



# National Lessons Learned Conference (NLLC)

September 13–14, 2011 from 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. EDT

September 15, 2011, from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. EDT  
An invitation-only State and Federal interagency National Planning System workshop hosted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)/Office of Response and Recovery (ORR). To request an invitation, please contact [NEP@dhs.gov](mailto:NEP@dhs.gov).

## [Sheraton National Hotel](#)

900 South Orme Street | Arlington, VA 22204  
Phone: 703-521-1900 | Toll-Free: 1-800-325-3535

Register in advance at: [www.exerciseLLC.com](http://www.exerciseLLC.com).  
On-site registration begins at 7:00 a.m. EDT



# FEMA

## Overview

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)/National Exercise Division (NED) will host its inaugural National Lessons Learned Conference (NLLC) in Arlington, VA, September 13–14, 2011, in association with the September 11, 2001, 10-year anniversary. On September 15, 2011, FEMA/Office of Response and Recovery (ORR) will host an invitation-only, interactive forum on future collaborative national planning efforts.

The NLLC features plenary sessions and interactive panel discussions each day. This conference is open to all emergency managers, planners, exercise professionals, training and education professionals, responders, exercise media, exercise modeling and simulation professionals, disaster preparedness professionals, private sector participants, and “Whole Community” partners.

The NLLC will allow participants to review lessons learned from 10 years of national level and linked exercises specific to improving the readiness of the United States to prepare for, respond to, and recover from an event of national significance, and to engage in discussions covering several thematic areas of exercise design, response, recovery, and policy.

The NLLC is a great opportunity for participants to apply lessons learned to their agency’s training and exercise program within an interactive forum.

FEMA/NED’s intent is to sponsor a forum where exercise planners, participants, policy and procedure planners, and operations staff can share and apply experiences and lessons learned from a broad series of national level and linked exercises, as well as real-world events.

## Audience

The target audience for this conference includes emergency managers, planners, exercise professionals, training and education professionals, responders, exercise media, exercise modeling and simulation professionals, disaster preparedness professionals, private sector participants, and Whole Community partners.

# National Lessons Learned Conference

**Conference Structure:** The NLLC will provide plenary and breakout sessions focusing on national lessons learned—from exercise design and application to response, recovery, and policy; the second-day breakout sessions will focus on the use of technology to support exercise conduct, as well as case studies and exercise best practices, to include private sector participation and community preparedness. The conference will begin with plenary sessions; followed by separate, interactive tracks; and then conclude with a plenary session. The NLLC will utilize a structured format of briefings and facilitated-discussion sessions accompanying the plenary sessions.

## Objectives

**Objective 1:** Review lessons learned from National Level Exercises (NLEs) specific to improving the general readiness of the United States to prepare for, respond to, and recover from an event of national significance.

**Objective 2:** Provide participants with an interactive forum to apply lessons learned to their agency's training and exercise program.

**Objective 3:** Engage participants in discussions that cover several thematic areas of exercise design, conduct, and evaluation, and leverage lessons learned from case studies and best practices.

**Objective 4:** Review lessons learned from major events that have shaped national planning efforts, such as the National Response Framework (NRF) and the Federal Interagency Response Plan—Earthquake (FIRP-EQ), and examine the future endeavors of the National Planning System, to include implementation of Presidential Policy Directive (PPD)-8: National Preparedness.

## Conference Track Sessions

Final track sessions and conference speakers have yet to be determined; however, presentations will be included from case study/vignette submissions. Potential track sessions may include:

- Exercise Design: Lessons learned from the Top Officials (TOPOFF) and NLE series
- Response: Application of exercise lessons learned since September 11, 2001
- Policy: Development of new national policy based on lessons learned since September 11
- Exercise outcomes with other States and agencies as identified by NLE Participant States and regions
- Whole Community preparedness initiatives
- An interactive forum on future collaborative national planning efforts, including disaster recovery, hosted by FEMA/ORR
- National recovery planning efforts and emerging policy
- Modeling and Simulation: Application to exercise design, response, recovery, and policy development
- Case studies and panel discussions from the international response community, past participants in an NLE, and real-world response lessons learned

- National Training Curriculum: Updates and a path forward on training opportunities and new developments
- Linked Exercises: Leveraging exercise planning to reach a broader audience and identify lessons learned
- Updates on future plans for FEMA/NED and training programs
- Real-world response: Have exercises made an impact on readiness?

## Seeking Case Studies/Vignettes

FEMA/NED is seeking brief, one- to two-page case studies or vignettes for inclusion in the NLLC printed materials distributed at the conference. The case studies/vignettes should ideally highlight outcomes from any national exercise building-block event (including linked exercises) that have enhanced preparedness, planning, response, or recovery, including training curriculum additions and new methods for conducting or participating in other exercises. Additionally, memorial stories related to the 10-year anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001, would also be appropriate (e.g., progress or lessons learned related to exercises, training, or preparedness).

## Submission Details

Please submit materials either via the conference registration Web site at [www.exerciseLLC.com](http://www.exerciseLLC.com) or to [NEP@dhs.gov](mailto:NEP@dhs.gov), and indicate if there is additional interest in presenting the case study/vignette on a panel at the LLC on September 13–14, 2011. Presenting is not required for submission. Presenters may receive travel support.

**Submissions are due by 5:00 p.m. EDT, Tuesday, September 6, 2011.**

## Potential Topics

The following topics are suitable for case studies/vignettes, but not limited to these:

- Lessons learned from NLEs, including those impacting resilient, Whole Community planning;
- Lessons learned since September 11 regarding emergency response, large-scale incident recovery, and emergency management policy development;
- Emergency Support Function (ESF)-specific lessons learned since September 11;

- Private sector, international, and Federal, State, local, tribal, or territorial lessons learned regarding exercise design, response, recovery, or policy since September 11 and/or from NLEs;
- Nongovernmental organization (NGO) and/or Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) lessons learned from NLEs;
- Application of modeling & simulation to exercise design, conduct, and/or evaluation;
- Exercise best practices, including exercise evaluation and/or quantifying the impact of exercises on preparedness, response, recovery, or policy;
- Emergency management, response, recovery, and/or policy lessons learned since September 11;
- September 11 memorial presentations related to exercise design, emergency response, disaster recovery, and/or policy;
- Use of technology to improve exercises, response, recovery, or policy development;
- Changes to training curricula based on lessons learned from NLEs and/or emergency management events since September 11.

## Additional Optional Activities

### Monday, September 12, 2011

Networking Session

5:00–7:00 pm

POV Rooftop Lounge at the W Hotel

515 15th Street NW

Washington, DC 20004

*\*Complimentary registration.*

*Please note: All beverages will be paid for by the individual.*

### Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Moonlight Monument Tour

5:00–8:00 pm

*\$35 estimated fee. All reservations and exact charges will be confirmed by September 2, 2011.*

### Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Networking Dinner

6:00 pm

Carmine's Washington D. C.

*\*Dinner pricing may vary.*

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DISTRIBUTE THIS TO YOUR COLLEAGUES**

# NLLC Proposed Agenda

The NLLC will begin with plenary sessions, followed by interactive panel discussions, and conclude with a plenary session. The conference will utilize a structured format of briefings and facilitated-discussion sessions accompanying the plenary sessions. A summary report of key discussion points will be developed and distributed following the event.

\*Additional sessions to be added

## Tuesday, September 13, 2011

- 8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 a.m.–9:15 a.m. Welcome and Introductions—9/11 Memoriam and Honor Guard
- 9:15 a.m.–10:00 a.m. Keynote Speaker
- 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. Plenary Session—Top Officials to National Level Exercises, Development of a National-Level Exercise Program
- 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Plenary Session—Lessons Learned from Linked Exercises
- 12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m. Networking Lunch—on your own
- 1:30 p.m.–2:00 p.m. Case Studies from Top Officials Exercises Impacting Policy, Planning, Response and Recovery
- 2:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m. Water Sector and EPA Discussion Based Exercise Lessons Learned
- 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Exercising Whole Communities  
Use of Social Media in Exercises and Real-World Response
- 3:30 p.m.–3:45 p.m. Break
- 3:45 p.m.–4:45 p.m. NLE 11 NMSZ States and FEMA Regions  
Recovery Planning—Exercise Outcomes and the NDRF
- 4:45 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Day 1 Closing Comments
- 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Optional Networking Session

## Wednesday, September 14, 2011

- 8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m. Panel Session—Private Sector and National Exercises—Case Studies/ Vignettes  
Challenges in the Transportation Sector
- 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. Panel: International Exercises and Real-World Response Lessons Learned
- 11:00 a.m.–11:15 a.m. Break
- 11:15 a.m.–12:00 p.m. National Training Curriculum Updates  
Emergency Management Institute and the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium
- 12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m. Networking Lunch—on your own
- 1:30 p.m.–2:15 p.m. Modeling and Simulation—Technology and Exercises  
SUMMIT, a Tool from the National Labs  
Application of Virtual-World Technologies to Training and Exercises
- 2:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m. Case Studies from NLEs Impacting Policy, Planning, Response and Recovery
- 2:45 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:00 p.m.–3:45 p.m. Plenary Session—Media Involvement and Lessons Learned from Participation NLEs—A Reporter’s Perspective from the Field
- 3:45 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Keynote Closing—National Training, Education and Exercises—A Path for the Future
- 4:30 p.m.–4:45 p.m. Closing Comments
- 4:45 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Flag Retreat

## Thursday, September 15, 2011

### The National Planning System

FEMA/ORR will host a discussion regarding the significant developments in planning that have contributed to national preparedness, highlighting the implementation of PPD-8 and the national planning tools, such as the NRF and the FIRP-EQ. FEMA/ORR will also host an interactive forum on future collaborative planning efforts.

- 8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 a.m.–9:15 a.m. Welcome and Opening Comments
- 9:15 a.m.–10:00 a.m. PPD-8: National Preparedness Implementation Updates on Current Progress
- 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. National Preparedness System and National Planning System Discussion
- 11:00 a.m.–11:45 a.m. State and Local Involvement in Future Efforts
- 11:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Closing Comments

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DISTRIBUTE THIS TO YOUR COLLEAGUES**