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Resilience Report

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

It feels like yet another week of persistent wildfire and COVID-19 news. In the midst of a hectic summer, technology has made headlines with innovative ways to keep you safe and informed in disaster scenarios. This week, the Resilience Report looks at emerging technology and its role in keeping you informed of disasters in your area.



Climate Crisis Report

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a [report](#) on Monday clearly stating that human activity is the chief cause of climate change, with global temperatures expected to exceed an increase of 1.5°C in the next 20 years.

Flood Damage Central, Eastern U.S.

In addition to the fires raging in the west, flooding has ravaged other parts of the U.S., with many states still reeling from damage caused in July. In [Kentucky](#), the Governor declared a State of Emergency last week. [Vermont](#) is seeking assistance from FEMA. And, in Omaha, a resident's harrowing elevator experience during a flood went [viral](#).

FEMA/FCC Public Alert Test

You may have heard about the FEMA/FCC [nationwide test](#) of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) that happened on Wednesday at 11:20 a.m. PT. This was an opt-in test that does not automatically push to all cellular devices. If you didn't receive the alert, [here's](#) how you can receive them in the future.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT: EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

Every week, we'll dedicate space for a hot topic that we think is especially important for emergency managers to read. This week, we are dropping in on the technology sector and taking a closer look at emerging trends and scientific advancements that will impact the way emergency managers prepare for and respond to disasters and health care emergencies.

- While masks and social distancing have been easy, low-tech ways to protect from COVID-19, the technology industry has been exploring advanced options to keep us safe. In Philadelphia, schools are investing in [air purifiers](#), but whether they actually work remains questionable.
- Scientists are working on ways to leverage artificial intelligence to better manage the COVID-19 response and even save lives. Despite [advances](#) in AI for healthcare, you may be surprised to [hear](#) why researchers haven't been as successful in their COVID response (hint: it's a low-tech reason).
- [Weather warning systems](#) have been around for decades, but they have become much more automated in recent years. Weather officials are keeping up with these advancements and [updated](#) the thunderstorm warnings to three categories last week based on the severity of the potential destruction.
- And finally, we've spent a lot of time talking about wildfires sweeping the nation recently. In addition to [highly trained firefighters](#) who risk their lives to protect local communities, the technology industry has also stepped up to help with both firefighting [techniques](#) and AI for early [warnings](#) and situational awareness.

Emerging Technology and You

While the experts continue to develop and test the emerging technologies in the emergency management and health security fields, there are both high-tech and low-tech ways that you can take advantage of these advancements. Here are some suggestions for things you can do now to stay safe:

Suggestion #1: Sign up for local information alerts in your area. Federal, state, and local jurisdictions have been using automated emergency alert systems for years. You can check for local alerts [here](#). And if you're in the CA area, [here](#) are additional local systems.

Suggestion #2: Familiarize yourself with local emergency alerts. But with all the notifications that we receive on a regular basis every day (every minute even), how can you tell the difference between a text message and an actual alert? Familiarize yourself with the different weather alerts [here](#).

Suggestion #3: Take some easy steps to prepare yourself for upcoming disasters. With hurricane season already in progress (and above-average activity [predicted](#) for this year), [here](#) are some low-tech steps to prepare during a pandemic.

CONSTANT staff are experienced in developing emergency communications plans. [Email](#) us to learn more!

FUN THINGS

Calling All Foodies!

For all of you Cali foodies out there, check out the [FoodieLand Night Market](#) at the Rose Bowl Stadium today through August 15th. With 150+ vendors and live entertainment, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Get your tickets [here](#).

Beware of Friday the 13th

Are you superstitious? Today is Friday the 13th, so be on high alert for broken mirrors, ladders, and cracks in the sidewalk. If you really want to test your luck, head to [Wendy's](#) for a free breakfast croissant.

A Real-Life Dragon

A Ph.D. candidate from the University of Queensland in Australia recently published an analysis of a [pterosaur](#) fossil. With a seven meter wingspan, the pterosaur is being called "the closest thing we have to a real-life dragon."

Who are Mike Richards and Mayim Bialik?

"Jeopardy!" has named [two new hosts](#)! Executive Producer Mike Richards will kick off Season 38 as host. Mayim Bialik, most known for her role on "The Big Bang Theory," will host special events and spinoffs.



We're Here to Support You

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