



FEMA

Lessons Learned
Information Sharing
LLIS.gov

November 2008 *Lessons Learned Information Sharing* Newsletter

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FY 2009 Homeland Security Grant Program

DHS Releases New Grant Guidance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides a comprehensive suite of grant programs to enhance jurisdictions' abilities to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from all hazards. In conjunction with the release of FEMA's FY 2009 grant guidance, LLIS.gov has updated its [Homeland Security Grant Program Resource Center](#). The resource page includes the FY 2009 Homeland Security Grant Program Overview, a list of changes enforced in FY 2009, A Compendium of Promising Grants Management Practices Across the United States, and downloadable resource materials. Please log onto LLIS.gov and click on [Homeland Security Grant Program](#) under *LLIS.GOV PARTNERS*.

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Winter Weather Preparedness

Ensure Your Jurisdiction is Prepared

Get ready for the challenges of winter weather with LLIS.gov. In addition to original content produced by the LLIS.gov Team, members can access after-action reports, state and local plans, and other documents to help them prepare for the winter months. Here are just a few of the documents available for the LLIS.gov member community:

- [2007 Winter Storm After Action Report: State of Iowa Response Coordination](#) (*Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management*)
This document discusses the Iowa State Emergency Operations Center's coordination of state response efforts during two significant winter storms that arrived within five days of each other.
- [Ice Storm 2007 After Action Report](#) (*Springfield-Greene County, MO, Office of Emergency Management*)
On January 12, 2007, a major ice storm dumped 1 ½ - 2 inches of ice on the city of Springfield and Greene County, Missouri. The challenges of responding to this event included sheltering citizens, restoring electricity, and managing debris. This AAR also analyzes issues with the county's response actions, such as the facility security, Geographic Information Systems coordination, communications and warning, and mass care.
- [Kansas Department of Health and Environment Response to Snow and Ice Storm in Western Kansas](#) (*Association of State and Territorial Health Officials*)
This document describes the steps taken by Kansas Department of Health and Environment and

Center for Public Health Preparedness officials in dealing with the December 28, 2006, ice storm, including issues regarding livestock.

- [Mason County After Action Report/Improvement Plan December 2007 Winter Storm \(FEMA-1734-DR-WA\)](#) (*Mason County, WA*)

During the first part of December 2007, Mason County, Washington, experienced a county-wide winter storm disaster that caused record flooding, which lead to extreme landslide conditions, road and bridge closures, and utility failure. This AAR provides an analysis of issues identified after the event as well as recommendations for improvement.

- [Winter Weather Preparedness Guide](#) (*South Dakota Office of Emergency Management*)

This South Dakota Office of Emergency Management document outlines specific measures that citizens should take both prior to and during extreme cold conditions and winter storms. This document includes winter driving precautions as well as individual preparedness and response plans.

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LLIS.gov Channels

Connect with Discrete Communities

To provide members with extended information sharing capabilities, the *LLIS.gov* Team can help communities create *LLIS.gov* Channels. Channels are distinct areas of *LLIS.gov* dedicated to specific communities and topics of interest and are administrated by designated *LLIS.gov* members. Channel members can upload and share documents and events that only their fellow Channel members can view. Channels also feature their own secure email and networking tools so that members can easily work together to exchange ideas. For more information or to create an *LLIS.gov* Channel for your community, please contact channels@llis.dhs.gov.

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Call for New Ideas

Share Your Experience with *LLIS.gov*

LLIS.gov relies on active participation and feedback from the member community to enable the *LLIS.gov* system's continued expansion and allows us to meet the frequently changing needs of the emergency response and homeland security communities. Please take the time to let the *LLIS.gov* Team know what issues are of interest and concern to you and your colleagues by contacting us at feedback@llis.dhs.gov. As always, please continue to use the [FEEDBACK](#) link on the top navigation bar of *LLIS.gov* to submit lessons learned, innovative ideas, plans, templates, and other documents to share with your counterparts throughout the nation.

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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

- [Emergency Communications: Utilizing a Communications Unit to Implement an Interoperability Plan](#) (*Ardent Sentry Full-Scale Exercise, 2007*)

During large-scale incidents, incident command can implement a comprehensive communications interoperability plan through the use of a communications unit.

- [Emergency Management: Establishing a Planning Section at the Emergency Operations](#)

Center (*Ardent Sentry Full-Scale Exercise, 2007*)

Incident command should establish a planning section in or near the emergency operations center. This section would conduct the planning process, compile incident action plans, and develop a county action plan that would identify resources required for the next operational period.

■ **Emergency Management: Establishing Emergency Operations Center Management Teams** (*Ardent Sentry Full-Scale Exercise, 2007*)

Emergency operations centers should consider establishing defined management teams that train and exercise together. These teams should consist of emergency support function representatives and should participate in quarterly training and semi-annual exercises.

■ **Emergency Management: Hiring a Caterer for Extended Emergency Operations Center Activations** (*Ardent Sentry Full-Scale Exercise, 2007*)

Emergency operations centers (EOC) should consider hiring a caterer for EOC activations lasting longer than one operational period. This can be achieved through a prearranged contract for catering support, which can be initiated as needed during EOC activations.

■ **Emergency Planning: Establishing a Traffic Control Plan to Reduce Congestion around Incident Sites** (*Ponce de Leon Inlet Tabletop Exercise, 2008*)

Emergency managers should consider establishing a traffic control plan to ensure rapid ingress/egress for emergency medical services vehicles during mass casualty incidents. These plans can help responders prepare for incidents in areas that present transportation challenges.

■ **Emergency Planning: Linking Mass Casualty Plans with Mutual Aid Partners** (*Ponce de Leon Inlet Tabletop Exercise, 2008*)

Jurisdictions that have entered into mutual aid agreements should consider linking their mass casualty plans. This can enable the jurisdictions to account for and to effectively manage limited resources.

■ **Facility Security: Access Badges for Secure Areas** (*Washington State Annual Bioterrorism Exercise, 2007*)

Facility managers should ensure that all personnel have photo identification visible in order to make certain that only appropriate personnel are in authorized areas. A colored badge system can be used to visibly identify which access areas the individual is authorized to enter.

■ **Fire Operations: Determining if Local Water Systems Can Meet Demand during Major Fires** (*Reno, NV Twelve-Fatality Hotel Arson, 2006*)

Fire departments' pre-planning processes should determine if local water systems are capable of meeting the demand necessary for fighting major fires.

■ **Incident Command: Assigning Liaison Officers During Large Scale Incidents** (*Ardent Sentry Full-Scale Exercise, 2007*)

Incident commanders (IC) should appoint a liaison officer during large-scale incidents when many agencies will be supporting response operations. All non-traditional response agencies arriving on-scene in support of an incident should be sure to appoint an agency representative to interface with the IC.

■ **Incident Management: Locating Public Information Operations Close to the Command Area** (*Apex, NC Chemical Fire, 2006*)

Incident commanders should consider locating public information operations in close proximity to the command area.

■ **Public Health Emergency Planning: Incorporating Triggers into Plans to Guide Decision Making** (*Washington State Annual Bioterrorism Exercise, 2007*)

Public health emergency planners should consider incorporating triggers for declaring a public health emergency into plans to help guide decision making.

■ **Regional Transportation Planning: Improving Communication Procedures** (*National Capital Region Regional Emergency Support Function #1 Transportation Tabletop Exercise, 2006*)

Regional transportation and transit agencies can improve communication procedures between regional agencies and increase awareness about available communications technology through such measures as formalizing notification processes, improving data sharing capabilities, and improving voice communication capabilities and interoperability.

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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.

- **2-4 December: 3rd National Conference on Environmental Sampling and Detection for Bio-Threat Agents (Las Vegas, NV)**
- **8-9 December: 2nd Annual Conference on National Preparedness (Melbourne, FL)**
- **9-10 December: Disability and Special Needs Technical Assistance Conference (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* [Press Room](#) page.

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