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Resilience Report

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

In this week's Resilience Report, we prepare for back to school with resources for safety, security, and shopping. In advance of upcoming newsletter issues on monkeypox, we provide the latest public health updates. And, we continue to recognize the growing challenges of extreme heat, including wildfires burning across the world.



Public Health Updates - COVID-19 and Monkeypox Remain in the News

- The public health community is still on alert over COVID-19 concerns. Some jurisdictions are reconsidering [mask policies](#). Next week, the White House is hosting a summit of scientists, public health officials, and pharmaceutical executives to discuss the next generation of [COVID-19 vaccines](#).
- Even though public health officials are leveraging [lessons learned](#) from the COVID-19 response in addressing monkeypox, some officials say we still have a [lot to learn](#). And concerns are growing that the [window of time](#) to contain monkeypox is short, while limited information is [hindering response efforts](#).
- In response to public health concerns, DHS established a new [Office of Health Security](#) that will unify several health-related functions under one umbrella.

It's Hot Out There

- As temperatures across the U.S. [stay high](#), local jurisdictions are implementing a new role – [chief heat officer](#) – to manage the public health concerns of rising heat. The federal government launched a [new website](#) to provide tools for communities dealing with oppressive temperatures, while New York released [details](#) about how it's handling the heat.
- A [fierce wildfire](#) near Yosemite National Park expanded this week, with smoke visible from the International Space Station. Alaska is also experiencing a [large](#)

[number](#) of wildfires, while elsewhere in California, the Forest Service is taking [unprecedented steps](#) to protect the sequoias from wildfires.

- In Texas, the combination of strong winds and wildfires caused an out of control “[smokenado](#)”. And we’re not alone in experiencing high temperatures or wildfires, as [Europe](#) also deals with fires across the continent.

CWMD and Active Shooter Updates

- The GAO has highlighted [concerns](#) with the radioactive materials marketplace. While these materials are commonly used in health care, they can also be used to make dirty bombs. GAO found that fraudulent licenses have been used to make purchases. Congress has introduced legislation to reauthorize the [DHS Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office](#), which was set to expire.
- Churches throughout the country are [increasing security](#) in various ways in the wake of active shooter incidents. Meanwhile, questions remain after a [shooting](#) at Dallas Love Field earlier this week.
- Despite public health concerns and natural disasters, there is one piece of good news – global supply chains remain [resilient](#).



Every issue, we'll dedicate space for a topic that we think is especially important for emergency management professionals to read. With children, teachers, and administrators returning to school, we focus on school security and emergency preparedness. As schools face evolving threats, balancing safety, learning, school operations, and community needs requires tact. Below, we provide the latest definitions, data, and resources to support this effort.

- Educators and researchers vary on what they define as a ‘safe school.’ The [National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments](#) says safe schools protect students from violence, weapons and threats, theft, bullying and harassment, illegal substances, and other emergencies. The [California School Boards Association](#), uses a definition that includes other elements such as emotional safety, self-worth and belonging, and developmental well-being.
- Data published July 12 on public school safety provides the results of the [School Survey on Crime and Safety](#) from the 2019-2020 school year. Findings on violent and nonviolent incidents, threat assessments, hazard-specific written plans and procedures, etc. summarize experiences and preparedness.
- [SchoolSafety.gov](#) was created in February 2020 through a joint effort from DHS, ED, DOJ, and HHS to create a federal clearinghouse for school safety resources.

Yesterday it launched a [Communications Center](#) to share the latest one-pagers, infographics, and webinars. The webpage also features a [Safety Readiness tool](#) to provide common actions that schools should take to create safe environments.

Resources to support school safety programs

Towns, cities, and counties across the country continue to try to find solutions for how to best keep students and educators safe. And while all school shootings are equally tragic, the recently released [Investigative Committee Report](#) on the Uvalde, Texas elementary school shooting, the deadliest U.S. school shooting since 2012, has called these efforts to the forefront. Understanding that legislative requirements vary by state, we provide recommendations and resources for decision-makers.

- **Use of a systems approach.** A [systems approach](#) “requires conceptualizing school physical security as a component of the broader school safety system” and recognizing that school physical security extends beyond equipment, technology, and building design, but also includes people and personnel, policies and procedures, and training and exercise requirements.
- **Thinking beyond physical security.** [CISA's K-12 School Security Guide](#) also uses the systems approach to recommend how security measures can integrate elements beyond physical security. This includes focusing on preventing the number of threats and increasing the probability of detecting threats through attention to bullying and cyberbullying, mental health, a school's climate, and threat assessment and reporting. CISA also has a [School Security Assessment Tool](#) to help with school safety and planning processes.
- **Tailor safety to your community.** School safety requires partnership among schools, families, and communities, including health and public safety agencies. An effective approach will [foster this collaboration](#) through coordinating relevant resources and services and [participating in advanced planning and joint training](#).



Beat the Heat

- We're right in the middle of the [Dog Days of Summer](#). Keep kids (and kids at heart) happy in the heat with [10 non-pool ways to cool off](#) and [re-usable water balloons](#) to battle the [best super soakers](#) of the year.

Football and Futbol

- Most NFL veterans arrived for training camps this week, and we have [live updates](#), [predictions and previews](#), and the [most underrated stories](#) of preseason. And don't forget to tune in for the [UEFA Women's Euros Final](#) on Sunday morning for some of the best footie this summer.

Back-to-School Shopping

- Channel your inner Leslie Knope with the [best school supplies](#). Take advantage of upcoming [tax holidays](#) to stock up on essentials. You can also [donate to local teachers and schools](#), support a [school supply campaign](#), or [help students in other ways](#).



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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