



December 18, 2020 | Issue 10

Resilience Report

Brief insights and the latest innovations in emergency management and health security.

This holiday season brings with it gifts of vaccines and stimulus packages while offering an opportunity to appreciate the small things (like an abandoned sock?). This week on Resilience Report we celebrate winter with some cold weather preparedness reminders as snow builds around the country. The next scheduled Resilience Report is 1/15/2021 so, from everyone at CONSTANT, have a safe and happy holiday season. See you in the New Year!



Vaccines Vaccines Vaccines.

It's been such a busy week for vaccine news that it can be hard to keep up! The New York Times has a [great Q&A article](#) answering all your burning questions about the COVID-19 vaccines—from how long it will take to work to what happens if you forget to get a second dose on time.

Stimulus Package Deal?!

As of Thursday morning, Congressional leaders appeared to be nearing an agreement on a new [COVID-19 relief package](#). It will likely include federal unemployment insurance, more money for the Paycheck Protection Program, and funding for vaccine distribution, among other things.

Vaccine Equity.

Health officials in California are facing some [tough decisions prioritizing](#) which populations will get access to the vaccine before others. At the center of it all: promoting equity and figuring out how to prioritize within the giant category of essential workers.

East Coast Winter Storm.

A snowstorm hit [much of the Northeast](#) on Wednesday. The forecast was calling for New York City to potentially get more snow than it's gotten from a storm in over four years. Public transportation was impacted, and power outages occurred in some places.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT:

COLD WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

Every week, we'll dedicate space for a hot topic that we think is especially important for emergency managers to read. As the important topic of vaccines grabs the majority of attention, it's easy to forget that [winter is coming \(or rather, it's here\)](#). This special highlight section provides reminders and resources to prepare for the cold weather.

- Although emergency management and public health professionals already know the importance of [personal preparedness](#), the potential for big changes in weather provides a perfect opportunity to remind ourselves and our loved ones [how to prepare](#).
- Some community members may not have the ability to stock emergency supplies or may not have shelter from the cold. This year has provided multiple examples of how jurisdictions managed to provide [mass sheltering during a pandemic](#).
- Public information officers have had an unrelenting year communicating important health information. [Social media toolkits](#) and preparedness [guides tailored](#) to people with access and functional needs can provide quick resources to inform the community about inclement weather safety and overall preparedness.

Celebrating in a Winter Wonderland

The end of the year brings with it a plethora of holidays. 'Tis the season to stay prepared.

- **Suggestion #1:** Make sure your sleigh is ready for any big trips. While someone might have all year to prepare for one big trip in December, the rest of us should be ready year-round for the one day that we might need emergency supplies.
- **Suggestion #2:** This year "home for the holidays" takes on a new meaning for many. Whether people are staying at home or visiting someone else's house, the holidays bring additional stress to many. Businesses may want to review what's in their continuity plans for staff support during this pandemic holiday season.
- **Suggestion #3:** As a time for giving, we are hopeful more joy than germs are spread. But with flu, cold, and food-borne illness season upon us, revisiting infection control procedures to make sure it covers more than respiratory viruses can go a long way for businesses and potential mass care shelters.

Did you know CONSTANT staff has experience writing continuity and mass care shelter plans as well as infection control trainings? Shoot us an [email](#) for more information.



FUN THINGS

Pandemic Santa.

Check out these photos of [Santas across Los Angeles](#) settling in to their new pandemic-friendly digs. Our favorite is the Santa selfie (all the way at the bottom).

The Moon and the Stars.

Astronomy nuts and amateur stargazers unite! Our last Resilience Report highlighted the upcoming great conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn (12/21/20). This week also brings with it the first fresh rock [samples from the moon](#) in more than 40 years.

Dirty socks.

A Washington mom and her daughter had a [hilarious standoff](#) over a dirty sock that the daughter left in the bathroom for days. Rather than picking up the sock to put in the hamper, they took turns turning it into its own exhibit!

We're Here to Support You

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



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