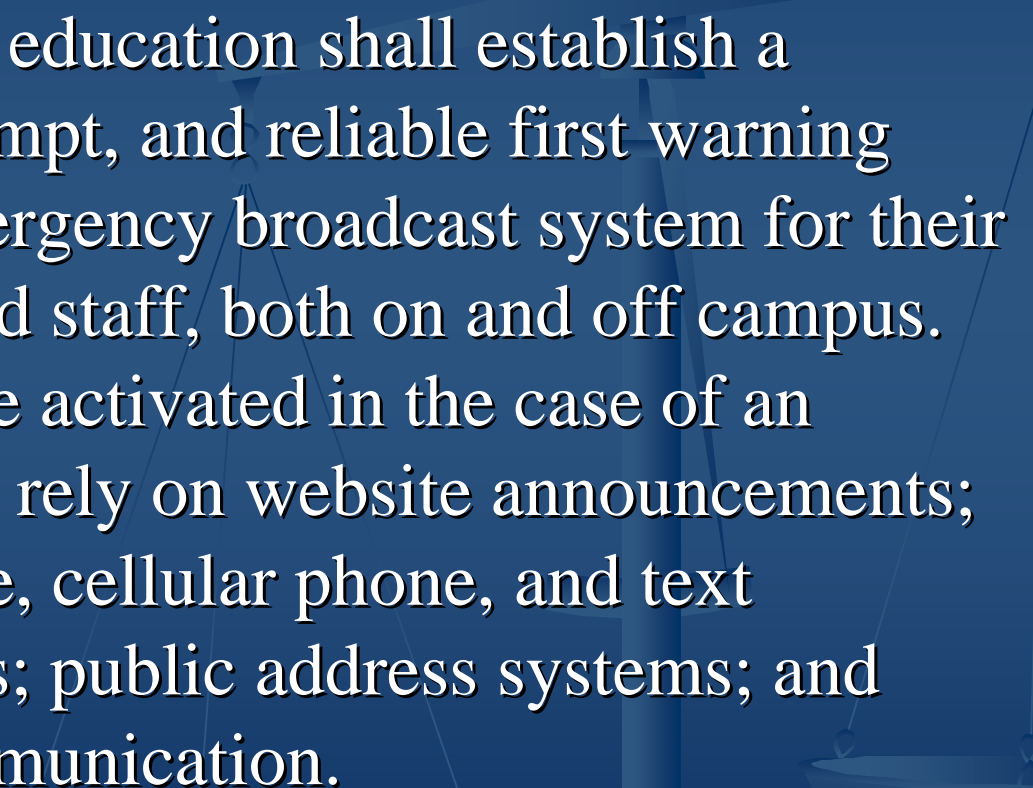
In setting up a Threat Assessment Team, factors to consider:

- A.) One team or two?
(Should HR be a separate function?)
- B.) Balance size of team.
(Expertise versus too many cooks.)
- C.) Commitment.
- D.) Access to decision-makers.



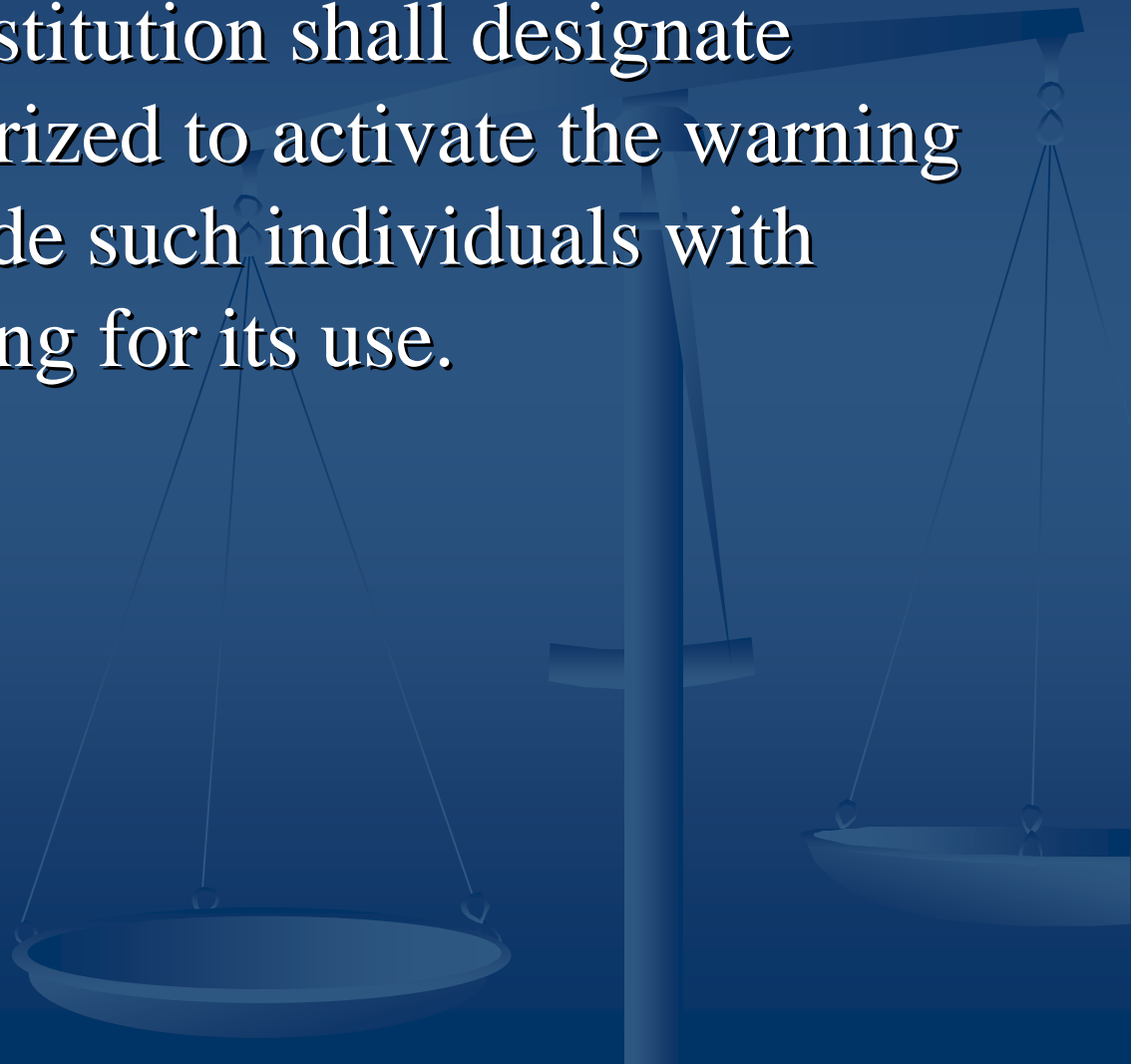
§ [23-9.2:11](#). First warning and emergency notification system required.

By January 1, 2009, the governing boards of each public institution of higher education shall establish a comprehensive, prompt, and reliable first warning notification and emergency broadcast system for their students, faculty, and staff, both on and off campus. Such system shall be activated in the case of an emergency and may rely on website announcements; email notices; phone, cellular phone, and text messages; alert lines; public address systems; and other means of communication.



§ [23-9.2:11](#). First warning and emergency notification system required. (continued)

In addition, each institution shall designate individuals authorized to activate the warning system and provide such individuals with appropriate training for its use.



Higher Education Opportunity Act.

August 14, 2008.

Clery Act.

Institutions are required to immediately notify the campus community upon the confirmation of a significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or staff occurring on the campus, as defined in paragraph (6), unless issuing a notification will compromise efforts to contain the emergency.

[20 U.S.C.A. § 1092\(f\)\(1\)\(J\)\(i\)](#)

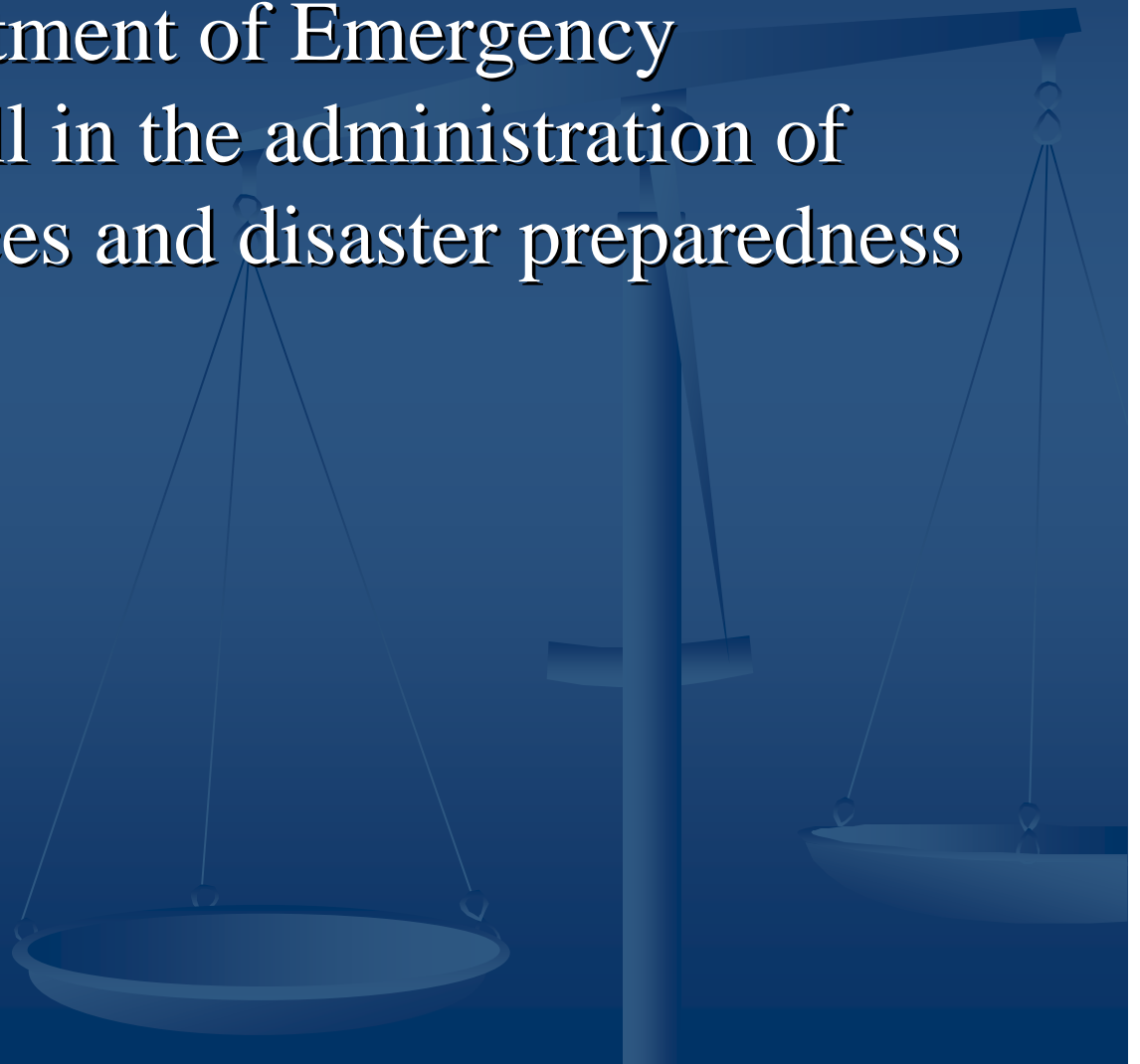
Parental Notification – BOV Policy Requirement. Effective July 1, 2008.

Parents of dependent students receiving mental health treatment at a state college or student health center are to be notified “...when such student receives mental health treatment if it is determined that there exists a substantial likelihood that, as a result of mental illness the student will, in the near future, (i) cause serious physical harm to himself or others as evidenced by recent behavior or any other relevant information or (ii) suffer serious harm due to his lack of capacity to protect himself from harm or to provide for his basic human needs. However, notification may be withheld if the student's treating physician or treating clinical psychologist has made a part of the student's record a written statement that, in the exercise of his professional judgment, the notification would be reasonably likely to cause substantial harm to the student or another person.”

[§ 23-9.2:3\(C\), Code of Virginia](#)

§ 44-146.18. Department of Emergency Services continued as Department of Emergency Management; administration and operational control; coordinator and other personnel; powers and duties.

B. The State Department of Emergency Management shall in the administration of emergency services and disaster preparedness programs:



§ 44-146.18 (continued)

12. Consult with the State Council of Higher Education in the development and revision of a model institutional crisis and emergency management plan for the purpose of assisting public and private two-year and four-year institutions of higher education in establishing, operating, and maintaining emergency services and disaster preparedness activities and, as needed, in developing an institutional crisis and emergency management plan pursuant to § [23-9.2:9](#).