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Resilience Report

The latest insights and innovations in emergency management and health security.

Welcome to the first edition of Resilience Report! This bi-weekly newsletter is designed to provide the latest news, trends, and insights across local emergency management and health security. We'll keep it short, relevant, and easy-to-read. Enjoy.



Fire Season Has Begun.

A brush fire in Los Angeles County [has now spread](#) to over 10,000 acres. Some evacuations have been necessary and the Red Cross set up a temporary evacuation point. This comes in advance of a forecasted heatwave in Southern California over the weekend.

East Coast Braces For The Next Tropical Storm.

[Tropical Storm Josephine](#) has officially formed in the Atlantic Ocean. It is the earliest “J-named” storm in the Atlantic on record, in what has already been a record-setting hurricane season.

All The States' Testing Plans.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has posted [all states' COVID-19 testing plans](#) for July-December of 2020. Experts from the CDC and the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health provided feedback on all the plans.

FBI Joins Beirut Investigation.

The [FBI is joining](#) the investigation on last week's explosion in Beirut. At the invitation of Lebanese authorities, the agency will work with Lebanese and other international investigators to determine what caused the fire that led to the blast.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT: INTEGRATING PH AND EM

Every week, we'll dedicate space for a hot topic that we think is especially relevant. Across the world, public health and emergency management departments are working on the continued response to COVID-19. For some, the coordination between these two entities is an area that needs strengthening. So, this section is dedicated to identifying ways to make it stronger.

Aren't They All "Public Health Disasters"?

Pretty much. The National Governor's Association just released a [Guide to Public Health Preparedness](#), which says that "almost all [hazards] carry a public health consequence that must be addressed by formally-trained specialists." This report details 4 steps emergency managers can take to integrate public health into their work:

1. **Scope:** Identify scenarios when the department of public health can act as lead or support agency
2. **Coordinate & Communicate:** Define communications protocols between your agency and your local public health department
3. **Educate:** Inform your leadership team on public health preparedness and relevant resources
4. **Executive Action & Authorities:** Understand how public health emergency declarations work in your jurisdiction and clarify any roles/responsibilities that are not well-defined

Let's Talk Best Practices.

We've collected innovative practices from across the globe for better integrating public health and emergency management. Here we go:

- **Build Those Relationships:** Send a proactive decision-maker with excellent relationship-building skills from your team to liaise with your PH or EM counterparts. This is a fairly new practice from the military with demonstrated success.
- **Utilize a Policy Group:** Activate a Policy Group for high-level executives and directors from both PH and EM as well as other partners to meet regularly to discuss overlapping and/or conflicting priorities. This [document from the WHO](#) has some useful tips for doing that (Section 2.3).
- **Create Collaborative Messaging:** Partner with your PH or EM counterparts on public messaging in the wake of an emergency response and ensure the Joint Information Center (JIC) is not monopolized by one agency. This will allow you to optimize communications to provide community members with acute information about the emergency as well as long-term information about health impacts.

FUN THINGS

Summer Meteor Shower.

Have you looked at the night sky recently? If not, you still have more time to see the [Perseid meteor shower](#)! The peak night for seeing the meteors was this Wednesday, but you should still be able to see some meteors each night until the middle of next week.

A Whale of a Tale.

Two beluga whales, named [Little Gray and Little White](#), are returning to the sea after living in captivity since 2011. They will now be calling a sea sanctuary in Iceland home. It is the world's first open water sanctuary for beluga whales.

We're Here to Support You

If you need help with vaccine planning, COVID-19 AARs, or anything in between, shoot us an email at scott@constantassociates.com. We are here to help.



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