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Resilience Report

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

This week, we report on the latest in health security, wildfire events across the U.S., and the newly released National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin. With June marking the celebration of Pride Month, we also focus on resources available to emergency managers and public health professionals to ensure inclusivity of LGBTQI+ considerations in preparedness and response efforts. And we take a look at upcoming celebrations and recognitions, including Father's Day and Juneteenth.



Wildfires Across the West

- This week has been challenging on the wildfire front across the West. As of writing, officials are considering closing the Coconino National Forest in Arizona as the [Pipeline Fire](#) grows. In California, there are currently [several active fires of interest](#).
- On June 9, FEMA's U.S. Fire Administration released a report on the "[Wildland Urban Interface: A Look at Issues and Resolutions](#)" describing how collaborative efforts at the national, state, regional, and local levels can reduce wildfire risk.

Threats of Violence Continue

- On June 7, DHS issued a new [National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin](#) to replace one that was due to expire. The Bulletin describes that DHS expects the current heightened threat environment to remain and potentially increase in upcoming months.
- Meanwhile, the [FBI](#) is assisting local law enforcement in Idaho in investigating a thwarted potential domestic terror attack at a Pride event.

The Latest on Health Security

- As COVID-19 response and recovery continues, officials are studying [COVID-19 disparities](#) between communities of race or ethnicity, and the [FDA](#) recommends the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for children six months and older.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) will convene an [Emergency Committee](#) to determine whether the current spread of monkeypox constitutes a public health emergency. Monkeypox will also be [renamed soon](#) to combat concerns of racism and stigma.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT:

PRIDE MONTH IN THE CONTEXT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH

*Every issue, we'll dedicate space for a topic that we think is especially important for emergency management professionals to read. In honor of Pride Month, this week we're looking at LGBTQI+ considerations in the emergency management and public health spheres. *Note: Unless specifically noted in sources, we adopt LGBTQI+ as a reflection of the 2020 National Academy of Sciences report.*

- As of February 2022, [7.1% of Americans surveyed identified as LGBT+](#). This is an increase from a self-identification of 5.6% in 2021. Yet, as many as 1 in 8 LGBTQI+ Americans [report discrimination](#) by their health insurance companies, and a majority are unsure of their coverage for treatments like gender-affirming medications or procedures.
- In New York State, where over 8% of adults identify as LGBTQ+, the Department of Health (NYSDOH) released a [Health Disparities Report](#) that noted increased risks for adverse health outcomes from socio-economic and institutional inequity. NYSDOH programming is shifting to address these concerns, aided by [\\$7 million](#) in funding from the state's budget.
- [Research](#) in Australia and New Zealand revealed challenges during disasters for sexual and gender-diverse individuals, who are often “lumped” together into one category despite very different lived experiences. A [2021 article on uncertainty and lack of respect for LGBTQI+ individuals during disasters](#) describes scenarios ranging from limited access to support services, forced ‘re-closeting’ in shelters, verbal and/or physical abuse, and rejection of chosen families.
- The expansive [2020 National Academy of Sciences report](#) on the well-being of LGBTQI+ populations emphasizes the need for comprehensive, routine data collection on sexual and gender diversity to support policy and research advancement, analysis of population trends and community needs, and equitable funding. [This summary](#) explores best practices for data collection.
- [Racist and homophobic reporting on the monkeypox outbreak](#) prompted a [Scientific American article](#) on how stigmatizing language in public health messaging impacts

both LGBTQI+ individuals and overall public health. The article urges readers to consider the lessons learned during the AIDS crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic when they deliver public health messages.

Recommendations to Ensure Your Programs Are Inclusive for LGBTQI+ Individuals

Everyone deserves to be treated humanely in public health and emergency situations, but often LGBTQI+ individuals and sexual and gender minorities (SGM) face discrimination. The good news is that there are a lot of resources available to support your equity practices.

- **Recommendation 1: Integrate cultural competency into your programs.** The Human Rights Campaign has a short [guide for emergency responders and volunteers on cultural competence](#) when working with LGBTQI+ people during disasters. The [Center for Public Health Practice](#) also has numerous links to free courses on cultural competency training for public health and emergency management professionals.
- **Recommendation 2: Take steps to ensure your emergency plans include considerations for LGBTQI+ people.** The [National LGBTQIA+ Health Education Center](#) has guidance for health centers to ensure equity in health center emergency preparedness plans. [This flyer from Louisiana Trans Advocates](#) includes suggestions for helping transgender people feel safe in the aftermath of disasters, especially in emergency shelters.
- **Recommendation 3: Include LGBTQI+ individuals in planning and response efforts to support equity practices and decrease stigma:** Develop relationships with local LGBTQI+ community groups to recruit disaster volunteers or feedback on emergency or public health messaging for harmful language.



Father's Day - Gifts, Grilling, and Dad Jokes

- Father's Day is this Sunday and there's still time to order a [gift](#) for dad. If you're considering spending time with dad on Sunday, we've got you covered with some great [activities](#) and [recipes](#) that he'll love. Finally, a great way to commemorate the dad in your life is of course with a [funny card](#) (dad joke anyone?).

Recognizing Juneteenth

- Although President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, slaves in Texas didn't learn they were free for another two and a half years, on June 19, 1865. [Juneteenth](#), the newest federal holiday, commemorates that day. Read more about the [history](#) of the day and how to [observe](#) the event.

Summer Solstice

- Next Tuesday is the [Summer Solstice](#) – the longest day of the year in the Northern hemisphere and the astronomical start of summer. If you're traveling, here are some [top spots](#) to consider for a Solstice trip, which is celebrated in [various ways](#) throughout the world. Staying local? Here's how the [LA area](#) is celebrating, or host your own [Solstice party!](#)



We're Here to Support You

If you need help with disaster preparedness, COVID-19 AARs, or anything in between, send us an email at donna@constantassociates.com. We are here to help.

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