



# Resilience Report

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

*In this week's Resilience Report, we take a look at an incident that continues to make headlines as officials analyze Astroworld and all that went wrong. For some lighter news, we also feature the Infrastructure Bill, growth in the cybersecurity sector, and entertainment and recipes to enjoy during the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.*



## Infrastructure Bill Boosts Emergency Management Funding

The signing of the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) made the news this week and includes [major emergency management and homeland security investments](#): \$1B for FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, \$733M for dam safety, \$500M for the Safeguarding Tomorrow Through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act, \$3.5M for flood mitigation, and \$1B for [cybersecurity](#).

## Weather Woes

The month of November is measuring up as one of the top five wettest on record for Seattle as back-to-back Category 5 [atmospheric rivers](#) have flooded the Pacific Northwest. And speaking of weather, those in the Midwest and Northeast should buckle up for some potential storms right around the [Thanksgiving holiday](#).

## Continued Threat from Domestic Violent Extremists

DHS issued a [National Terrorism Advisory System \(NTAS\) Bulletin](#) last week, replacing the prior bulletin that was due to expire Nov. 11. The NTAS Bulletin cautions that domestic violent extremists continue to pose a threat as we approach religious holidays and mass gatherings through the end of the year and into 2022. The global pandemic and recent events in Afghanistan exacerbate these threats.

## Recent Developments in Cybersecurity

As cybersecurity incidents continue to increase across industries like the [healthcare](#)

[sector](#) and [K-12 schools](#), federal departments are making concerted efforts to boost interest and talent in the field. This week, DHS launched a [recruitment and talent management system](#) to fill mission-critical positions, and DOE held its annual [CyberForce Competition](#) that tested teams' ability to protect a hydropower company from simulated cyber challenges.

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*Every week, we'll dedicate space for a hot topic that we think is especially important for emergency managers to read. This issue we examine the multiple fatality/multiple casualty incident at the Travis Scott Astroworld music festival on Nov. 5, including implications for emergency managers and how officials are addressing what went wrong during the tragedy.*

- A total of [10 people](#) have died, two dozen were hospitalized, and hundreds were injured as a result of a crowd surge during the event. A [viral video](#) and multiple firsthand accounts showed the chaos. Thousands entered NRG Park without tickets, and health and safety professionals were quickly overwhelmed.
- Concert organizers had two [emergency plans](#) in place for the event, but the [operations plan](#) (redacted version [here](#)) did not have contingencies for crowd surges, despite [crowd surge](#) being a [documented threat](#) at large events. Experts note that organizers missed [early warning signs](#) of dangerous activity.
- Despite calls for a [third-party investigation](#), Harris County announced an [independent internal review](#) instead. Some officials noted that an outside investigation could lead to legal liabilities for the county, which owns NRG Park. Texas also announced the formation of a [statewide task force](#) to improve future concert safety.
- Victims have filed over 130 lawsuits, including a [\\$2 billion suit](#) against Travis Scott and others including Drake, Apple Music, NRG Stadium, and concert producer Live Nation Entertainment. [Live Nation](#) is also under scrutiny for histories of OSHA violations, hospitalizations, and unprofessionalism.

### Reflecting on the Tragedy

*Crowd surge events are rare, and casualties from crowd surge are preventable. We compiled some insights into the nature of crowd surge events and how you can safely enjoy concerts, sporting events, fairs, and festivals.*

**Suggestion #1: Early Lessons Learned.** Even without completed formal evaluations of the event, emergency managers can still take note of these [8 lessons](#) for handling a multiple fatality/multiple casualty event.

**Suggestion #2: Crowd Surge Risks.** Most victims of [crowd surge](#) are usually suffocated, not trampled. Crowd density and energy, event type, weather, venue, event plans, etc. all impact the risk. Knowing how the threats play out can help you avoid dangerous situations.

**Suggestion #3: Protect Yourself.** With crowd restrictions gradually lifting, large events are once again a popular recreation. Surges at these events are rare, but they do happen. Here are [10 tips](#) for how you can stay safe in large crowds.

CONSTANT staff are experienced in developing mass fatality and mass casualty incident plans. [Email](#) us to learn more!



### Lions, Tigers, and...Spiders? Oh My!

Here at CONSTANT, we love animals just as much as anyone, but this [megaspider](#) that was recently turned in to an Australian reptile park may be a bit much. But for a dose of animal cuteness, check out [Wrinkle the Duck](#), who wins the medal for cutest marathon runner ever!

### Thanksgiving Prep – The Main Event

The turkey is without a doubt the star of the show on Thanksgiving, and we have you covered! With 6,000 reviews and counting, Alton Brown's [roast turkey](#) is one of Food Network's most popular recipes of all time. But don't forget about the [dessert course!](#)

### Thanksgiving Traditions, Continued

After the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, stay tuned for the [2021 National Dog Show](#). For a fun alternative, there's always one of the best mockumentaries of all time, [Best in Show](#). And we've got you covered with this handy roundup of all the [big sales](#) for Black Friday.



The CONSTANT Team wishes you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving! We are truly thankful for our clients and partners who are part of our CONSTANT family.

If you need help with ARPA projects, COVID-19 AARs, or anything in between, shoot us an email at [donna@constantassociates.com](mailto:donna@constantassociates.com). We are here to help.

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