



Coffee Break Training - Info Search and Web 2.0

Exploring Invisible Web Resources: Part II

No. IS-2009-7 June 10, 2009

Learning Objective: The student shall be able to identify the types of content available on LLIS and how to browse fire-service related materials.

In the previous Coffee Break Training on the Invisible Web we discussed how a lot of valuable content is not available through a typical Web search engine. One of the reasons for this is that search engine spiders aren't able to log into a password protected resource. LLIS is a good example of a Web resource containing original content that is password protected.

Lessons Learned
Information Sharing
LLIS.gov

LLIS is an online resource that allows some 40,000 emergency responders to share and find information critical to their work. LLIS original content is "invisible" to search engines. In order to access LLIS, you'll first need to register with the site. Click on the following Web page to sign up <https://www.llis.dhs.gov/signup.do>

What will you find on LLIS? There are well over 14,000 documents on LLIS published by a wide range of organizations including Federal, State, local governmental, industry, academic and nongovernmental publications. Publications include special reports, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and guidelines and emergency operations plans from all levels. In addition, LLIS offers a lot of original content that you'll find nowhere else including over 500 lessons learned, 150 best practices, 83 good stories, and some 700 after-action reports. More original content is added each week, so these figures continue to grow.

Lessons learned are precisely-documented experiences derived from exercises or incidents. LLIS researchers analyze after-action reports and interview individuals to come up with these lessons learned. **Best practices** are peer-validated techniques, tactics, and procedures validated from past incidents and thoroughly documented and reviewed by subject matter experts. **Good stories** are another kind of original content and include exemplary but nonvalidated experiences. **After-action reports** typically detail the events or circumstances surrounding a particular incident.

You can find what you're looking for either by entering a simple keyword search or by browsing through the various topical and organizational pages. Topical pages include Interoperable Communications, Wildland Fires, Mass Evacuation, Community Preparedness, and Incident Management among many others. In the bottom left hand column you can also choose to begin browsing by content type, discipline, publisher, or even incident.

You can browse **fire service** specific LLIS content by visiting the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) page which offers Lessons Learned and Best Practice reports along with featured USFA publications. You'll find in LLIS over 1,200 documents related to the fire discipline alone (<https://www.llis.dhs.gov/member/DynamicPage.do?pageTitle=usfa>).

Not able to find what you were hoping for? Or maybe you have questions about what you did find. Just post your question to AskLLIS.com or to one of the message board forums and a subject matter expert may be able to assist you. The message board is a great place to network with thousands of other first responders from around the country to share knowledge, experiences, and insights.

So if you're not already registered with LLIS, go ahead and do so now and add this resource to your "virtual library" of first responder resources.

Flash Demo - https://www.llis.dhs.gov/flash_demo/index.html

Not Eligible for Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

Info Search and Web 2.0

For archived downloads, go to:

www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/coffee-break/