WEB RESOURCES

State and Local Government on the Net
www.statelocalgov.net

The State and Local Government on the Net site provides a directory of Web sites for thousands of state, county, and local governments. Only official government sites are listed.

The site may be searched in two different ways. By selecting a particular state, all the different sites in that state—from the governor’s office to the smallest town—are listed. Searching by topic will show all the sites on a particular issue, regardless of the state. Public works, health, and regulatory issues are some of the available topics.

Federal Government on the Web
www.firstgov.gov

FirstGov.gov is the Internet portal and official U.S. gateway to all government information. Through this site, you can search millions of federal and state Web pages, many not available on commercial Web sites.

Whether you’re looking for data and statistics, regulations, or funding opportunities, if it’s related to the federal government, you’ll find it on FirstGov.gov. A new feature, FirstGov en Español, provides access to government resources in Spanish.

On the Web

Emergency Preparedness Course
www.ualbanyphp.org/learning/registration/detail_Terrorism.cfm

The University of Albany’s School of Public Health offers a Web-based introductory course on emergency preparedness. The goal of this six-lesson course is to help public health workers develop an understanding and awareness of terrorism and its effects on public health practice.

The six lessons are:
1. introduction to terrorism;
2. epidemiology, surveillance, detection, and identification;
3. biological agents as weapons;
4. chemical and industrial agents as weapons;
5. radiological weapons; and
6. community planning and public health preparedness.

At the end of the course, participants will be able to describe the public health role in emergency response in a range of possible emergencies, to recognize unusual events that might indicate an emergency, and to describe appropriate action.

Developed by Dr. Robert Westphal, M.D., Ph.D., the course is free and open to the public.

Online First Aid
www.mayoclinic.com

A safe workplace is extremely important. From time to time, though, medical emergencies occur. The Mayo Clinic has developed an online first-aid guide to provide information about initial emergency treatment of common injuries.

From frostbite to chemical burns, insect bites to heat exhaustion, the online first-aid kit describes, step by step, actions needed to treat common first-aid situations.

The site is not intended as a substitute for professional medical attention, notes a prominent disclaimer on the site. However, the information may be a useful addition to your first-aid kits and could be bookmarked on computers in the treatment plant.

The Mayo Clinic first-aid guide may be found at www.mayoclinic.com/findinformation/firstaidandselfcare/index.cfm.
Need Stuff?  
www.gsa.gov/propertydonations

The Federal Surplus Personal Property Donation Program helps organizations, including public agencies such as water and wastewater systems, obtain property no longer needed by the federal government. Available surplus includes tools, office machines and supplies, furniture, vehicles, construction equipment, and communications and electronic equipment.

The program is administered through offices in each state. Staff in these offices advise applicants of eligibility requirements and distribute property. Recipients are assessed a service charge to cover handling, transportation, and administrative expenses.

To learn more, check the Web site listed above or write to the U.S. General Services Administration, GSA Federal Supply Service, 1901 S. Bell Street, Suite 804, Arlington, VA 22202. To get contact information for your state office, call the National Environmental Services Center toll free at (800) 624-8301.

Got Too Much Stuff?  
www.eknowledgeinstitute.com

For some towns and utilities, getting more property isn't such a great idea—they already have more than they know what to do with. Increasingly, communities are doing what families have done for years: holding a garage sale. Only now, they’re using the latest technology to make it happen.

Through their Hometown Help program, the eKnowledge Institute (EKI) helps small towns sell their surplus inventory on eBay. In August 2004, EKI helped the 1,244 residents of Atkinson, Nebraska, raise $20,000 for a new library.

“The program relies on volunteers in the community to photograph, list, and sell the items on eBay,” says Paul Berger, EKI chief executive officer. “EKI provides training to make this possible. We believe that most towns can raise between $20,000 and $50,000 in an eight-week period.”

The states of California and Oregon have both sold surplus property in this fashion and Berger sees no reason why small communities can’t get in on the action.

There are no upfront costs associated with Hometown Help. EKI charges between five and 20 percent of the sales proceeds, depending on the amount of help the community needs and travel costs. These fees include all training and support, software, and eBay listing fees.

For more information, visit the EKI Web site or call (561) 414-4570 or write to P.O. Box 970263, Boca Raton FL, 33497-0263.

Interactive Water Cycle  
ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle.html

The U.S. Geological Survey has created a Web site that illustrates the hydrologic cycle and explains each of its parts.

Based on a diagram (shown below), the site allows the user to click on any part of the water cycle to learn more about that particular component. By selecting groundwater discharge, for example, the user can learn about various aspects of subsurface water. Included are an easy-to-understand explanation, illustrations, photos, facts, and sources of additional information.

Teachers will appreciate several features on the site: a summary of the diagram may be printed to use as a handout; the diagram is available without text; and the diagram can be used where students have to place the terms in their correct places.

In addition to English, the site is available in 38 other languages.

Illustration by John M. Evans, USGS, Colorado District