Lessons Learned
Information Sharing
www.LLIS.gov

For response professionals,
by response professionals

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MIPT National Memorial Institute
for the Prevention of Terrorism
Preventing terrorism or mitigating its effects
What Is Lessons Learned Information Sharing?

The national online network of Lessons Learned and Best Practices for emergency response providers and homeland security officials

- Online since April 19, 2004
- Over 20,000 members
- 141 Best Practices
- 237 Lessons Learned
- 51 Good Stories
- Over 2,300 Documents
The Office of Grants and Training is responsible for assisting States and local jurisdictions as they prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

MIPT sponsors research to discover equipment, training, and procedures that might assist first responders in preventing terrorism and responding to it.
Best Practices: Methodology and Definition

1. Convene multi-disciplinary working group (WG)
2. Commence research & analysis; develop draft BPs
3. Convene subject-matter-specific WG for validation
4. Revise BPs based on WG comments & re-circulate
5. Publish Best Practices on LLIS.gov

Best Practices are peer-validated techniques, procedures, good ideas, or solutions that work and are solidly grounded upon actual experience in operations, training, and exercises.
Lessons Learned: Definition and Examples

A Lesson Learned is knowledge and experience—positive or negative—derived from actual incidents such as the March 11, 2004, Madrid Train Bombings and the 9/11 attacks as well as observations and historical studies of operations, training, and exercises.

- Secondary Attacks: Failure to Perform Adequate Site Inspection Procedures
  (HLS Special Assessment: Lessons Learned from the Madrid Train Bombings, 2004)

- Hostile Situations: Increasing Protection for Emergency Medical Personnel
  (Wanton Violence at Columbine High School: A Special Report, April 1999)
Lessons Learned: The Madrid Train Bombings

- 13 Improvised Explosive Devices
- 4 trains
- 191 fatalities
- Over 1,800 injured
LLIS.gov as a Resource for Continuing Medical Education

Source: LLIS.gov Library. Journal of Emergency Medical Services (JEMS)
Continuing Medical Education: Blast Injury

- American EMS has limited experience treating blast victims
- Pattern of global attacks suggests that bombings and suicide bombings could threaten the homeland in future:
  - Months after 9/11, Director of the FBI, Robert Mueller, stated that suicide bombings in US are a matter of “when” rather than “if”
- Blast characteristics
  - Detonation velocity between 3,300fps and 29,900fps
  - Can often result in pressure wave approaching 700 tons PSI
3 Categories of Injury

1. *Primary Blast Injury*: Caused by sudden change in atmospheric pressure
   - Most likely to affect ears, lungs, bowels, CNS, and CV system

2. *Secondary Blast Injury*: Results in penetrating trauma from shrapnel and other debris

3. *Tertiary Blast Injury*: Occurs when a victim’s body is thrown by the blast wave

*Figure 1: Secondary Blast Injury*
Continuing Medical Education: Blast Injury

- **Treatment**
  - Scene Safety: Beware of secondary devices
  - Triage according to protocol
  - Manage airway
  - Provide high-concentration oxygen
  - Prepare to treat for hypotension caused by:
    1. Serious blood loss
    2. Gas embolism or tension pneumothorax
    3. Vagal reflexes
Good Stories: Definition and Examples

Good Stories are exemplary, but non-peer-validated, initiatives implemented by various jurisdictions that have shown success in their specific environments and that may provide useful information to other communities and organizations.

- Louisville, Kentucky’s Joint Emergency Services Unit
- Illinois’ Radio Authentication Matrices: Ensuring Radio Security
- Seattle Fire Department’s Computer Assisted Dispatch System
Good Stories: Joint ESU Profile

- Joint Emergency Services Unit
  - Designed to respond to:
    - Major biological, chemical, or radiological incidents; and
    - An event in which a medical response is required in an unsecured or HazMat environment
      - Quarantine
      - Crystal Meth Lab
Hurricane Katrina Initiative

Katrina Lessons Learned

- **LLIS.gov** has examined information sharing successes and failures during hurricane response and recovery operations
  - Topics include: wireless connectivity systems; mutual aid communication plans; and information sharing drills

- **LLIS.gov** has created lessons learned based on user submissions relevant to Hurricane Katrina
  - Topics include: hospital surge capacity; Strategic National Stockpile distribution; and disaster literature dissemination

On 9 September 2005 **LLIS.gov** posted a special Hurricane Katrina page highlighting useful documents for the emergency response and recovery communities
Disaster Medical Assistance Teams

- National Disaster Medical System (NDMS)

- A DMAT is a group of professional medical personnel (supported by a cadre of logistical and administrative staff) designed to provide medical care during a disaster or other event
Hurricane Katrina Initiative

- DMAT Lessons Learned
  - Equip teams with motorized patient transport equipment
  - Provide teams with automated pharmaceutical labeling system
  - Tailor supply caches, prior to shipping, to meet specific mission requirements
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