



FEMA

Lessons Learned
Information Sharing

LLIS.gov

February 2009 *Lessons Learned Information Sharing* Newsletter

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Mass Gatherings

Keeping plans updated

The success of the 2009 Inauguration, the largest national special security event in our nation's history, highlights the importance of having practical and up-to-date plans for mass gathering events. The following documents, among many others found on LLIS.gov, offer examples of mass gathering plans, guidelines, and reports that LLIS.gov members may find useful for their own jurisdictions and organizations:

- [Public Health, Safety, and Security for Mass Gatherings](#)

This report examines homeland security challenges for mass gatherings and details 30 recommendations for what should be done by federal, state, and local governments as well as the private sector to protect the public should an act of terrorism or disaster occur. The report shows that mass gatherings such as the Super Bowl, NASCAR races, concerts, and political conventions could be terrorist targets. The report's recommendations focus on countering biological terrorism and other threats to human health, planning for emergencies, and sharing information and resources.
- [Special Event Contingency Planning](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared this manual for use by anyone planning or conducting a special event or mass gathering. This manual is intended to enable its users to ensure that adequate measures and systems are in place to prevent, reduce, and provide care for injuries, illness, and suffering that may occur.
- [GIS for a Homeland Security Event: The Democratic National Convention](#)

This document examines the cooperation among more than 20 federal, state, and local government agencies on geographic information system (GIS) operations during the 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston. Before the event, a GIS Working Group was convened to ensure that the agencies were able to smoothly coordinate their efforts.

- **[Planning and Managing Security for Major Special Events: Guidelines for Law Enforcement](#)**

The guidelines report provides a framework to assist local law enforcement in planning and managing security for events that attract a large number of people. It includes examples of best practices employed by federal agencies with security responsibilities and strategies that have been effective for local law enforcement and private security. The focus is on national and regional events, which often include a variety of high-profile individuals and may be targets for terrorists, other criminals, and protestors. The variety of approaches discussed can be tailored to large or small special events.

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[Analysis of State and Local Officials' Views on Federal Preparedness Requirements](#)

New report on *LLIS.gov*

In 2007, FEMA commissioned the *Analysis of Federal Preparedness Requirements* report to assess the impact of preparedness programs and requirements on state emergency management and homeland security agencies. FEMA continues to better understand and improve the effectiveness of its preparedness programs through reports such as this. The *Analysis of State and Local Officials' Views on Federal Preparedness Requirements*, now available on *LLIS.gov*, includes a summary of the views and recommendations of twenty states and two urban areas on federal preparedness requirements and reporting processes. To view this document, log onto [LLIS.gov](#) and click on [Analysis of State and Local Officials' Views on Federal Preparedness Requirements](#) under NEW *LLIS.GOV* CONTENT.

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[Secure Email Updates](#)

Sign up for external notifications

LLIS.gov has long featured a Secure Email system so users may contact each other with confidence in the security of their communications. Thanks to a new feature, members now have the option to receive external notifications in their primary email accounts when they have a new message in the *LLIS.gov* Secure Email system. To access *LLIS.gov* Secure Email and to adjust the external notification settings, log onto [LLIS.gov](#), click on COLLABORATE in the top navigation bar, and then click on SECURE EMAIL.

External notifications will go to the primary email address you provided in your Member Directory profile. To change your profile information, click on SETTINGS in the top navigation bar.

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[New Original Content](#)

The *LLIS.gov* Team continues to post new Lessons Learned, Best Practices, Practice Notes, and Good Stories to the system on a regular basis. Weekly updates about new original

content can be found in the NEW *LLIS.GOV* CONTENT box on the homepage of *LLIS.gov*. *LLIS.gov* recently posted the following original content documents:

Lessons Learned

- **[Agent Confirmation and Hazard Area Identification: Incident Site Response Roles, Authorities, and Standard Operating Procedures](#)** (*Top Officials 3 Full-Scale Exercise, 2005*)
Specialized incident site response units did not exhibit a clear understanding of each other's roles, authorities, and standard operating procedures.
- **[Emergency Public Information: Coordinating Joint Information Center Operations and Using a Joint Information System](#)** (*Top Officials 3 Full-Scale Exercise, 2005*)
The operations of multiple joint information centers were not always coordinated, and there was no evidence of use of a joint information system.
- **[Emergency Response Operations under a Unified Command: Integration between the Unified Command Post and Activities at the Incident Site](#)** (*Top Officials 3 Full-Scale Exercise, 2005*)
The unified command did not maintain clear oversight and awareness of activities at the incident site to ensure effective planning. Agencies in the unified command did not have full-time representation at the unified command post, which hampered integrated planning and coordination of operations.
- **[Homeland Security Advisory System, State Threat Conditions, and Associated Protective Measures: Using Threat Conditions to Facilitate Emergency Response Operations](#)** (*Top Officials 3 Full-Scale Exercise, 2005*)
Officials in the Top Officials 3 Full-Scale Exercise used the Homeland Security Advisory System and state threat conditions as a means of facilitating emergency response operations more than as a threat advisory system.
- **[Information Sharing: Complexities Presented by a Large Number of Operating Centers](#)** (*Top Officials 3 Full-Scale Exercise, 2005*)
The vast number of operating centers negatively affected information sharing by increasing the scope and complexity of the problem.
- **[Information Sharing: Formal Information Flow Processes and Use of Alternative Means for Passing Information](#)** (*Top Officials 3 Full-Scale Exercise, 2005*)
The use of informal or alternate channels for sharing information caused problems by enabling circular reporting and bypassing authoritative sources.
- **[Joint Field Office Operations: Standard Processes for Internal Information Sharing](#)** (*Top Officials 3 Full-Scale Exercise, 2005*)
The Joint Field Offices did not follow standard processes for sharing information internally.
- **[Resource Requests and Resource Coordination: Implementing Federal Resourcing Processes](#)** (*Top Officials 3 Full-Scale Exercise, 2005*)
State and federal officials struggled with the implementation of the federal resourcing process.
- **[Strategic National Stockpile and Points of Dispensing: Establishing and Staffing Points of Dispensing within a Given Timeframe](#)** (*Top Officials 3 Full-Scale Exercise, 2005*)

The resources required to staff the nearly 400 state and federal points of dispensing (POD) were not identified and were probably unavailable in the given timeframe. Timelines for establishing and staffing additional (notional) state and federal PODs were most likely not achievable.

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LLIS.gov Outreach

The *LLIS.gov* team travels around the country speaking and exhibiting at conferences and events. Representatives of *LLIS.gov* are scheduled to speak at, exhibit during, or attend the upcoming events below.

- **04 - 06 February: 2009 Industrial Fire, Safety, & Security Conference (Houston, TX)**
- **10 February: Three Rivers Pollution Response Council General Membership Meeting (Pittsburgh, PA)**
- **18 - 20 February: 2009 Public Health Preparedness Summit (San Diego, CA)**

If you would like to request an *LLIS.gov* presentation at your next event, please email the Outreach Team at outreach@llis.dhs.gov. For more information, please visit the [LLIS.gov Outreach](#) page.

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