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# Resilience Report

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

*This week, we continue to cite flooding incidents that are occurring across the U.S., provide a public health roundup, and highlight recent efforts to strengthen equity in emergency management. With monkeypox continuing to make headlines, we also take a deeper look at how to leverage COVID-19 lessons learned at the local level. And we take a look ahead at Labor Day and join the celebration of National Dog Day!*



## Floods Conditions Continue Across the U.S.

- Exceptional drought and exceptional rainfall this week in [North Texas](#) resulted in [1,000-year flooding](#) that required [high-water rescues](#) of people stranded in vehicles or homes. [Governor Abbott issued disaster declarations](#) for 23 impacted counties. The storm also prompted [evacuations and rescues in Jackson](#).
- In the West, [parts of I-10 Freeway in Riverside County washed away](#) yesterday morning, and rescuers found the body of a [Zion National Park hiker](#) after disappearing in a flash flood last week. Climate change is also increasing the risk of a [California megaflood](#), emphasizing the need for climate change considerations in emergency plans.
- This year has also seen an increase in [multiform floods](#), when different types of floods from heavy rainfall to storm surge, ice melt, tidal flooding, or overflowing rivers occur close together. Each flood subtype requires different mitigation and resilience strategies, which complicates preparedness efforts.

## Public Health Roundup

- [Dr. Fauci announced on Monday](#) that he is stepping down from his federal positions. His departure has prompted [mixed reactions](#) from partisan commentators, but many cite his departure as the [end of an era](#).

- Last week, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky announced an [agency overhaul](#) to support better, faster responses to public health emergencies. The changes aim to [correct shortcomings during the pandemic response](#) and promote a “public health action-oriented culture” that facilitates better data sharing and more transparent public communication.
- [Bivalent COVID-19 boosters shots](#) that target both the original strain of SARS-COV-2 and newer omicron subvariants are weeks away from FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). [Eligible people](#) could access the new boosters in September or October.

### Equity in Emergency Management

- Last week FEMA released its [first 2022-2026 FEMA National Tribal Strategy](#). It was developed in coordination with outreach to tribal nations to align FEMA capabilities to tribal government needs. It outlines several initiatives to promote collaboration and information sharing between FEMA and tribal nations.
- The Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management ([I-DIEM](#)) held its week-long [HERricane program](#) in Los Angeles last week. Girls and women from diverse backgrounds participated in activities designed to promote disaster preparedness skills and introduce them to emergency management.
- FEMA’s Office of Disability Integration and Coordination has a [new director](#) as of last week. This is a critical step in ensuring that individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs, who are disproportionately impacted by disasters, are adequately integrated into emergency planning on the federal level.



*Reminiscent of the early COVID-19 response, monkeypox testing, vaccination, and treatment efforts was initially delayed, with government at all levels scrambling. With case counts growing exponentially, a [Public Health Emergency](#) was declared on August 4th, and [Biden named](#) a Response Coordinator from FEMA and a Deputy Response Coordinator from CDC. Developments since include: acceleration of the [vaccination effort](#) through additional availability of the Jynneos vaccine; an FDA [EUA](#) to increase the number of doses available for use five-fold (which is under scrutiny); and a [worldwide drop](#) in new monkeypox cases by 21% in the last week. As responders are called to action, here are some challenges at the local level:*

- Individuals working in [public health](#), [physicians](#), [nurses](#), [nurse aides](#), etc. are bringing the burden of lingering burnout from COVID-19 to the monkeypox response. Those who remain in their professions now face the challenges of dual responses and growing mistrust in public health and healthcare.

- Some jurisdictions see the vaccination EUA [positively](#) in terms of its ability to vaccinate additional constituents more quickly, while others [scramble](#) to reorganize vaccination efforts and provide additional training to staff.
- As monkeypox becomes increasingly widespread, we are learning how the key differences between the viruses will impact response efforts. For example, though monkeypox is less contagious than COVID-19, those with monkeypox should isolate until a fresh layer of skin has formed over lesions and scabs. The illness typically lasts [2-4 weeks](#), which poses concerns with sheltering and isolation, financial assistance, mental health, etc.

## Lessons Learned from COVID-19 for Monkeypox Response

How can your organization leverage lessons learned from COVID-19 to facilitate an effective response to monkeypox? Here are four recommendations for local health officials from CONSTANT's Public Health experts:

- **[Recommendation #1:](#)** Clarify lead and support agencies and confirm interagency roles, responsibilities, and communications. This could include identifying and engaging Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), and other community partners.
  - **[Recommendation #2:](#)** For local response, utilize a Policy Group. A common theme emerging in many CONSTANT-developed COVID-19 After Action Reports is gaps in operational coordination between lead and support agencies. Activating a Policy Group for high-level executives across departments and agencies can facilitate regular meetings to discuss overlapping and/or conflicting priorities, ensure that collaborative and uniform messaging is used, etc. Ensure that the policy advisors also include individuals disproportionately impacted by the virus.
  - **[Recommendation #3:](#)** Prioritize coordination with health providers. This includes distributing vaccines to providers who have a proven ability to reach populations being disproportionately impacted by monkeypox to reduce barriers to access. This also encompasses ensuring that health providers are familiar with how to access monkeypox testing and that they have the information necessary to communicate with their patients about availability and eligibility.
  - **[Recommendation #4:](#)** Use this emergency to continue to learn from and engage partners. This could include leveraging and maintaining partnerships with CBOs/FBOs or with influencers and public icons in the community. Who is best positioned to get the message to disproportionately impacted communities? Who is best positioned to dispel rumors and reduce stigma? Engage them in media campaigns, meetings, etc. Keep them updated on the changing situation and guidance through regular calls, emails, newsletters, websites, etc.
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### Labor Day

- With [Labor Day](#) right around the corner, we have all of the deals for [furniture](#), [electronics](#), and [outdoor gear](#). We have a lineup of [Los Angeles Labor Day weekend events](#), so you can send off summer in style.

### The World of Sports

- Football is back, folks. The NFL's last week of preseason games this weekend means that it's time to [prep your fantasy roster](#). Plus, [Week 0 of NCAA football](#) kicks off next weekend with a Big Ten game in Ireland. In non-football news, the [Djoker is out of the U.S. Open](#), but all eyes are on [Serena Williams](#) as she completes her farewell tour.

### National Dog Day

- Today is [National Dog Day](#)! [Chewy.com](#) has deals galore from Native Pet, Blue Buffalo, and other hot brands, and [Krispy Kreme](#) has doggie donuts throughout the weekend. Feel free to tag us in photos of your pup so we can gush over the boopable snouts.



### 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](mailto:donna@constantassociates.com). We are here to help.

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