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Did You Know?

The U.S. Geological Survey offers a WaterAlert service that sends subscribers emails or text messages about water- and flood-related issues, such as surface water, groundwater, water quality, and precipitation. Participants may subscribe to receive alerts from specific monitored sites throughout the country by visiting water.usgs.gov/wateralert. Emergency managers and citizens alike can use the WaterAlerts to stay prepared for flooding threats.

Flooding

Featured Topic for March

As winter snow begins to melt and spring rain begins to fall, emergency managers throughout the nation must be prepared for the risk of flooding. Preparing for these risks could include conducting hazard assessments, making an inventory of infrastructure assets, updating floodplain maps, and exercising plans for emergency notifications and mass evacuations. In order to help emergency managers prepare their jurisdictions for the threat of floods, *LLIS.gov* has highlighted the plans, after-action reports, and guidance documents below:



- [After Action Report \(AAR\) Spring 2010, Nor'easter: Township of Little Falls, New Jersey](#), Township of Little Falls, New Jersey;
- [After Action Report: May 2010 Flood Event Cumberland River Basin, 1-3 May 2010, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division](#), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;
- [Commission Staff Working Paper Risk Assessment and Mapping Guidelines for Disaster Management](#), European Commission;
- [Resource Management: Using Department of Transportation Facilities as Staging Areas during Incidents](#), *LLIS.gov* exclusive Lesson Learned;
- [Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado](#), Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Water Conservation Board; and

[Mutual Aid Agreements: Conducting an Inventory of Mass Care Resources](#)

[School Emergency Management Planning: Using Multiple Communication Methods During Incidents at Schools](#)

[School Emergency Planning: Identifying On-Campus Sheltering Facilities for Students from Other Schools](#)

[School Evacuation Planning: Clarifying Responsibilities for Evacuation of Students from Multiple Districts Attending a Shared School Location](#)

[Special Needs Registries: Coordinating with Law Enforcement Organizations to Strengthen Support for Individuals with Disabilities and Functional Needs](#)

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- [Search and Rescue: Assigning Support Personnel to Collect Data about Rescued Persons](#), *LLIS.gov* exclusive Lesson Learned.

For more information about preparing for flooding events, please visit *LLIS.gov*'s [Document Library](#).



Technical Update

Channel Folders Fixed

The *LLIS.gov* team received reports that users were experiencing technical difficulties when attempting to view documents within folders on *LLIS.gov* Channels and the Exercise Support System.

Our technical team has been working diligently, and these problems are now resolved.

If you experience any further issues, please contact the Help Desk at help@llis.dhs.gov or 866-476-4827. We apologize for the inconvenience, and thank you for your patience.



Winter Storms

Learning Lessons from Severe Weather

From Oklahoma to New Hampshire, from Atlanta to Boston, jurisdictions throughout the United States have been hit this winter with severe snow storms and cold weather. The after-action reports, plans, and lessons learned below provide emergency managers with information about the responses to past events that will help to improve plans and preparedness activities for future events.



- [City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, December 2009 Snowstorm After-Action Report](#), City of Fredericksburg, Virginia;
- [Continuity of Operations: Possessing Portable Generators to Ensure Delivery of Critical Services During Incidents](#), *LLIS.gov* exclusive Lesson Learned;
- [Preliminary Review of the City's Response to the December 2010 Blizzard](#), Office of the Mayor, New York City;
- [Saco, Maine, Hazardous Weather Operations Plan](#), City of Saco, Maine; and
- [State of Vermont Emergency Operations Plan](#), Department of Public Safety, Vermont Division of Emergency Management.

LLIS.gov houses many other documents about similar events. For more information about preparing for snow storms or to view past winter storm responses, please visit *LLIS.gov*'s [Document Library](#).



LLIS Dispatch Reminder

Helpful Member Tool

Are you signed up for *LLIS Dispatch*? *LLIS Dispatch* is a subscription-only email service provided free of charge by *LLIS.gov*. *LLIS.gov* members can choose which topics and disciplines they are interested in and how often they would like to be updated on new content posted on *LLIS.gov*. For example, a fire chief in a small city could subscribe to receive weekly updates of new documents related to fire, emergency management, emergency medical services, hazardous materials, and wildland fire lessons learned. A public health emergency coordinator at the county level may want to receive monthly updates about documents related to public health, community preparedness, public affairs and information, and pandemic influenza.



To sign up for *LLIS Dispatch*, visit the [LLIS Dispatch Subscription](#) page after logging into [LLIS.gov](#). Users can learn more about this email subscription by viewing the *LLIS Dispatch* box in the FEATURED CONTENT tab on the *LLIS.gov* homepage. Members may also update their subscription preferences at any time through "My Settings" in the left navigation bar.



New *LLIS.gov* Exclusive Content

The *LLIS.gov* Team continues to post new Lessons Learned and Best Practices to the system on a regular basis. Weekly updates about new original content that is exclusive to *LLIS.gov* can be found in the [NEW LLIS.GOV CONTENT](#) tab on the *LLIS.gov* homepage. *LLIS.gov* recently posted the following exclusive documents:

Lessons Learned

- [Children and Disasters: Using Maps to Teach Children About Regional Risks](#) (*New Zealand Emergency Preparedness*)
The New Zealand Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management developed a map that depicts disasters that have occurred to help students familiarize themselves with risks within their region. This can help ensure that students and their families are prepared for disasters that may occur in their region.
- [Emergency Communications: Conducting an Inventory of Communications Infrastructure and Systems](#) (*New Hampshire Ice Storm, 2008*)
State emergency management agencies should consider conducting an inventory of all public and private communications infrastructure, methods, and systems. This can help ensure that the agencies are aware of and can utilize these systems during an emergency.
- [Emergency Operations Center Management: Providing Staff Members with Information on Specialized Teams and Resources](#) (*Contra Costa County, California, Golden Guardian Tabletop Exercise, 2010*)
Emergency managers should consider providing emergency operations center (EOC) staff members with information on the capabilities and resources of all available specialized emergency response teams. This can help ensure that EOC staff members are aware of the capabilities of specialized emergency response teams during activations.
- [Emergency Operations Center Management: Providing Training on Section Roles and Operations](#) (*Contra Costa County, California,*

Golden Guardian Tabletop Exercise, 2010)

Emergency operations center (EOC) managers should consider incorporating information about section roles and responsibilities into training and exercises. This can help ensure that section staff are aware of the response activities of other sections, thus facilitating the development of a common operating picture within the EOC.

- **[Emergency Public Information and Warning: Updating Route Alerting Maps](#)** (*Limerick Generating Station Full-Scale Exercise, 2009*)
Emergency managers and transportation officials should update route alerting maps on a regular basis. This can help ensure that emergency response personnel tasked with alerting residents during an emergency can complete the notification process of all area residents in a timely fashion.
- **[Emergency Public Information: Using Social Media to Disseminate Updated Information During Incident Responses](#)** (*American Samoa Tsunami, 2009*)
Public information officers (PIOs) should consider utilizing social media during incidents to disseminate updated information about operations to response personnel as well as to the general public.
- **[Incident Management: Providing Emergency Personnel with Exposure Control Information](#)** (*Limerick Generating Station Full-Scale Exercise, 2009*)
Emergency managers should provide emergency personnel with exposure control information that is consistent with existing radiological emergency response plans (RERPs). This can limit confusion and ensure that these personnel receive accurate exposure control information during a radiological release.
- **[Mutual Aid Agreements: Conducting an Inventory of Mass Care Resources](#)** (*Limerick Generating Station Full-Scale Exercise, 2009*)
Emergency managers should conduct an inventory of mass care resources that local agencies and organizations could obtain through mutual aid agreements. This helps to ensure that local mass care personnel can provide adequate services to the total number of people requesting assistance after an incident.
- **[School Emergency Management Planning: Using Multiple Communication Methods During Incidents at Schools](#)** (*Northern Illinois University Shootings, 2008*)
Higher education institutions should develop plans to use multiple communications methods to inform students, faculty, and staff members of an incident. This can help to ensure that different communities within the school are informed of an incident simultaneously.
- **[School Emergency Planning: Identifying On-Campus Sheltering Facilities for Students from Other Schools](#)** (*Limerick Generating Station Full-Scale Exercise, 2009*)
School emergency plans should identify appropriate on-campus sheltering facilities for students who have evacuated from other schools. This can minimize confusion and ensure that incoming students receive adequate shelter upon arrival on campus.
- **[School Evacuation Planning: Clarifying Responsibilities for Evacuation of Students from Multiple Districts Attending a Shared School Location](#)** (*Limerick Generating Station Full-Scale Exercise, 2009*)
School emergency planners should clarify responsibilities for the evacuation of students from multiple districts attending a shared school location. This can limit confusion and ensure that the districts evacuate students from a single school efficiently during an incident.
- **[Special Needs Registries: Coordinating with Law Enforcement Organizations to Strengthen Support for Individuals with Disabilities and Functional Needs](#)** (*Santa Clarita Valley Special Needs Registry*)
Jurisdictions can use their special needs registries to strengthen law enforcement personnel support for and response to individuals with disabilities or other functional needs during emergencies.

***LLIS.gov* Outreach**



The *LLIS.gov* Team travels around the country speaking and exhibiting at conferences and events. Recently, we exhibited during the [6th Annual Public Health Preparedness Summit](#) in Atlanta, Georgia. Did you visit the *LLIS.gov* representatives at this event? Please share your feedback and comments with us by emailing outreach@llis.dhs.gov.

This month, we are scheduled to participate in the events below. We hope to see you there!

- 01 - 05 Mar: [EMS Today Conference and Expo](#) in Baltimore, MD
- 03 Mar: [2011 All-Hazards/All-Stakeholders Summit](#) in Seattle, WA
- 30 - 31 Mar: [GovSec/U.S. Law 2011](#) in Washington, DC

If you would like to request an *LLIS.gov* presentation at your next event, please email the Outreach Team at outreach@llis.dhs.gov. To view a list of all emergency management and homeland security events, please visit the *LLIS.gov* [Events Calendar](#). For more information, please visit the *LLIS.gov* [Outreach](#) page.