



# Resilience Report

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

*The COVID-19 trajectory appears to be shifting, and with that may come mixed messaging and public confusion. This week's Resilience Report outlines the latest on the virus, including recently announced policies, and also provides some crisis and emergency risk communications tips as conditions continue to be navigated. In this issue, we will also look at recent news on cybersecurity, terrorism, and wildfires, and look forward to Mardi Gras.*



## Cybersecurity Threats Loom

With the Ukraine conflict intensifying this week, concerns about cybersecurity threats are increasing. Six European Union countries are sending a [team of experts](#) to Ukraine to help deal with threats. Three federal agencies released a [joint cybersecurity advisory](#) this week describing Russian involvement in attacks that targeted sensitive U.S. defense and technology information. Meanwhile, the [impact of cyberattacks](#) are felt long after an incident.

## The Latest on Terrorism

COVID may have slowed economies and activity, but one area that wasn't affected was terrorist activity. A [new report](#) shows that terrorist attacks increased 13 percent worldwide between 2019 and 2020. Meanwhile, the [2022 Munich Security Report](#) reveals that continuing crises throughout the world are resulting in a global sense of helplessness.

## Wildfires Continue to Make the News

An ominous trend is the potential for increasingly severe [nighttime fires](#) ("flammable nights") due to climate change, as firefighters are seeing fewer cool, moist nights that provided relief. Even though communities have adopted emergency alert systems, [gaps](#) continue to plague areas prone to wildfires. To address long-term issues, CA officials unveiled a [Safer from Wildfires](#) plan aimed at improving fire safety and reducing losses.

## Emergency Management Roundup

Planning is an essential component of successful execution, and emergency management is

no exception. Here are [seven deadly sins](#) to avoid in emergency management planning. To help augment your planning, FEMA is accepting requests for [exercise support](#) for its spring round (deadline to submit is April 1). Unfortunately, local governments often [aren't prepared](#) to handle the impact of a major crisis or disaster. The good news is that communities do [recover](#), even from devastating incidents.

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*Every issue, we'll dedicate space for a topic that we think is especially important for emergency managers and public health professionals to read. With daily COVID-19 case counts declining from its nation-wide peak in mid-January, several states have announced that they are rolling back restrictions and/or transitioning to a new phase of virus policies. Here, we take a look at the latest policies, research, and guidance.*

- California announced its next phase of COVID-19 response, its [SMARTER Plan](#), last week. SMARTER stands for shots, masks, awareness, readiness, testing, education, and Rx, and is intended to be utilized both during ongoing COVID-19 response and in future emergencies. The SMARTER plan contains preparedness metrics designed to support citizens and communities.
- Other states that have communicated an intent to transition their treatment of COVID-19 to look more like how they treat other respiratory viruses include [Vermont](#), [Utah](#), and [West Virginia](#).
- The FDA has said that a [fourth vaccine dose](#) might be recommended for the broader population later this fall, but the decision is pending. A recent [CDC](#) study suggests that the vaccine's effectiveness against COVID-19-associated hospitalizations was higher after the third dose than the second dose, but waned over time.
- The CDC has also been under fire this week for not publicizing [portions](#) of its COVID-19 data. While CDC officials noted that some of the data was not “ready for primetime” and could be misinterpreted, others feel this is not an acceptable reason.

### **What's Next?**

*With COVID-19 data and guidance continually developing, and experts being unsure of what and when a 'return to normal' will look like, it can be difficult to know what is next. So how can you, as an emergency manager or public health professional, continue to communicate and learn during this time of uncertainty?*

- **Remind constituents that COVID-19 is not static.** Data and research is constantly emerging about COVID-19, and there has been drastic variability in new daily rates of infection. It is [okay](#), explains the Director of Harvard's Applied Risk Communication for the 21st Century Program, to admit that something is currently unknown or is still unclear, and why this might be.
- **Hear from others about their lessons learned at the community level.** Many jurisdictions have likely had the opportunity to codify their strengths and weaknesses in

COVID-19 public communications and engagement through an After Action Report. And while self-reflection is a critical tool to driving improvement, hearing the perspective of others may provide additional food for thought. This [Communications Perspectives](#) article captures some insights on pandemic communications shared during a convening of thirty public health and communications practitioners.

- **Update your Crisis and Emergency Risk Communications (CERC) plan.** While the CDC's [CERC](#) manual's six principles are to "be first, be right, be credible, express empathy, promote action, and show respect," issues may have emerged that prevented your jurisdiction from optimally fulfilling these principles. For example, COVID-19 could have exposed a long chain of command that delayed timely action. Updating your CERC plan with clearly defined roles and procedures can help to mitigate this during ongoing response or response to the next crisis.



### **Laissez Les Bon Temps Roulez**

[Krewes](#) are back in action for Mardi Gras 2022. While NOLA has been celebrating since [Twelfth Night](#), most U.S. cities will celebrate this weekend. Get in the spirit with these [LA-area events](#) and [NOLA-approved king cakes](#). Most bakeries are sold out already, so [Paula Deen's tutorial](#) will help you make your own.

### **Nevertheless, She Persisted**

[Women's History Month](#) also starts on Tuesday. Celebrate inclusively with this [reading list](#), an [intersectional guide](#), and a [video on intersectionality in pizza](#). Check out these [virtual educational events](#), [16 virtual ideas to celebrate, serve, and educate](#), and a list of [women-owned businesses to support in LA](#).

### **Non Mardi Gras Celebrations**

[Maha Shivaratri](#), [Ash Wednesday](#), [Isra and Mi'raj](#) also happen early next week for observers. And don't forget about National Peanut Butter Lover's Day with these [decadent](#) and [less decadent](#) recipes.



**The CONSTANT Team is here to support you.**

If you need help with disaster preparedness, 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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