



December 17, 2021 | Issue 35

Resilience Report

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

CONSTANT's final newsletter of 2021 looks at last week's tragic tornadoes across the South and Midwest, provides a COVID-19 update, and draws awareness to the Log4j security issue. We also begin to look ahead to 2022, providing information about FEMA's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan that was released last week and posing considerations for you to think about in your role given the Plan's focuses.



Historic December Weather Events

Record-breaking tornadoes [hit five states](#) in the South and Midwest last week, with [Kentucky](#) bearing the brunt of the damage and casualties. President Biden has [amended](#) Kentucky's Major Disaster Declaration to fund a 100% federal cost share for debris removal and protective measures. Meanwhile, [another widespread storm](#) this week caused wind damage across the Midwest with tornadoes spotted in Nebraska, Iowa, and Minnesota. Amidst these devastating events, scientists continue to research if there is a [measurable link](#) between climate change and tornadoes.

More News about COVID-19 Variants

The omicron variant is beginning to severely impact nations [across the world](#), and the CDC warned that it could result in a surge of omicron infections in the United States in [January](#). Despite this news, officials currently believe that [existing boosters](#) work against omicron, and there is no need for reformulation of variant-specific shots. Concerns continue with an emerging study about [Long-COVID](#) (awaiting peer review) that illuminates populations with continued symptoms and health burdens one year after infection, highlighting a need for healthcare services that supports these individuals.

Log4j Vulnerability Threatens Majority of Online World

Multiple flaws in the open-source Java-based library Log4j discovered through Tuesday sent [companies and governments racing](#) to patch the issue. This logging library is one of the most popular methods of recording online activity, and experts warn that [hackers from multiple countries](#) are already using it to access organization data. CISA released

a [statement](#) on Saturday emphasizing the seriousness of the security issue. CISA's [landing page](#) has guidance for organizations running products with Log4j, and [they instructed federal civilian agencies](#) to patch software by December 24. As an individual, you can't do much except update your device applications when prompted over the next few days.



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 the [2022 – 2026 FEMA Strategic Plan](#) released last week, including the agency's three broad goals that set the direction for dealing with challenges in emergency management and improving the nation's resilience.

- **Goal 1: Equity** – Disasters affect people and communities differently. FEMA's first goal focuses the agency on a greater awareness of the needs of [underserved](#) populations and on meeting their unique needs. This goal tracks with the administration's [focus](#) on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the federal workforce by cultivating a diverse workforce within FEMA.
- **Goal 2: Climate Resilience** – In response to hazards that are caused by climate change, FEMA's second goal is intended to position the agency to take a proactive role in resilience. The agency is doing this by increasing climate literacy, continuing to support community resilience efforts, and using new approaches to [understanding risks](#).
- **Goal 3: Readiness** – As FEMA adapts to changing needs and increased demands, the third strategic goal focuses on strengthening the agency's workforce and increasing the nation's emergency management capabilities overall. This is always a concern in the emergency management field but is especially [urgent](#) following the demands and stress of the COVID-19 response and busy wildfire and hurricane seasons.

Aligning FEMA's Strategic Plan to Your Organization's Operations

FEMA's five-year strategic plan defines a broad and ambitious plan to position the agency for what are seen as emerging trends and challenges in emergency management. But within the plan's framework, there are things you can do as an individual emergency management professional to position your team or support your planning efforts.

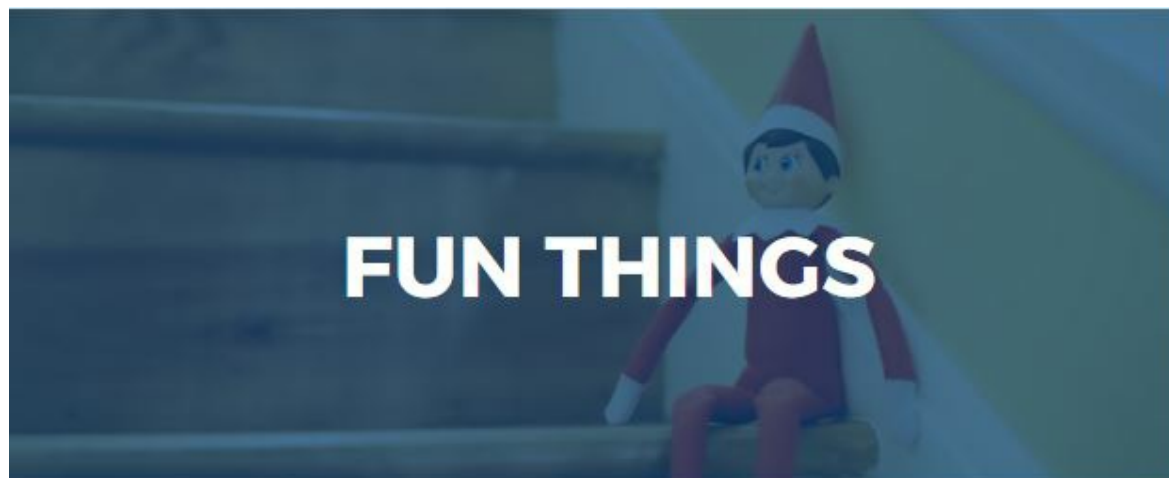
Suggestion #1: Develop an awareness of equity issues in emergency management. Familiarize yourself with [issues of inequity](#) in disasters and understand the needs of underserved populations. In addition, consider working to expand your organization's diversity by [increasing representation](#) across minority areas.

Suggestion #2: Leverage FEMA grant funding to increase your community resilience. This year, FEMA has provided \$3.46B in hazard mitigation grant funding and \$1B in Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) funding and these programs will continue. Learn more about BRIC [here](#).

Suggestion #3: Be aware of possible burnout. With the continuing COVID-19 response adding pressure to an already busy profession, [burnout among emergency managers](#) is

increasingly common. Be aware of [signs](#) and understand how you can help [your staff](#).

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



Holiday Gift Giving Ideas

This year, give the gift of emergency preparedness to the ones you love the most. Gift ideas include [car kits](#), [home disaster kits](#), [NOAA weather radios](#), [fire extinguishers](#), [foldable ladders](#), pet disaster kits ([dog](#), [cat](#)), solar or battery powered [lamps](#), and more!

Holiday Traditions

Looking for new holiday traditions to begin this year? Check out this list of [50 different ideas](#) - from food to gift giving to volunteering. And, if you're running out of ideas for Elf on the Shelf, take a look at these clever [suggestions](#).

Winter is Coming!

Tuesday marks the beginning of the Winter Solstice, and will bring us the fewest hours of sunlight of any day within the year. Want to learn more? On Tuesday, join the [Griffith Observatory's](#) virtual chat (11am) or check out the Winter Solstice sunset (4:30pm-6:30pm).



The CONSTANT Team wishes you and your loved ones
Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

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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