



FEMA

Lessons Learned
Information Sharing
LLIS.gov

June 2009 *Lessons Learned Information Sharing* Newsletter

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Hurricane Preparedness

Hurricane Season Resources on *LLIS.gov*

In preparation for the 2009 Hurricane Season, *LLIS.gov* would like to highlight the [Hurricane Preparedness](#) resource page. This page contains key planning guidance and other information on a variety of issues related to hurricane preparedness, including evacuation and sheltering, disabilities and functional needs, health and medical needs, and public information. To access the page, please log onto [LLIS.gov](#) and click on Hurricane Preparedness under FEATURED TOPICS. The following documents highlight some of the resources on *LLIS.gov* related to hurricane preparedness.

- [Hurricane Preparedness Guide - What You Need to Know](#)

This hurricane preparedness guide provides valuable tips for homeowners confronted by hurricanes and lists Coastal Resources Management Council regulations that take effect in the event of a hurricane.
- [Special Needs Resource Guide: Ideas to Help Citizens Prepare for a Hurricane](#)

This fact sheet contains ideas to help special needs citizens prepare for a hurricane. It also provides contact information for local, state, and national resources for disaster preparedness education.
- [Disaster Recovery: Past Experiences Offer Recovery Lessons for Hurricanes Ike and Gustav and Future Disasters](#)

This testimony was given before the Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response in the House Committee on Homeland Security. The testimony describes lessons and insights that GAO has identified from review of past disasters, which may help recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricanes Ike and Gustav as well as future disasters.

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Featured Partnership

FAV Defense

Within the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Health Affairs, the Food, Agriculture, and Veterinary Defense (FAV Defense) Division serves as the Department's principal agent for all food, agriculture, and veterinary matters. Working with all levels of government and the private sector, FAV Defense Division leads the Department's programs to ensure the security of our Nation's food, agriculture, and human and animal health in the face of all hazards. To accomplish these mission goals, FAV Defense Division focuses its efforts on the following functional areas:

- Risk Reduction
- Food Protection
- Agricultural Production
- Veterinary Public Health/Outreach

For more information on FAV Defense, please visit the [FAV Defense](#) partner page on *LLIS.gov*, which features FAV Defense-related guidelines, after-action reports, and Web links to partner organizations. For more information on other *LLIS.gov* partners, please see the *LLIS.GOV* PARTNERS section of the [LLIS.gov homepage](#). To discuss establishing a partnership, please email the Outreach and Partnerships Team at outreach@llis.dhs.gov.

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New *LLIS.gov* 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 Management: Ensuring Critical Personnel Have Government Emergency Telecommunications Service/Wireless Priority Service](#)** (*Hurricane Dean, 2007*)
State emergency operations centers should ensure that critical response personnel's cellular phones have government emergency telecommunications service/wireless priority service. This will enable them to communicate during emergencies when landline communications may be disrupted and cellular towers oversaturated.
- **[Emergency Management: Informing Hospitals about Hazardous Materials Found at Incident Scenes](#)** (*Steel Hammer Full-Scale Exercise, 2007*)
Emergency managers should review their standard operating procedures to ensure that hospitals are promptly informed of hazardous materials found at incident sites.
- **[Emergency Operations Centers: Developing Standard Operating Procedures and Operational Guidance for Planning Sections](#)** (*Iowa Summer Storms, 2008*)
Emergency operations centers should establish standard operating procedures and operational guidance for planning sections. These should include activation criteria and mission description.
- **[Emergency Operations Centers: Providing Read-Only Access to Information Management Systems during Response Operations](#)** (*Hurricane Dean, 2007*)
State emergency operations centers should consider providing local emergency operations centers (EOC) with read-only access to their WebEOC or other information management systems during response operations. This will assist with maintaining a common operating picture among operations centers.
- **[Emergency Operations: Including Global Positioning System Coordinates in Communications with Responders](#)** (*Hurricane Dean, 2007*)
Emergency operations centers should consider including Global Positioning System coordinates of key locations in their communications with emergency responders during incidents. This will enable responders to locate command centers, reception centers, fuel points, and other locations more easily.
- **[Mass Evacuation: Triage Units at Embarkation Points](#)** (*Hurricane Dean, 2007*)
During mass evacuations, a triage unit can be located at embarkation areas to ensure all evacuees are moved to the appropriate shelter quickly and efficiently.
- **[Public Communications: Developing a Standard Operating Procedure for Disseminating Public Messages](#)** (*Seattle Winter Storms, 2008*)
Public utilities departments should develop and implement a standard operating procedure (SOP) for

vetting and disseminating public information messages during emergencies. This SOP should include a review process that allows incident commanders and public information officers to review messages before their release.

- **Resource Management: Recording Resource Requests during Response Operations** (*Hurricane Dean, 2007*)

State emergency operations centers should record all resource requests when responding to an incident. These records will enable localities to document their expenses properly and to recover costs they incurred while supporting state operations.

- **Responder Safety and Health: Establishing a Debriefing Process to Identify and Correct Erroneous Information** (*Steel Hammer Full-Scale Exercise, 2007*)

Incident commanders should establish a thorough debriefing process for emergency responders during the demobilization process. The debriefing should identify and correct any erroneous information that participants may have about safety and health issues that they may have encountered.

- **Search and Rescue: Planning for Carbon Monoxide Buildup in Confined Work Spaces** (*Steel Hammer Full-Scale Exercise, 2007*)

Urban search and rescue teams should consider including monitoring the air for carbon monoxide in their operations plans. Teams should also consider procuring electrically powered tools for use in confined spaces.

Practice Note

- **Emergency Operations Centers: Iowa State Emergency Operations Center's Use of a Planning Section**

The Iowa State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) utilizes a planning section to provide analyses beyond the current operational period. The planning section's analyses enhanced the quality of SEOC decision making during the response to sustained summer storms in 2008.

Other Original Content

- **Iowa 2008 Summer Storms After-Action Report**

This after-action report discusses the series of tornados and storms that occurred in Iowa during summer 2008.

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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 or exhibit during the upcoming events below.

- **17 - 18 Jun 2009: National Disaster Reconstruction Expo (New Orleans, LA)**

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

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