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Resilience Report

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

This weekend we honor the ending of slavery in this country and the official recognition of Juneteenth as a federal holiday. But before that, this week on Resilience Report we remind ourselves that seasonal disasters do not take a break as we recover from the impacts of a pandemic. Wildfires in the West and hurricanes in the South prompt a review of seasonal preparedness tools and recommendations on how to be ready with COVID-19 still lingering.



Persisting Racial Gaps in Vaccination Rates

Despite the decline in new cases, COVID-19 continues to disproportionately hit Black and Latino communities—with death rates for Black Americans much higher than any other group due to a [gap in vaccination rates](#).

Delta: A Variant of Concern

With some states ending mask mandates and other restrictions, there is still concern about [the Delta variant](#), which is more contagious and adverse. Full vaccination for protection is critical as trends in case rates may vary state to state despite high vaccination rates.

Countering Domestic Terrorism

[Domestic terrorism](#) has taken the limelight the past year from the riot at the Capitol to mass shootings and much more. The U.S. government has released a [national strategy](#) to combat domestic terrorism intended to disrupt and deter such incidents and address the root causes.

From Fire Season to Fire Year

An extreme drought coupled with dry weather and extreme temperature are putting [western US regions](#) at higher risk for wildfires. There are [challenges](#) to managing and maintaining wildfire response when fires are extending past the typical fire season.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT: SEASONAL PREPAREDNESS

Every week, we'll dedicate space for a hot topic that we think is especially important for emergency managers to read. Wildfire and hurricane seasons are [projected to be severe](#) this year and they have already [started off stronger](#) than we would like. As jurisdictions and citizens prepare for their seasonal risks, here are some friendly reminders and resources.

Public information and promotion of citizen preparedness doesn't have to be reinvented. These sites provide visually engaging and informative materials to help your community get ready for their disaster season.

- The CDC provides a public health lens on wildfire [smoke inhalation](#) reduction and [food/water safety](#) after hurricanes.
- CAL FIRE's [Plan Know Act](#) campaign uses digital, video, and graphic materials to promote defensible space and evacuation preparedness in their various toolkits.
- National Weather Service [NOAA](#) breaks hurricane preparedness into themes like determining risk and helping your neighbor while [Ready](#) has videos and tip sheets.
- [American Red Cross](#) covers not only hurricanes and wildfires but also places an emphasis on heatwave readiness with preparedness tools in numerous languages.

Facing Hazards in a Pandemic Era

Although vaccination rates keep rising, lasting impacts of the pandemic continue into our yearly disaster seasons. Here are some suggestions for facing these risks in a new era.

- **Explore available mitigation and preparedness funding.** 2021 might have brought elevated risks but it also brought money to the tune of \$41.8 million USDA [Environmental Quality Incentives](#), a \$536 million CA [wildfire resilience](#) package, and \$1 billion for FEMA's [Pre-Disaster Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#).
- **Anticipate supply shortages.** Supply chain bottlenecks and rising prices of materials can limit mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. Jurisdictions anticipating these costs may want to explore vendors and alternative supply chains for things like timber and wood, steel-mill products, etc.
- **Review recovery plans for equity.** Historically, disasters have unequally impacted the most vulnerable and disenfranchised populations. Unfortunately, disaster recovery also runs the risk of [perpetuating inequity and discrimination](#). Assessing past recovery policies/practices and redesigning plans can help [refocus efforts on reducing disparities](#) and improving long term recovery for the whole community.

CONSTANT staff are experienced in all hazard disaster planning. [Email](#) us to learn more!

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Juneteenth

On Tuesday, the Senate signed the bill to make Juneteenth [a federal holiday](#). Here are [a few ways](#) you can celebrate and commemorate Juneteenth as well as a [list of resources](#) to help you find and support Black-Owned Businesses.

Dear Dad

Happy Father's Day to all the dads out there. This Sunday (6/20/21) we celebrate all those dads who face challenges with smiles on their faces, those who raised us, and those who provided us with paternal love.

Sushi Lovers Rejoice

Today is International Sushi Day and the perfect opportunity to enjoy this cuisine. Check out this [list](#) for some sushi spots in LA and learn more about the origin of this day [here](#).



We're Here to Support You

If you need help with ARPA projects, inclusive planning, COVID-19 AARs, or anything in between, shoot us an email at susie@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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