



March 12, 2021 | Issue 15

Resilience Report

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

Our attention for the last year has naturally been drawn to the pandemic and all of its impacts. But we're continuously shown that hazards of all types continue to be a risk even during an infectious disease outbreak. This week on Resilience Report we take a moment to review recent advances to preparedness and response more broadly over the past year in addition to anticipating some economic relief and celebratory chocolate.



COVID-19 Relief Bill.

On Wednesday, the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 economic [relief bill](#) passed in the U.S. House of Representatives, clearing the way for President Biden to sign it in to law soon. The bill includes stimulus checks, expansion of unemployment benefits, and an expansion of the ACA, among other things.

Conflicting COVID Situations in the Americas.

While daily new cases of COVID-19 are declining in North America, they are continuing to surge in Latin America, where the [situation](#) in Brazil in particular is leading to record daily deaths, likely attributable to a new variant in the region.

State of Emergency in Hawaii.

The state of Hawaii issued an emergency [proclamation](#) on Tuesday amidst ongoing severe weather leading to flooding. Flash flood warnings were issued earlier in the week and some residents were under evacuation orders.

NEMA Webinar Series.

The National Emergency Management Association is hosting a series of learning [webinars](#) and social events during the month of March. Registration is free for NEMA members but there is a fee for non-members.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT: ALL HAZARDS PROGRESS

Every week, we'll dedicate space for a hot topic that we think is especially important for emergency managers to read. The recent [earthquakes](#) and tsunamis as well as [anniversaries](#) of devastating disasters reminds us there are risks we should anticipate outside of this ongoing pandemic. We look back at what has been happening to progress preparedness, response, and recovery to hazards that may have been overshadowed by COVID-19.

The following are three areas of emergency management that have seen advancement and suggestions for how to implement the best practices found over the last year.

Mitigation and Planning

- The Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves [Report](#) looked back at 2019 and found retrofitting result in a \$2200 billion benefit! The [Natural Hazards Center](#) also published [results](#) from a survey showing how building codes save lives.
- The Census Bureau's [OnTheMap](#) for Emergency Management helps users identify social, physical, and economic vulnerabilities in areas impacted by disaster. Now it's redesigned to better show simultaneous disaster declarations.
- **Mitigation & Planning Suggestion:** Local engineering associations or university departments may be valuable partners in preparedness activities. Check your local area for active groups or researchers to see if/how you could collaborate.

Wildfire Response and Recovery

- In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 also started out with severe bushfires in Australia and progressed to be [California's](#) worst-ever fire season. The conversation around fire management shifted to one around balancing protection of life and property with the need for fire in the landscape.
- CONSTANT has a wealth of experience assessing wildfire response and recovery efforts. Below are a couple of our team's observations after writing several high-profile After-Action Reports including the [Butte County](#) 2018 Camp Fire AAR.
 - **Wildfire Suggestion 1:** Ensure sustainability of the mass notification system by training multiple staff in the procedures for implementing it during complex events (e.g., wildfire during a pandemic).
 - **Wildfire Suggestion 2:** Leverage mutual aid, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs), and Disaster Service Workers (DSWs) early in the response to support operational needs.

Alert and Warning Systems

- Jurisdictions cross the country, from [Cambria](#) County, PA to the state of Oregon, are updating alert systems and unveiling new ones. [Oregon's](#) adoption of the USGS [ShakeAlert](#) comes at the 10th anniversary of the Great Tohoku, Japan earthquake.
- Experts predict that adoptions of new [technologies](#), including artificial intelligence, machine learning, and cloud-based technologies, will be a trend in mass notification systems in the next several years.

- **Alert Systems Suggestion:** As the COVID-19 pandemic has driven us to spread out, both in and out of the workplace, alert systems will have to expand their reach as well. Jurisdictions should re-think and expand alert delivery methods to ensure end user acceptability and sufficient reach.

Want to talk to CONSTANT staff about all hazards planning? Shoot us an [email!](#)



Rookies Get Air!

The 2021 NBA Slam Dunk Contest [highlights](#) show some amazing basketball skills with incredible height.

International Women's Day.

It's [Women's History Month](#) and to kick it off, were beautiful and inspiring [celebrations](#) around the world of International Women's Day.

Ryan's Case for Smiles.

A 94-year-old Arizona women found a pandemic hobby with meaning. [Frances Chenoweth](#) has sewn 80 festive and vibrant pillowcases for children in local area hospitals.

Vaccine Bunnies.

To send a message of hope this Easter season, Hungarian confectioner Laszlo Rimoczi is creating chocolate [bunnies](#) holding vaccine syringes. Hope this becomes a trend in the U.S.!

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.

Got this as a forward? You can subscribe to receive future issues of Resilience Report [here](#).



