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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 world, provide the latest news on monkeypox and COVID-19, and take a look at recent fire activity and the incoming Tropical Storm Kay. As September is National Preparedness Month, we also advise how to tailor the month of recognition to your locality. And, we take a look ahead at football games and National Hispanic Heritage month.



California Wildfires and Tropical Storm Kay

- Several fires across Northern California are [threatening critical infrastructure](#). The [Mill Fire](#), which killed two people last week, is now 75 percent contained, while the [Mosquito Fire](#) has quadrupled and spawned a [pyrocumulus cloud](#). The [Mountain Fire](#) is only 45 percent contained, but has only destroyed four structures so far. [Cal Fire's Incident Tracker](#) has the latest information.
- After igniting on Monday, the [Fairview Fire](#) in Riverside County has forced evacuations and killed two people after burning over 18,500 acres. As of Thursday, the fire is [5 percent contained](#). The Fairview Fire's rapid spread is emphasizing the [increasing importance of early warning](#) and situational awareness for residents in areas most at risk.
- [Extreme heat worsened the wildfires this week](#), and the approaching [Tropical Storm Kay \(as of Friday morning\) may help or hinder containment efforts](#). The rare storm system is prompting [flood watches in Southern California](#), while the majority of heavy effects are expected for [Baja California](#).

Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccines and Monkeypox Updates

- Following the [FDA EUAs](#) and [CDC endorsement](#) for both Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent COVID-19 vaccines last week, updated boosters are available to the public. Locate the nearest to you at [vaccines.gov](#) and [other](#)

[sites](#). People are eligible starting two months after their last vaccine shot and should wait about three months after an infection before getting a booster.

- Last week, the [White House Monkeypox Response Team announced expanded support](#) to large LGBTQI+ events and equity interventions to help vaccinate individuals in communities with severe outbreaks. The announcement came as a Houston-area person with [monkeypox died last Tuesday](#), marking the first documented death of a person with monkeypox in the U.S.
- As weekly monkeypox case counts trend down, [experts urge continued vigilance](#) in containment and response efforts. Members of LGBTQI+ communities report that [complicated vaccination procedures, continued lack of awareness](#), and [racial disparity in vaccine distribution](#) are barriers to robust and equitable protection and prevention.

Worldwide Flooding Disasters

- [Over a third of Pakistan](#) is suffering from the country's worst ever floods. Since mid-June, over 1,100 people have died and 33 million people are homeless. The floods have caused billions of dollars of damage, including to UNESCO World Heritage site, [Mohenjo Daro](#). A potential [food crisis](#) in Afghanistan and [growing numbers of refugees](#) complicate response and recovery amid [ongoing rains](#).
- Pakistan and other south Asian countries [contribute little to greenhouse gas emission](#), but they tend to suffer worse effects from climate change. Pakistan Federal Minister Sherry Rehman noted that this [disparity](#) highlights the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable communities. The issue of [compensation for climate-related damages](#) remains immensely complicated.
- The latest floods in the U.S. in Kentucky, North Texas, and Jackson, Mississippi emphasize the need to [multi-faceted approaches to mitigation](#). Over 150,000 [Jackson residents are without clean water](#) due to flood damage to the [main water treatment facility](#) and poor maintenance, highlighting the [tenuous stability of water infrastructure](#) across the country.



[National Preparedness Month](#) is observed annually in September to remind people of the importance of preparing for disasters that could strike at any time. In 2021, National Preparedness Month's theme was 'Prepare to Protect' and FEMA's Ready Campaign and the Ad Council created a campaign targeting the Latino community in conjunction with Hispanic Heritage Month. This year, 'A Lasting Legacy' is the highlighted theme, and the Ad Council's campaign includes a call to action for the Black and African American community. You can access available resources to recognize National Preparedness Month below:

- [Ready.gov](#) features graphics, animated GIFs, videos, hashtags, and social media posts that are centered around the 'A Lasting Legacy' theme. The materials urge people to protect their legacy, including their families and property, from disaster by making a plan, building a kit, signing up for emergency alerts, and more.
- The private sector has joined the commitment to disaster preparedness efforts, and [Anheuser-Busch](#) is running a '[Prepare for Your Pets](#)' campaign in tandem with National Preparedness Month. The campaign urges individuals to take pictures with their pets and have a physical copy filed with their other important documents to increase the chances of reunification should a pet become displaced.
- In addition to highlighting steps that an individual or family unit can take to strengthen disaster preparedness, the [American Red Cross](#) provides actions that people can take to strengthen community preparedness, including joining a Disaster Action Team and learning lifesaving skills like first aid and CPR.

Tailoring National Preparedness Month Activities to Your Community

FEMA conducts a [National Household Survey](#) annually to measure progress in personal disaster preparedness that allows the agency to make assumptions about preparedness actions, attitudes, and motivations nationwide. The latest iteration of survey results available is from [2021](#). One finding that deserves recognition was that most respondents had awareness of how to prepare for a disaster but fewer respondents were confident that they could prepare for a disaster and/or that their preparation would be helpful. How can jurisdictions not only encourage their constituents to prepare for disasters but also reinforce that their preparation will be meaningful should disaster strike?

- **[Recommendation #1: Reinforce Case Studies.](#)** Many individuals may not understand the potential impact of a disaster on themselves or the ability of responders to help them. Reinforcing case studies where individual preparedness measures have made a difference can serve as a means to individuals bridging the connection between how their preparedness actions can influence their experience during a disaster. For example, individuals are encouraged to have an [emergency supply kit in their car](#). Motorists who didn't have this kit learned the hard way during an incident last January in Virginia where people were stranded overnight along Interstate 95 during a snow storm and ran out of [food, water, and fuel](#). An [Office of the State Inspector General audit](#) found that there was no primary effort to assist stranded motorists with these provisions, as the priority was clearing the roads to keep traffic flowing, so those in need of help had to act independently.
- **[Recommendation #2: Align Preparedness Actions to Relevant Hazards.](#)** One way to strengthen recognition of National Preparedness Month is to tailor outreach efforts to the hazards facing your specific community. The [Red Cross](#) distinguishes between different types of emergencies and provides steps for how individuals can prepare before each emergency type, what they should do during an emergency, and what recovery looks like after it. Though National Preparedness Month is about spreading the message of general preparedness, a one-size-fits-all approach by the local government will not be as meaningful to your constituents.
- **[Recommendation #3: Emphasize the Community Element of Preparedness.](#)** [Communities tend to come together](#) immediately following a disaster to rally donations, search and rescue, rebuilding efforts, blood drives, etc. However, this same energy can be used to emphasize community preparedness. The [City of Los](#)

[Angeles Ready Your LA Neighborhood](#) (RYLAN) is an example of resources and programs that can be developed for your constituents to organize themselves.



Let's Get Ready to Rumble

- Yesterday was the official start of football season, with the defending Super Bowl LVI champions LA Rams hosting the Buffalo Bills! [Here's](#) some unofficial season predictions. And we've got you covered with everything you need to take your tailgate to the next level, including [recipes](#), more [recipes](#), and party [ideas](#).

National Hispanic Heritage Month

- [National Hispanic Heritage Month](#) runs from September 15 to October 15. Started in [1968](#) as Hispanic Heritage Week, the activities and events planned commemorate the contributions of Hispanic Americans. For our readers in Los Angeles, check out local events [here](#).

21st Anniversary Commemoration

- This Sunday marks the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The 9/11 Museum and Memorial holds an [annual event](#) to honor the victims, including a [Tribute in Light](#). 21 years later, the attack is still [deeply engrained](#) in the lives of Americans.



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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