Lessons Learned Information Sharing System (www.llis.gov)

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Background

Protecting our nation against the threat of terrorism is an increasingly complex mission. Homeland security stakeholders, activities, exercises, and training programs are growing. Everyday, front-line responders at the local, state, and federal levels are creating new and innovative best practices to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and other disasters. Exercises and real-world incidents have produced valuable lessons learned for emergency responders—lessons that are often obscured or glossed over in "official" after-action reports. There has been no single resource for responders to effectively share lessons learned and best practices…until now.

Approach

To fill this critical gap, the Office of Grants & Training directed the National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism (MIPT) in Oklahoma City, OK to develop the *Lessons Learned Information Sharing* (LLIS.gov). LLIS.gov is a national on-line network of lessons learned and best practices designed to help emergency response providers and homeland security officials prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from all hazards, including terrorism. LLIS.gov will enhance national preparedness by allowing response professionals to tap into a wealth of validated front-line expertise on effective planning, training, equipping, and operational practices for homeland security.

Network Features

Secure: All LLIS.gov users are verified emergency response providers and homeland security officials at the local, state, and federal levels. LLIS.gov uses strong encryption and active site monitoring to protect all information housed on the system.

Peer-validated content: The central component of LLIS.gov is a collection of hundreds of peer-validated lessons learned and best practices. These lessons learned and best practices—covering the full range of homeland security disciplines and functions—have been conceived and developed by response professionals for their peers. New content is being generated constantly.

Clearinghouse of information: LLIS.gov serves as a central repository of relevant homeland security documents and events. The system is frequently updated with new reports and publications intended for homeland security personnel. The system houses an extensive catalog of after-action reports (AARs) from exercises and actual incidents and

hundreds of Emergency Operations Plans. Authorized users also have access to an updated list of homeland security exercises, events, and conferences.

Information sharing: The system houses a directory of responders and homeland security officials, allowing users to see contact information for other authorized users. Individuals with functional expertise are identified throughout the system, allowing users to communicate with and learn from those with more experience and proficiency. LLIS.gov also includes on-line collaboration tools including secure email and message boards where users can exchange information.

Self-sustaining network: To sustain and develop the LLIS.gov system, users are constantly encouraged to provide feedback about the system's content through message boards and surveys. Users can also submit potential lessons learned, best practices, good stories, upcoming events, and AARs for inclusion on the system.

For Additional Information

For more information on *Lessons Learned Information Sharing*, please contact the *LLIS.gov* Help Desk at Feedback@llis.dhs.gov