



December 31, 2021 | Issue 36

# Resilience Report

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

*As we say farewell to 2021 and look ahead to 2022, we share news and updates from the emergency management community and provide resources for the latest COVID variant, Omicron. We also provide tips for celebrating New Year's and look ahead to next year.*



## **New Natural Disaster Risk Tool**

A [new tool](#) has been released by NOAA with collaboration from FEMA and academic institutions that maps natural disaster hazards on a [county-level](#) across the U.S. This tool enhances the state-level data previously available on NOAA's Billion-Dollar Disasters website and expands on FEMA's National Risk Index by providing information on a county's susceptibility to hazards and disasters. Watch a tutorial video on the mapping tool [here](#).

## **FEMA's 2021 National Preparedness Report**

FEMA published its December 2021 [National Preparedness Report](#) a few weeks ago to evaluate the U.S.'s readiness from an all-hazards perspective. The report highlights ongoing risks, evaluates capabilities, and provides suggestions for management opportunities, with examples and interim lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic included.

## **Continued Impacts of Climate Change in 2021**

2021 marked an unprecedented year of climate disasters, and scientists continue to study both causes and impacts. [Research](#) from UCLA and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory has suggested that climate change is the main culprit for the increases in wildfire weather across the West. Meanwhile, other areas being analyzed include the [East-West precipitation](#) divide, the [2021 Atlantic hurricane season](#), and current winter weather behavior.

## **Lessons Learned from the Record-Breaking Tornadoes Continue**

Recovery from the devastating tornadoes that impacted the South and the Midwest continues, and [I-DIEM](#) will soon be documenting it with an equity report, stories on the scene, and a multi-media gallery. In the meantime, as fallout continues, calls for [disaster reform](#) are coming

from the emergency management community; disparities in funding, a lack of local agency capacity, and other issues illuminated during the tornadoes are being scrutinized.

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## SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT: RECORD BREAKING COVID-19 CASES

*Every week, we'll dedicate space for a hot topic that we think is especially important for emergency managers to read. Since all the buzz in public health (or any) news continues to be COVID-19, we would be remiss to ignore it. So, in this issue, we'll hone in on resources and tips for responding to the Omicron variant.*

- The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), a health research center at the University of Washington, continues to provide COVID-19 projections bi-weekly. Check out IHME's latest projections [here](#), along with a [message](#) from its Director and Lead Modeler with what has changed with the Omicron variant.
- With news and research about COVID-19 changing constantly, it can be difficult to keep up. Subscribe to these newsletters to stay up to date on the latest and have it delivered straight to your inbox: [IHME's Weekly Executive COVID-19 Briefings](#); [Johns Hopkins University's COVID-19 Situation Reports](#); [the CDC's Newsletter](#); and the [WHO's Newsletters](#).
- As the year comes to an end, health security experts are reflecting on how they have managed the pandemic in 2021. There are lessons learned to carry into 2022 that relate to [communications and engagement](#) and [tracking and forecasting](#).

### Preparing Yourself and Your Organization for the Omicron Variant

*Keeping up with the latest news on Omicron can be overwhelming, especially with CDC policies and hospitalization statistics changing so rapidly. Here are three suggestions for arming yourself with the latest information and preparing for the new year.*

**Suggestion #1: Catch up on the latest symptoms and information.** Although we know less about the new variant, experts are continuing to research and release new details. Familiarize yourself with what is known about the [latest symptoms](#) and with the [latest information](#) that is available, including tools and testing.

**Suggestion #2: Reconsider New Year's Eve plans.** With Omicron raging, traditional New Year's Eve celebrations may be in jeopardy for a second year in a row. If you do have plans to attend an event, check the [status](#) before finalizing your plans to make sure it hasn't been cancelled. And if you are going to be in a crowd or a public event, consider changing the type of [mask](#) you're using to lower your risk of infection.

**Suggestion #3: Take advantage of wellness resources.** New Year's resolutions are a tradition at the beginning of the year. With the COVID pandemic entering a third year, consider focusing on personal health for your resolutions, including "[pandemic-proofing](#)" your body and a focus on [total wellness](#).

CONSTANT staff are experienced in pandemic preparedness planning, training, and exercises. [Email](#) us to learn more!



### Is it 2020 or 2021?

With the pandemic approaching a third year, the past two years can feel like a blur (or a nightmare), depending on your perspective. With everything that has happened, take [this quiz](#) to test your knowledge about when things actually happened.

### New Year's Eve Plans

If you typically go out on New Year's Eve but are changing things up this year, here are some great [virtual party ideas](#), including ways to [celebrate with kids](#) of all ages. And it wouldn't be New Year's Eve without the traditional, or [non-traditional](#), ball drop.

### Winter Solstice

This month, we celebrated the [winter solstice](#) – the traditional first day of winter that happened on December 21. Here's some [fast facts](#), or if you want to learn more about the technical details behind the solstice, check out this [site](#).



The CONSTANT Team wishes you and your loved ones a 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](mailto:donna@constantassociates.com). We are here to help.

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