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Resilience Report

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

As the impacts of disasters continue to become more frequent and widespread, government alone cannot meet the challenges posed by each incident. So, this week we highlight resources, best practices, and success stories relevant to the Whole Community Approach to emergency management. We'll also highlight the latest on COVID-19 and cybersecurity while getting silly with some April Fools' Day prank ideas.



COVID-19 Funding Updates and Impacts

- After \$15.6 billion in COVID-19 relief funding was [cut](#) from an omnibus spending measure earlier this month, Congress is considering its options for a [separate bill](#) before the House Appropriations Committee. As the world enters the third year of the pandemic, the CDC could lose [access](#) to public health data that was available under the public health emergency declaration. And [analyses](#) and [lessons learned](#) from the COVID response continue to be released.

Dealing with Ongoing Cybersecurity Threats

- The U.S. government is warning of an increased risk of [Russian cyberattacks](#) but an [attack](#) by anonymous hackers earlier this week may surprise you. The DHS is leveraging [innovative technology](#) to protect sensitive information and [this story](#) about how a town survived a ransomware attack may help with your own cybersecurity planning.

Protecting the Homeland

- As the nation experienced another spate of violence [last weekend](#), researchers continue to seek ways to combat extremist groups, including looking for connections in [unexpected areas](#). The Office of the Director of National Intelligence released its [Annual Threat Assessment](#) of the U.S Intelligence Community and the Departments of Justice and State teamed up on a [program](#) to support women in counterterrorism leadership roles.

Disaster Roundup

- We're nearing the end of [Tsunami Preparedness Week](#) and officials note that the Tonga eruption has added a layer of complexity to coastal risks. Legislation has been introduced to make permanent [FEMA's National Risk Index](#). A recent study examines the far-reaching costs of disasters on [mortality risks](#). And officials link Hurricane Michael and the recent wildfires in the [Florida Panhandle](#).



Every issue, we'll dedicate space for a topic that we think is especially important for emergency management and public health professionals to read. This week, we highlight the importance of including the Whole Community in disaster planning, response, and recovery. This approach is a way to engage residents, emergency management professionals, organizational and community leaders, and government officials to collectively understand and assess their needs and determine the strategies that best fit their community, including vulnerable populations.

- On the federal level, FEMA's [2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#) commits to developing a Whole Community comprehensive emergency management workforce and establishing a shared understanding of equity and environmental justice. A report entitled [Building Alliances for Equitable Resilience](#) summarizes insights and reflections that were shared at a four-part series, Alliances for Equity, in 2020.
- State and local jurisdictions throughout the U.S. continue to make strides in strengthening Whole Community planning and the [CDC foundation](#) highlights six promising examples for you to review.
- Looking for best practices? A [Manifesto for Achieving Whole Community Inclusive Emergency Management Solutions](#) provides strategies for optimizing resources for achieving inclusive planning *with* your community rather than *for them*. And FEMA described this approach in a [2011 report](#).

Strategies and Resources for Strengthening Your Emergency Planning to Support a Whole Community Approach

The following are recommendations for engaging stakeholders at different levels in your Whole Community planning.

- **Tap Into Non-Traditional Stakeholders:** Consider [entities](#) that aren't typically part of an immediate incident response and find opportunities to reach out. This can include the transportation sector, [utility companies](#), and local businesses and chambers of commerce. And don't forget about engaging [youth leaders](#) and even [children](#) in disaster planning.

- **Identify Vulnerable Communities:** A Whole Community approach includes [defining, locating, and reaching at-risk populations](#). It is especially important to engage [at-risk groups](#) whose ability to cope in a disaster may be impacted by factors that include socioeconomic status, age, gender, race and ethnicity, English language proficiency, and medical issues or disabilities.
- **Use Drills, Activities, and Planning Initiatives to Engage Individuals:** Extend preparedness to all levels of your community by soliciting public feedback on draft plans, engaging individuals in [drills](#) or by using [creative activities](#), including discussion questions and conversation starters. And, as community engagement does not end merely in preparedness and response, make efforts to engage the public in [recovery planning](#) as well.
- **Leverage Available Resources:** Cal OES's [Access and Functional Needs \(AFN\) Library](#) provides AFN-specific best practices, guidance documents, and videos. The Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs recently created an American Sign Language ([ASL](#)) [glossary](#) of emergency management terminology. And check out this guidebook on [Strategies for Inclusive Planning in Emergency Response](#).



March Madness Fun

March Madness is in full swing. With games continuing yesterday and today to get to the Sweet 16, [here's](#) what the bracket is expected to look like. And just for fun, ESPN ranked the [all-time starting fives](#) for the Sweet 16 teams.

An Opportunity to Give Back

[National Volunteer Month](#) kicks off next Friday as an opportunity to recognize volunteers and the contributions they make by donating their time and talents. Interested in volunteering? Here's some [areas](#) to consider. And find [opportunities](#) in a city near you.

Get Your April Fool's Day Prank Ready

Do you know what else next Friday is? No kidding, it's April Fool's Day! In all seriousness, [here's](#) the history behind the day. But back to the hijinks, here's some ideas for [pranks](#) to spark your creativity (veggies in a donut box – seriously??).

WE'RE MOVING! Effective April 1, 2022, our new headquarters address is: 21250 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 400, Torrance, CA 90503. Please update your records accordingly.

If you need help with disaster preparedness, 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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