



February 26, 2021 | Issue 14

Resilience Report

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

There are a lot of novel developments the past two weeks. Last week showed us that unexpected weather could pose catastrophic threats. While this week we saw a scary new COVID variant, a hopeful new vaccine, and an innovative new collaborative. In this Resilience Report we cover COVID-19 updates, offer a game to consider planning for worst-case scenarios, and share cute kid stories.



FDA Deems J&J Vaccine Safe and Effective.

On Wednesday morning, the FDA released an analysis that supports emergency authorization of the [Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine](#). A panel of advisers will meet Friday to make a recommendation for the vaccine's authorization.

COVID Collaborative.

The [COVID Collaborative](#) is a team of experts in health, education, and economics brought together to develop recommendations and work with state and local leaders to ensure a coordinated national response.

California COVID Variant Causes Concern.

Despite cause for some optimism on the COVID front, new information about the California variant is a reminder that we are not out of the woods yet. [The new strain](#) shows evidence of increased transmissibility, resistance to antibodies generated by vaccines, and association with severe illness and death.

National Plans to Enhance Cybersecurity.

The Department of Homeland Security is taking steps to [improve cybersecurity](#) in the federal government, including strengthening partnerships with the private sector and with state, local, tribal, and territorial entities.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT: EXTREME RISKS PLANNING

Every week, we'll dedicate space for a hot topic that we think is especially important for emergency managers to read. All hazards disaster planning means considering the likelihood of various disasters impacting your region or business. To streamline preparedness efforts, we often prioritize events based on probability and severity. But what about those unlikely, yet possible, catastrophic events? Like [Texas's close call](#) to months long power outages. How can your plan adapt to address those risks as well?

- Regions, states, or territories may have catastrophic disaster plans (e.g., [Cal OES catastrophic planning](#)) that provide details on risks and how they intend to respond.
- Check to see if your region received funding from the [FEMA](#) Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program and explore what [past recipients](#) have done with their grants (e.g., [San Francisco Bay Area](#), [Puget Sound Region](#)).
- Disaster response planning (especially for worst-case scenarios) should consider the potential impact of disrupted [community lifelines](#). Learn more with FEMA's [toolkit](#) or use them as a general reference when developing questions for your "what if" game.

The "What If?" Game

One way to examine plans to see how they adapt to various scenarios is to play a game we like to call "What If?". Imagine a worst-case situation actually occurred, explore what its risks to your jurisdiction or agency are, determine how your plan could be adapted to address the impacts, and identify additional planning/preparedness steps you could take to be ready. Here are some ideas:

- **Scenario #1:** What if your whole town/city needs to evacuate? How can you maintain business/service continuity? What type of recovery plans need to be in place?
- **Scenario #2:** What if there were power outages throughout your region for months? How might this impact your back-up power supply chain? In what ways will staff (and their ability to work from home) be impacted?
- **Scenario #3:** What if there was an outbreak of a new pathogen, like a novel influenza strain, around the world right now? What if it started spreading in your community? How could you increase staffing to respond to two infectious disease threats at once?

Experienced CONSTANT staff can talk through all of your "what if" scenarios. Shoot us an [email](#) for more information.



TSA Top 10 Catches.

The Transportation Security Administration released its '[Top 10 Catches](#)' of 2020. Some of the items you might expect and some get a little...fishy. Make sure you read through to the #1 "catch" for an unexpected and heartwarming turn.

Forest Kindergarten.

A school in Pennsylvania has been holding [kindergarten class](#) outdoors for the past five years. The approach has been getting more attention recently as school districts across the country consider how to safely reopen.

5-Year Old Highlights Iconic Black Women.

A 5-year old in Detroit has been bringing Black History Month to life by [dressing up](#) as iconic African American women. The first black woman she picked to highlight this February was none other than Stacey Abrams.

We're Here to Support You

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



CONSTANT is certified as an 8(a) and Economically Disadvantaged Woman Owned Business (EDWOSB) and as a Great Place To Work. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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