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# Resilience Report

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

*We are well into the 2021 holiday season and with the end of the year approaching, we wanted to share tips for staying safe and protecting yourself, your families, and your communities. We also share updates on the latest COVID news and other seasonal trends.*



## Emergence of the Omicron Variant

With the news on Wednesday that the omicron COVID-19 variant had been [detected in the U.S.](#), the White House unveiled a [new pandemic strategy](#) focused on protecting the economy. Here's [additional information](#) about the variant, including steps you can take. In addition, use this [interactive map](#) to see where the variant has been detected.

## Technology Advances and Pitfalls

Technology increases continue in the emergency management area, including an [augmented reality training tool](#) for firefighters and the use of [AI in wildfire detection](#). Despite these advances, experts continue to monitor and warn about increasing threats from innovations, including [drones](#) and [attacks on electricity infrastructure](#).

## Reevaluating School Safety

A Michigan high school student was arrested for a [school shooting](#) that killed four students and injured eight others. As these events continue to make news, officials are increasingly taking a [multi-faceted approach](#) to school safety. In addition, the use of fire drills as preparation for emergencies may no longer be the [right approach](#).

## A Heartwarming Side of Emergency Response

First responders don't often get the opportunity to follow up with the people they help during disasters and emergencies, so when this does happen, we like to highlight it. After a devastating mass casualty crime like the Waukesha Christmas parade massacre, a [heartening reunion](#) can be a healing and uplifting event.



# SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT: HOLIDAY SAFETY

*Every week, we'll dedicate space for a hot topic that we think is especially important for emergency managers to read. This issue we take a look at staying safe this holiday season while shopping, traveling, and spending time with loved ones eating, drinking, and sharing respiratory droplets.*

- Last year, COVID-19 drove most shoppers online, but [supply chain issues might send them back into stores](#). If you stick to e-commerce, the [FBI is warning shoppers](#) to remain vigilant when purchasing from online retailers as non-payment or non-delivery scams cost people more than \$265M last year, and credit card fraud cost \$129M.
- Each year [dangerous toys](#), respiratory viruses, and accidental injuries increase the need for medical care around the holidays. However, staffing shortages and COVID surges could complicate care. For example, this week [Colorado](#) amended its crisis standards of care at hospitals.
- The NHTSA launched their "[Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over](#)" campaign with law enforcement agencies across the U.S. This campaign aims to prevent alcohol-related highway deaths with public education and high-visibility enforcement. The Christmas and New Year's holiday period in 2019 saw more alcohol-related driving fatalities than any other that year.

## Finding the Joy in Safety

*The holidays are a joyful time of year, yet they pose various dangers relating to holiday decorations, cooking, shopping, and more. To ensure that you prepare to keep yourself and your loved ones safe this year, take a look at the tips below.*

**Suggestion #1: Watch the Roads.** It is predicted that [122 million Americans](#) will travel for the holidays this year, that is if the omicron variant doesn't impose restrictions, especially on [international travel](#). [Planning ahead](#), particularly with car travel, will ensure you and your loved ones do not fall victim to what are some of the deadliest days on the road.

**Suggestion #2: Safety over Aesthetics.** It can be tempting to forget about safety when decorating for the holidays. Be fire smart when trimming your [Christmas tree](#), [hanging lights and displaying candles](#), and making your [celebratory meals](#). Frying a turkey over the holidays? Here is a video on how to do so [safely](#).

**Suggestion #3: Don't Forget the Little Things.** Most of us are so focused on buying gifts and cooking that we may forget about hazards that aren't as apparent. For example, avoid poisonous plants (poison or not list [here](#)) and make the holidays safe for your [pet](#).

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

# FUN THINGS

## Continue the Spirit of Giving

This week was [Giving Tuesday](#). If you missed out, we have a list of [toy drives in LA](#) and [five little known and high-impact causes](#) to catch you up. To ensure that your money is going where it is supposed to go, check [Charity Watch](#) before donating.

## Holiday Light Displays

Looking for dazzling light shows to get yourself in the holiday spirit? Check out [the top displays](#) in the U.S. or catch the [Great Christmas Light Fight](#) show from your couch. If celestial light is your thing, here are the best night skies for [yuletide stargazing](#).

## Scoping Out Some Holiday Films

Love 'em or hate 'em, it's cheesy Christmas movie season. The [top movies](#) to stream include a [new Home Alone](#) with Ellie Kemper and Rob Delaney that caused bladder control issues on set. Or disagree with this ranking of every [Christmas present Harry Potter received](#).



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](mailto:donna@constantassociates.com). We are here to help.

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