



Lessons Learned Information Sharing

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The Galen Cole Family Foundation's Thermal Imaging Camera Program recognized as an *LLIS.gov* "Spotlight Initiative"

LLIS.GOV TRAVELS TO MAINE

On Friday, May 20 the *LLIS* Team traveled to Augusta, ME to honor the Galen Cole Family Foundation's Thermal Imaging Camera Program as an *LLIS.gov* "Spotlight Initiative". The *LLIS* team selected the Cole Foundation's Thermal Imaging Camera Program for several reasons, including it's:

- **Innovative cost-sharing program.** The cameras are awarded through a sealed-bid process in which departments pledge an amount of money that they can contribute to the cost of the camera through fund-raising efforts. The remainder of the cost of the camera is provided by the Cole Foundation and the funds that are subsequently raised are reinvested into the program. The cost-sharing establishes a sense of ownership for fire departments and helps fund the future of the program.
- **Successful Public-private partnership.** This program is a great example of how the private sector can work with the public sector to help improve a community's preparedness. The public-private partnership between the Galen Cole Family Foundation and the Maine firefighting community has led to the deployment of and training on, thermal imaging cameras for 214 Maine fire departments.
- **Commitment to training.** The Cole Foundation provides funding for the training conducted by Maine Fire Training and Education, ensuring that every firefighter is trained to use the camera safely and effectively.
- **Commitment to sharing successes.** In 2005 Gary Cole collaborated with the *LLIS* Team on a Good Story about the Galen Cole Family Foundation's Thermal Imaging Camera Program. Mr. Cole's enthusiasm and cooperation produced a Good Story that will serve as a model for communities across the nation.

"Spotlight Initiatives" are innovative and unique programs that have shown great success in their jurisdictions and are replicable across the nation. The *LLIS.gov* team visits each Spotlight Initiative's community to build partnerships with its leaders and share their expertise through *LLIS.gov*.

Friday, May 20 - Augusta, ME

LLIS.gov held an event at the State House in Augusta, ME to honor the Galen Cole Family Foundation's Thermal Imaging Camera Program. *LLIS.gov* Program Director, Mr. John Rabin, presented the award to Mr. Gary Cole and The Honorable John E. Baldacci, Governor of Maine, also gave remarks congratulating the Cole



LLIS.gov Program Director Mr. John Rabin presents the Spotlight Program award to Mr. Gary Cole, a Galen Cole Family Foundation representative.

Foundation and recognizing the programs success. Emergency response leaders from all across Maine were also present at the reception to honor the foundation.

The event was covered by the Bangor Daily News, which ran an article recognizing The Galen Cole Family Foundation's Thermal Imaging Camera Program for being honored as a *LLIS.gov* Spotlight Initiative.

Saturday, May 21 - Bath, ME

The following morning, the *LLIS* team traveled to the Bath Training Grounds in Bath, ME for a luncheon and to observe the Maine Fire Training course for departments receiving cameras. *LLIS* team members had a chance to speak with firefighters who were receiving cameras about the program. After lunch, the firefighters practiced their search and rescue skills using the thermal imaging cameras.



Maine firefighters train with their new cameras at the Bath Training Grounds in Bath, ME *LLIS*

LOOKING FORWARD

The Galen Cole Family Foundation's Thermal Imaging Camera Program is an exemplary program that is replicable across the nation and expandable to other cost-prohibitive equipment. Through *LLIS.gov* this program has already been shared with a private foundation in California and will be shared with thousands more. We thank the Galen Cole Family Foundation, Maine Fire Training and Education, and Governor Baldacci for their commitment to preparedness and for their hospitality.



The Honorable John E. Baldacci, Governor of Maine, remarks on the success of the Galen Cole Family foundation's program



Maine firefighters prepare to practice search and rescue skills at the Bath Training Grounds with their new Thermal Imaging Cameras

Do you have an innovative and successful program that you want to share with the national emergency response community? Send an email to outreach@llis.dhs.gov explaining why your program deserves to be the next *LLIS.gov* Spotlight Initiative.