



Resilience Report

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

With 2021 bringing 20 billion dollar disasters amidst the ongoing events of the pandemic, Emergency Managers and Public Health Officials across the U.S. have continued to juggle competing priorities in responding to what is in front of them while also planning for the unknown. In this week's Resilience Report, we outline the latest trends in Emergency Management and provide thoughts from leaders on the long-term implications of COVID-19. With Tonga's volcanic eruption bringing tsunami advisories to the West Coast, we also take a look at what an earthquake in the Cascadia Subduction Zone could trigger.



Emergency Management Workforce Woes

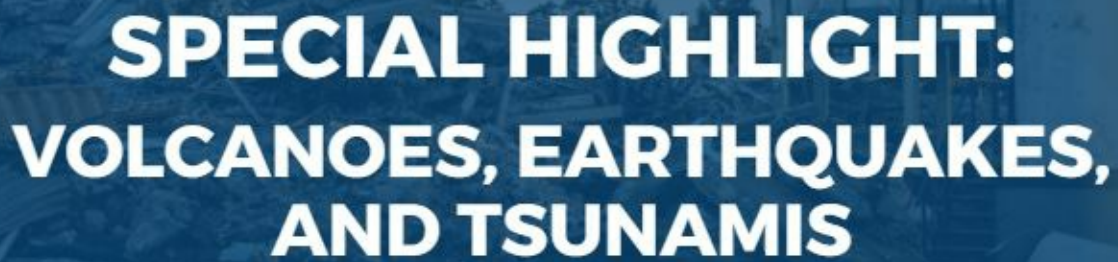
The recent spike in disasters is causing a [mass exodus of FEMA staff](#), despite the agency's five-year boost in its workforce. A [report on emergency management trends](#) predicts that technology use will increase as skilled workers become increasingly scarce. The uniquely complex nature of modern crises is [augmenting the status of emergency management agencies](#), with multiple jurisdictions elevating departments in government operations.

COVID-19's Long-Term Implications

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky has called for an [overhaul of the U.S. public health system](#), focusing on improving state and local response. The HHS echoed that need by distributing an [additional \\$2 billion in provider relief funds](#) to support local healthcare efforts. Meanwhile, a new study showed that while [lockdowns in early 2020 saved lives](#), the full impact of the strategy needs further investigation.

Cybersecurity Threats Increasing in 2022

[Cybersecurity projections](#) indicate that ransomware, malware, and [state-level hacks](#) will result in bigger budgets, biometric authentication, and more scrutiny for data access for government and businesses. CISA's updated [cybersecurity incident playbook](#) also means that organizations now have [standardized guidelines](#) on how to protect their data.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT: VOLCANOES, EARTHQUAKES, AND TSUNAMIS

Every issue, we'll dedicate space for a topic that we think is especially important for emergency managers to read. Seismic and volcanic activity has been in the news this week, with several disasters around the world and anniversaries of notable catastrophes. We look at those events, examine how local emergency managers are preparing, and offer suggestions for dealing with such an event in our own country.

- Just days after the anniversary of a 2010 earthquake that killed over 300,000 people, two [back-to-back quakes](#) rocked Haiti on Monday, killing two people and injuring dozens of others. The earthquakes increased tensions among residents in southwest Haiti, which is still reeling from an earthquake that killed over 2,000 people last summer.
- Earlier this month, an underwater volcano erupted near the Pacific Island nation of Tonga and generated a tsunami, a unique event as [tsunamis are commonly caused by earthquakes](#). Scientists knew it was powerful at the time but just released a [preliminary estimate](#) that shows its intensity. Initial studies show that the volcano, which generated tsunami waves up to 49 feet high, was hundreds of times more powerful than the Hiroshima atomic bomb. A [magnitude 6.2 earthquake](#) was also just recorded off the coast of Tonga yesterday.
- Tonga is over 5,000 miles away from the coast of the U.S. but with recent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions throughout the world, a natural question is how vulnerable the U.S. could be and how [quickly](#) tsunami waves would reach us should an earthquake strike, for example, in the Cascadia Subduction Zone (it's less than you might think). The WA Department of Natural Resources recently released [new maps](#) that show the potential impact on the state's coast in the aftermath of a major quake.

Implications for the Pacific Northwest

The Pacific Northwest of the U.S. is home to the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ), an area highly susceptible to seismic activity. Even if you're not located near that region, there are things you can do to prepare yourself and your community for a catastrophic natural disaster.

- **Suggestion 1: Promoting Individual Preparedness.** One of the biggest life-saving measures for natural disasters like earthquakes has been early-warning systems that give residents valuable seconds to react to an incoming earthquake, but these systems also require individuals to know what to do when they [receive the alerts](#). If you are in an area prone to earthquakes, continue to consider investing in outreach and awareness campaigns and/or public exercises that simulate an earthquake and "neighbor helping neighbor" support until help arrives.
- **Suggestion 2: Strengthening Local Preparedness.** As noted in our EM Pulse section, FEMA is facing an unprecedented loss of staff that may impact its ability to respond to disasters. On a local front, planning and preparing are critical in the event of a catastrophe. While [International ShakeOut Day](#) is always October 20 each year, you can hold your own earthquake drill whenever you'd like. Check out how local officials in [OR](#) and [UT](#) are preparing for potential disasters both internally and with partners.

- **Suggestion 3: Cascadia Subduction Zone Preparedness.** The CSZ is a 600-mile fault that runs from northern California to British Columbia, about 100 miles off the Pacific coast shoreline. The last earthquake was 9.0 magnitude quake 322 years ago, as noted above, and experts believe that another devastating seismic event is likely within the next 50 years. This year's National Level Exercise focuses on the CSZ and includes activities throughout the year. To keep up to date on the latest, check out [this](#) site for information and resources.



Looking Forward to the Winter Olympics

The Winter Olympics kick off on February 4 with the [opening ceremony](#) and continue through February 20 (schedule [here](#)). Not sure who to watch? CBS has outlined some of the [top American athletes](#) in the Games and the Guardian has listed some of the [top International athletes](#) to watch as the events get underway.

Let It Snow

Yet another winter storm is expected to hit the Northeast this weekend, but meteorologists note that the current trajectory of winter weather has so far '[turned the weather map upside down](#).' With the winter weather season being unusual thus far, take a look at this article that outlines the [weirdest places it has snowed](#), featuring LA.

Celebrating Black History Month

Tuesday will mark the start of [Black History Month](#), and this year's theme is Black Health and Wellness. Learn more about this year's theme and access resources through the [Association for the Study of African American Life and History](#). The Association is also hosting a [Black History Month Virtual Festival](#) with programming specific to the 2022 theme throughout the month. Wherever you may be located, be sure to check out local events in your area as well.



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