



FEMA

Lessons Learned
Information Sharing
LLIS.gov

October 2008 *Lessons Learned Information Sharing* Newsletter

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US Fire Administration

LLIS.gov Partners with US Fire Administration

As part of its continual effort to improve information sharing across the emergency response and homeland security communities, *LLIS.gov* launched a new partnership with the US Fire Administration (USFA). The USFA strives to provide national leadership to local fire and emergency services departments. To highlight the new partnership, *LLIS.gov* has created a new [USFA Resource Page](#) where members can access USFA technical and special reports, related *LLIS.gov* original content, featured documents, and valuable links. To access the resource page, log onto [LLIS.gov](#) and click on [US Fire Administration](#) under *LLIS.GOV* PARTNERS.

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Emergency Management and Response-Information Sharing and Analysis Center

Sharing Information on Critical Infrastructure Protection

For the past two years, *LLIS.gov* has provided a one-stop shop to highlight the Emergency Management and Response-Information Sharing and Analysis Center's (EMR-ISAC) resources on critical infrastructure protection (CIP) activities. The resource page is updated weekly with the EMR-ISAC's latest publications covering topics such as public transportation, cyber security, border security, and terrorism. To access the resource page, log onto [LLIS.gov](#) and click on [EMR-ISAC](#) under *LLIS.GOV* PARTNERS.

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Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center

LLIS.gov Highlights Wildland Fire Lessons Learned

The Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center actively promotes a learning culture to enhance and sustain safe and effective work practices in the wildland fire community. The Center provides opportunities and resources to foster collaboration among all fire professionals, facilitates their networks, provides access to state-of-the-art learning tools, and links learning to training. Both the Center and *LLIS.gov* foster the shared goal of emergency preparedness. The *LLIS.gov* resource page on Wildland Fire Lessons Learned continues to be updated regularly with information shared from the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center. To access the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned resource page, log onto *LLIS.gov* and click on [Wildland](#)

[Fires](#) under FEATURED TOPICS.

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LLIS.gov Dispatch

Receive Automated Updates on New Content

LLIS.gov members can receive automated email updates of new content posted on the *LLIS.gov* system. Members can choose specific areas of interest by discipline and/or topic, as well as choose how often they receive *LLIS.gov Dispatch*. To sign-up or modify preferences for *LLIS.gov Dispatch*, log onto [LLIS.gov](#), click on SETTINGS in the top navigation bar, and click the link next to "Manage *LLIS Dispatch* Preferences."

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Linking to *LLIS.gov*

LLIS.gov Has a New Logo

To match the Web site's new look and feel, *LLIS.gov* has a new logo. If your organization uses an *LLIS.gov* logo to link from your Web site, please contact outreach@llis.dhs.gov to receive the new version.

LLIS.gov encourages all members to place links on their organizations' Web sites. If you are interested in using the *LLIS.gov* logo or link on your Web site, or if you would like to form a more active partnership with *LLIS.gov*, please contact outreach@llis.dhs.gov for more information.

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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

- [Campus Emergency Planning: Familiarizing Faculty and Staff with their Emergency Public Information Roles and Responsibilities](#) (*Cleveland State University Tabletop Exercise, 2008*)
University officials should provide emergency communications information for all staff and faculty members to ensure they are familiar with the public information process and their roles and responsibilities during an emergency.
- [Campus Safety: Dispatching Timely and Clear Emergency Alert Messages](#) (*Virginia Tech Shootings, 2007*)
In an emergency, campus safety officials should immediately dispatch emergency alert messages that provide clear information on the nature of the emergency and action(s) to be taken.
- [Emergency Management: Updating Incident Action Plans Throughout an Incident's Response](#) (*Apex, NC Chemical Fire, 2006*)
Incident commanders should consider having incident action plans routinely updated during extended response activities.
- [Exercise Conduct: Appropriate Staffing Levels for an Exercise](#) (*Washington State Annual Bioterrorism Exercise – Region 9, 2007*)
Agency staffing for an exercise should reflect the staffing requirements for the incident being exercised. It is insufficient to provide enough staff members simply to conduct the exercise.
- [Exercise Conduct: Conducting a Tabletop Exercise to Resolve Problems Identified in a Full-Scale Exercise](#) (*Washington State Annual Bioterrorism Exercise – Region 9, 2007*)

Exercise planners can use tabletop exercises (TTX) to resolve problems identified in full-scale exercises. The knowledge gained from these TTXs can be used to refine future emergency operations planning.

- **Exercise Conduct: Testing Technical Environment Prior to Start of Exercise Conduct** (*Washington State Annual Bioterrorism Exercise – Region 9, 2007*)
Exercise planners should test the technology that will be used in an exercise prior to the beginning of play to ensure that the technical environment will work properly when needed.
- **Fire Operations: Training Personnel in Specialized Tactics for Incidents at Power Plants** (*Rhea County, TN Watts Bar Hydroelectric Plant Fire, 2002*)
Fire departments that have power plants located within their area of operations should ensure that their personnel are trained in the appropriate specialized tactics. This will enable the departments to respond successfully to incidents at the plants.
- **Incident Command: Appointing a Public Information Officer** (*Ardent Sentry Full-Scale Exercise, 2007*)
Incident command should ensure that an appropriately trained individual serves as public information officer during an incident response. This individual should understand his or her media management responsibilities and should be able to interface with the emergency operations center and joint information center.
- **Incident Command: Proper Use of a Logistics Section** (*Ardent Sentry Full-Scale Exercise, 2007*)
Incident commanders should be sure to activate logistics section chiefs and associated support units as needed during long-term incidents.
- **Incident Command: Staging and Resource Training for Command Staff** (*Ardent Sentry Full-Scale Exercise, 2007*)
Training on staging areas and resource units should be provided to all incident command personnel who may be assigned to such a position during an incident response.
- **Incident Management: Establishing a Planning Section** (*Ardent Sentry Full-Scale Exercise, 2007*)
For incidents lasting longer than one operational period, incident management teams should establish a planning section and develop an incident action plan as a matter of protocol and procedure.
- **Incident Management: Identifying Remote Staging Areas** (*Apex, NC Chemical Fire, 2006*)
Incident commanders should identify potential remote staging areas for use during response operations when resources may be exposed to unacceptable hazards. This enables incident commanders to relocate and protect resources from potential exposures.
- **Mass Evacuation: Planning for the Evacuation of Special Needs Populations** (*Apex, NC Chemical Fire, 2006*)
Emergency managers should develop clear, concise plans that address the evacuation of their special needs populations in the event of an incident.
- **Pre-Incident Site Planning: Acquiring Diagrams and Plans for Power Plants and Industrial Facilities** (*Rhea County, TN Watts Bar Hydroelectric Plant Fire, 2002*)
Fire departments should acquire diagrams and pre-plans for local power plants and other industrial facilities in their area. It is critical that these facilities provide fire departments with all information necessary to respond to an incident on their premises.
- **Resource Management: Utilizing a Base for Check-In** (*Ardent Sentry Full-Scale Exercise, 2007*)
Incident command personnel should utilize a base for resource check-in purposes and coordinate this function with a staging area manager and resource unit leader.

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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.

- **13-14 November: 13th International Conference Detection Technologies (Phoenix, AZ)**
- **13-14 November: 7th International Bird Flu Summit (Las Vegas, NV)**
- **15-20 November: International Association of Emergency Managers 2008 Annual Conference & Emergency Management and Homeland Security Expo (Kansas City, KS)**

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* [Press Room](#) page.

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