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Happy Eighth Anniversary, LLIS.gov!

Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS.gov) launched on April 19, 2004, on the ninth anniversary of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building bombing in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. This means that Thursday, April 19, 2012, marks the 8-year anniversary of LLIS.gov.

Over the past 8 years, the LLIS.gov team has expanded the resources available to emergency response professionals and homeland security officials. This dedicated community now has access to nearly 21,000 relevant documents, including over 1,300 after-action reports from both real-world events and exercises and over 1,100 original research documents. Last year, our team generated content available only on LLIS.gov on real-world events ranging from the Joplin, Missouri, tornado to the January 8, 2011, Tucson, Arizona, mass shootings.

The LLIS.gov team sincerely thanks you for your support, feedback, and participation over the years. It is only because of members like you that this has been possible. We would like to encourage you to continue sending us documents to share with the rest of the community. With your help, the next 8 years can be even more successful than the first!

Did You Know?

According to the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#), the United States experienced 1,691 tornadoes in 2011, the highest number on record. In addition, 95 tornadoes occurred in January, 57 in February, and approximately 220 in March 2012. The tornado numbers for these two seasons are significantly higher than the 1991-2010 tornado average. Jurisdictions across the U.S. should ensure that they are prepared for the effects of tornadoes.

Tornado Preparedness

Featured Topic for April

On Sunday, May 22, 2011, a catastrophic Enhanced Fujita-5 tornado struck the City of Joplin, Jasper County, and Newton County in southwest Missouri in the late afternoon. With winds in excess of 200 miles per hour, the ¾-mile-wide tornado cut a 6-mile path of destruction through central Joplin. The tornado caused 161 fatalities and approximately 1,371 injuries, making it the single deadliest U.S. tornado since 1947. Thousands of structures



were destroyed or damaged, including St. John's Regional Medical Center. Personnel from more than 400 public safety organizations deployed to Joplin to assist with response and recovery operations.

The response to the Joplin tornado illustrates the commitment of Federal, State, local, private sector, and voluntary personnel to meet the needs of disaster survivors. This response also serves as an important lesson for tornado preparedness and planning. **LLIS.gov** hosts many documents that can help jurisdictions re-evaluate their tornado preparedness plans and manage the consequences of such a disaster. Documents that can provide valuable guidance to responders and officials include:

On Tuesday, April 3, 2012, a severe weather outbreak occurred in the Dallas-Fort Worth area in Texas. According to the [National Weather Service, Weather Forecast Office Dallas/Forth Worth](#), 16 tornadoes touched down in this area, causing extensive damage to hundreds of structures. No deaths were reported. With more than 6 million residents, this area is the largest metropolitan area in Texas and the fourth largest in the United States.

- [The Response to the 2011 Joplin, Missouri, Tornado Lessons Learned Study](#), **LLIS.gov** exclusive Study;
- [Pet Sheltering: Joplin, Missouri's, Establishment of an Emergency Shelter After the May 22, 2011, Tornado](#), **LLIS.gov** exclusive Practice Note;
- [Joint Field Office Operations: Assigning Liaison Officers to Assist Local Government Officials](#), **LLIS.gov** exclusive Lesson Learned; and
- [The Federal Emergency Management Agency Response to the Greensburg, Kansas, May 4, 2007, Tornado After-Action Report](#), **LLIS.gov** exclusive After Action Report.

For more information about preparing for tornadoes, please visit the **LLIS.gov Document Library**. To share experiences related to tornadoes, please submit your documents from the [Submit to LLIS.gov](#) page.

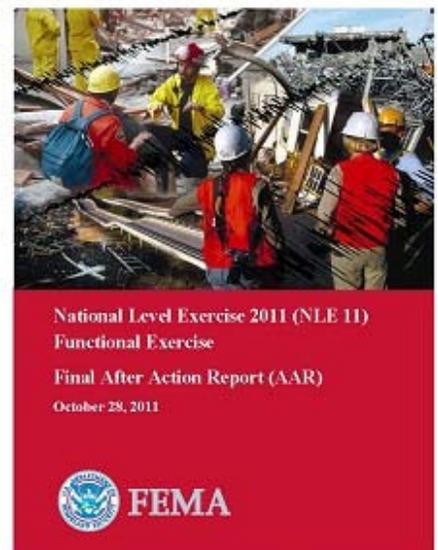


NLE 11 Functional Exercise Final After Action Report

Learning Lessons from Exercises

National Level Exercise 2011 (NLE 11) took place from May 16 – 19, 2011. NLE 11 simulated a catastrophic earthquake in the central United States region of the New Madrid Seismic Zone and a secondary earthquake along the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone. The purpose of this exercise was to prepare and coordinate a multi-jurisdictional integrated response to a national catastrophic event.

NLE 11 focused on catastrophic response and recovery activities among Federal, regional, State, tribal, local, and private sector participants. Exercise activities took place at command posts, emergency operations centers, Federal facilities in the Washington D.C. area, and Federal, regional, State, tribal, local, and private sector facilities in the eight member states of the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC). The eight member states of CUSEC encompass four different FEMA regions: Alabama, Kentucky,



Mississippi, and Tennessee (FEMA Region IV); Illinois and Indiana (FEMA Region V); Arkansas (FEMA Region VI); and Missouri (FEMA Region VII).

FEMA recently released the [National Level Exercise 2011 \(NLE 11\) Functional Exercise Final After Action Report \(AAR\)](#). This AAR provides an overview of NLE 11 functional exercise results, identifies strengths to be maintained and areas for further improvement, and supports the development of corrective actions.

LLIS.gov members may read the entire report after logging into **LLIS.gov** and viewing the [National Level Exercise 2011](#) page. Additional information and reports that responders and officials can find on this page include:

- [National Level Exercise 2011 \(NLE 2011\) Quick Look Report \(QLR\)](#), FEMA;
- [National Level Exercise 2011 \(NLE 2011\) Whole Community Quick Look Report \(QLR\)](#), FEMA, **LLIS.gov**; and
- [National Level Exercise 2011 \(NLE 2011\) Fact Sheet](#), FEMA.

LLIS.gov also hosts the following additional pages related to exercise planning and Tier I national exercises:

- [Exercise Planning & Program Management](#)
- [National Level Exercise 2010](#)
- [National Level Exercise 2009](#)
- [TOPOFF4](#)
- [TOPOFF3](#)



New **LLIS.gov** Exclusive Content

The **LLIS.gov** team continues to post new Lessons Learned and Practice Notes 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:

Good Stories

- [Debris Management: The American Samoa Joint Field Office's Formation of the Interagency Debris Management Task Force](#)
The American Samoa Joint Field Office established an interagency debris management task force to develop and execute an island-wide debris removal and cleanup plan after a tsunami struck the island in 2009. The task force collaborated with the American Samoa Government to optimize island-wide debris management strategies, including reducing impacts to limited landfill capacity; identifying resource gaps, authorities, and capabilities; engaging the public to help segregate roadside debris; reducing the burning of pressure-treated wood; dealing with submerged cars and boats; and maximizing recycling of debris.
- [Incident Management: The Central Ohio Trauma System's Hospital Incident Liaison](#)
The Central Ohio Trauma System established the Hospital Incident Liaison (HIL) role to support central Ohio hospitals and partnering agencies in the event of a disaster, regardless of its scale. The HIL serves as a conduit for situational awareness and information sharing, assists with regional resource allocation, and facilitates the coordination of response activities for 29 trauma and acute care hospitals throughout central Ohio. The HIL operates within an Incident Command System structure and is able to deploy regional medical assets during emergencies.

Practice Notes

- [Emergency Public Information: Mecosta County, Michigan's Use of Social Media for Communicating with the News Media and Officials During Disasters](#)

The Mecosta County, Michigan, Emergency Management director used social media to share images and video of damage caused by flooding in April 2011. County officials and the news media followed Mecosta County's social media platforms to get real-time damage information from the director.

- [Situational Assessment: Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VII's Use of Google Earth™ with Partner Agency Layers During the 2011 Missouri River Floods](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VII Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) created a Google Earth™ product to provide situational awareness during the 2011 Missouri River flooding event. The product utilized data from various partners to provide a real-time view of the status of levees. As a result, RRCC and field personnel shared a common operating picture. This Practice Note reviews establishing situational awareness, and the decision to employ Google Earth during the 2011 Missouri River Floods.

Have you developed an innovative program or technique from a preparedness investment that you would like to share with other **LLIS.gov** members? Have you collected a lesson learned that can benefit other jurisdictions across the United States? The **LLIS.gov** team can work with you to develop a Lesson Learned, Practice Note, or Good Story that can be shared on **LLIS.gov**. To share your stories, contact us at research@llis.dhs.gov.



LLIS.gov Outreach



Please share your feedback and comments with the **LLIS.gov** Outreach team by emailing outreach@llis.dhs.gov. To view a list of all emergency management and homeland security events, please visit the **LLIS.gov** [Events Calendar](#).

