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Resilience Report

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

This week, we look at National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, the future of public health, and the latest across the emergency management field. Given the devastating impacts of Hurricane Ian, we examine lessons for preparedness, response, and recovery. And, we celebrate Fat Bear Week and Global Diversity Awareness Month.



National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

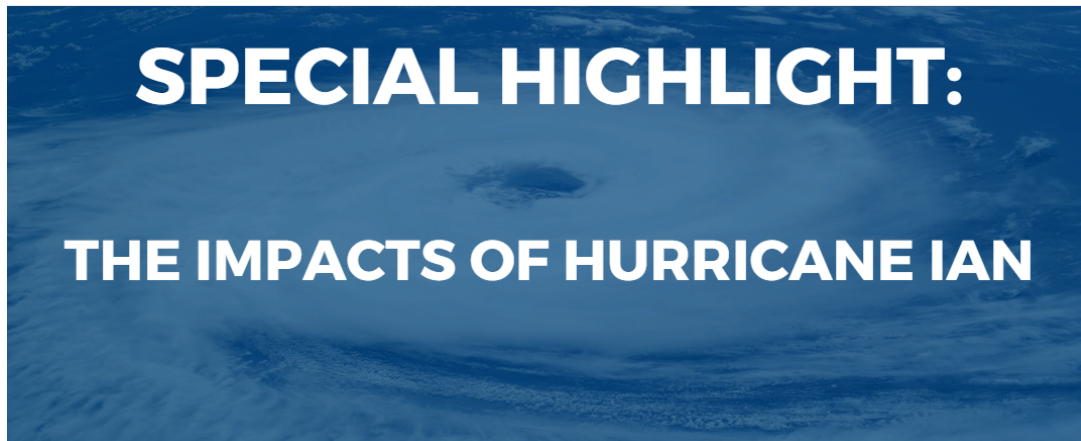
- October marks National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and this year's theme is "[See Yourself in Cyber](#)." Those looking to become a Cybersecurity Awareness Month partner can email cyberawareness@cisa.dhs.gov to receive logos and graphics, toolkit materials, presentations, and campaign tips.
- With federal agencies across the country looking to secure commercial cloud services, a recent GAO [report](#) provides 4 key areas where they are currently facing challenges – 1. Ensuring Cybersecurity, 2. Procuring Cloud Services, 3. Maintaining a Skilled Workforce, and 4. Tracking Costs and Savings - and recommendations to help with this transition.

The Future of Public Health

- HHS [announced](#) last week that it is investing \$225.5M in community health workers alongside another \$40.7M in public health scholarships. The goal of these investments is to build public health workforce across the country.
- However, as federal, state, and local government seek to strengthen their ability to prepare for and respond to infectious diseases, some officials [believe that more money](#) won't solve all the problems, such as the division of responsibilities and resources between levels of government and communication gaps.

Emergency Management Rundown

- As the emergency management field continues to grow, an interview with the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) Superintendent discusses the [value of specialized training](#) and a recent podcast highlights the benefits of hiring [emergency management interns](#).
- As hurricanes, wildfires, and floods continue to occur across the U.S., new tools and strategies have been developed for other hazards that impact the nation like [drought](#) and [landslides](#).



On Wednesday, President Joe Biden and Florida Governor Ron Desantis [surveyed damage from Hurricane Ian](#), which hit the state on September 28, devastating the Southwest region and [killing over 100 people](#). The [cost of the storm](#) is estimated to be in the billions and could be the most expensive hurricane in the U.S.

Last month, we highlighted the resources that are available for emergency managers, communities, and individuals. But the devastation caused by Hurricane Ian raises some very specific questions about emergency planning and response. This week, we look at how to prepare for a disaster of any scale and what the immediate and short-term response looks like.

- With modern weather [forecast technologies](#), it may seem easier than ever to plan and prepare for impending disasters like a hurricane, as evidenced by the steps taken at both the [federal](#) and [state](#) levels. In addition, the topographic [characteristics](#) of U.S. states, especially those located in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic regions, make it easier to develop long-term plans for dealing with potential catastrophes like hurricanes.
- The immediate aftermath of a large storm is always [complicated](#) and chaotic. In addition to issues like evacuations and rescues, officials still struggle with underlying challenges around [vulnerable populations](#) and getting resources to [those who need help](#).
- In dealing with disasters like hurricanes, officials at all levels must also take into account the larger potential impacts of [climate change](#), as well as the challenges of forecasting [unpredictable weather events](#). Using [historical events](#) for predictive modeling and planning purposes is helpful but can still be [limiting](#).

Considerations for Hurricane Planning and Response

The preparation leading up to a catastrophic storm and its immediate aftermath can be chaotic and difficult, as communities and individuals deal with serious issues, including

rescues, recoveries, and basic survival. Here are some suggestions on how to prepare for a disaster like Hurricane Ian and how to respond immediately after the event.

- **Heed official preparedness alerts.** In a large-scale disaster like Hurricane Ian, federal, state, and local agencies are generally all involved at different levels of preparedness. Leverage resources at all levels and for their intended purpose. For example, federal agencies such as FEMA can provide important [overall preparedness and planning guidance](#), while state and local agencies offer more tailored and [region-specific support](#).
- **Plan for the Worst-Case Scenario.** Despite up-to-the minute weather forecasts, Hurricane Ian proved unpredictable as it gathered strength in the Atlantic. This made evacuation orders difficult to implement and enforce. [Plan in advance](#) and know the [resources available](#) in your area as well as [options you can take](#).
- **Looking ahead after a disaster.** Immediately after disaster, resources are typically focused on response and recovery. Despite this, it is easy to let distractions hamper recovery efforts. Avoid getting caught up in [unnecessary or ancillary complications](#), both at the individual and community levels. And unfortunately, while there are many stories of heroism after a disaster, there are often as many examples of [fraud or deceit](#). Pay attention to [warnings](#) and consider [doing some research](#) before making a donation and remember often, cash to [reputable organizations](#) is best.



Fall Foliage and Chonky Bears

- Depending on where you are in the U.S., leaves may already be changing. Check peak foliage areas [here](#). It's also the long awaited [Fat Bear Week](#), where you can [vote for your](#) favorite chonkster through Tuesday.

Global Diversity Awareness Month

- October is Global Diversity Awareness Month. It is an opportunity to learn about the different cultures around you, and we have [programming guides](#) and [tips](#) to celebrate in ways that are authentic to the diversity in your organization.

Real-Life Armageddon

- NASA's [Double Asteroid Redirection Test \(DART\)](#) made history last week when a spacecraft slammed into an asteroid to test a method of defending Earth against incoming objects. Google has a fun feature when you search for the mission, but our favorite is the photo showing a [6,000-mile long debris trail](#).



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.

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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