



August 28, 2020 | Issue 2

Resilience Report

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

This week on Resilience Report...it's been a busy few weeks in the U.S. in terms of both human-caused and natural emergencies. For our special highlight, we're looking at how technology is changing the detection of and response to wildfires.



Renewed Racial Justice Protests.

[Protests against racism and police brutality](#) are taking place across the country after police in Kenosha, Wisconsin shot Jacob Blake, a black man. Joining in the protest movement are many professional sports teams, including teams from the WNBA, NBA, and MLB.

It's Gonna Be a Long Fire Season.

Firefighters across California continue to fight [more than two dozen major fires](#). A break in the wind last weekend allowed for some progress in containing the blazes, but forecasters fear this could signal a long fire season ahead.

Laura Makes Landfall.

Hurricane Laura [made landfall early Thursday](#) morning as a Category 4 storm. It is the region's strongest storm in over a century. So far, the storm has resulted in the deaths of at least three people and has caused widespread structural damage.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT: WILDFIRES AND TECH

Every week, we'll dedicate space for a hot topic that we think is especially relevant. With wildfires burning across the state of California and a lot of fire season still ahead, it seemed like a good time to take a deeper dive into how technology is transforming how we detect and respond to wildfires.

Here are some of the exciting technologies firefighters are deploying now to help detect wildfires sooner and get them under control faster (and some cool technologies helping with training):

- [Camera networks](#): These consist of large numbers of remote-operated cameras on mountaintops and in towers to help spot fires right away.
- [Drones](#): Drones can help pinpoint hot spots without putting firefighters at risk. In some cases, drones can also be used to help ignite controlled burns.
- [Satellites](#): Artificial intelligence can quickly analyze images from satellites to identify changes, such as a new presence of smoke, that might indicate a fire.
- [Planes](#): Planes can carry infrared cameras and other sensors to quickly map a fire's perimeter.
- [Virtual reality](#): VR is already being piloted by at least 16 countries to help firefighters train in scenarios that would be too dangerous in the real world. It also helps reduce the environmental impacts of fire training!

How Can I Start To Incorporate Some Of These?

Great question! While not all of us are wildland firefighters, all emergency managers can benefit from knowing more about these emerging technologies. Here are some ways to begin incorporating them into your daily work, whether it's about fires or other disasters:

- **Use GIS Data In Exercises:** Developing a TTX? Include some mock GIS data to make the scenario more realistic. That'll get your audience more familiar with interpreting that kind of data during a real-world event.
- **See If VR Training Is An Option For Your Organization:** Talk to the training lead for your organization to see if piloting virtual reality training is possible. What better way to understand how other organizations can benefit from it than by trying it yourself?!
- **Highlight Innovative Practices In Reports:** When working on writing an AAR or any report, ask about how technology was used in the response. This can help emphasize the utility of some of these technologies and hopefully expand their use through increased awareness and funding.



Therapy Pup Supports Firefighters.

Kerith is a 2-year-old golden retriever who has been busy lately providing comfort and support to firefighters in Marin County, California. She is a certified [crisis response therapy dog](#) and has been cheering up the firefighters after their morning briefings.

You Can Go To The Zoo!

The [L.A. Zoo reopened](#) this week after being closed for nearly 6 months. Attendance is limited to 1,200 visitors daily, and face masks and social distancing are required.

Ask a Contractor!

We want to make Resilience Report more collaborative with you, our lovely readers. So we're introducing "Ask a Contractor." If you have any questions under the sun about emergency management, health security, good disaster movies, or anything in between, submit them [using this form](#) and we'll happily answer them in the next issue of Resilience Report!

We're Here to Support You

If you need help with 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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