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# Resilience Report

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

*This week's Resilience Report takes a look at the special event planning implications from the tragedy in Itaewon. We also examine the ongoing impacts of hurricanes both recent (Ian) and past (Sandy), the ongoing efforts by the federal government to strengthen the U.S.'s pandemic preparedness, and the happenings of FEMA. Finally, we highlight the World Series, Veterans Day, and Daylight Savings.*



## Strengthened Pandemic Preparedness

- Federal officials continue to implement COVID-19 lessons learned to strengthen the U.S.'s pandemic preparedness posture. The [National Biodefense Strategy](#) released a few weeks ago seeks to coordinate how the U.S. will manage its activities to more effectively assess, prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from biological threats.
- The Strategy was released just days prior to a GAO report that argues that [the National Center for Medical Intelligence \(NCMI\)](#) lacks clear roles and responsibilities for distributing medical intelligence.

## Hurricanes Past and Recent

- Federal support for [Ian](#) has surpassed \$1.88B as of Thursday, but here is an inside look at how funding has trickled down to [some Floridians](#) thus far.
- Hurricane Sandy's [10-year anniversary](#) occurred last week, yet critics note that aspects of [repairs and recovery](#) still remain. An interview with Adam Sobel, author of *Storm Surge: Hurricane Sandy, Our Changing Climate, and Extreme Weather of the Past and Future*, talks in more detail about [Sandy's implications](#).

## FEMA's Recent Activities

- FEMA recently published two new or updated guides, a [National Continuous Improvement Guidance](#) and an [EOC How-To Quick Reference Guide](#).
- November is [National Native American Heritage Month](#) and FEMA is celebrating a “year of firsts” that includes the appointment of a National Tribal Affairs Advocate and the release of a [National Tribal Strategy](#).

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## SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT: SPECIAL EVENTS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

*In the aftermath of the crowd crush event last weekend in Seoul, South Korea, authorities on Tuesday apologized for “[inadequate response to multiple emergency calls warning of the severe situation](#).” This week, we’re examining how emergency managers can prepare for events where large crowds are likely to prevent scenarios like crowd crushes leading to loss of life. We begin the highlight by clarifying some definitions and taking a closer look at the tragedy in Itaewon.*

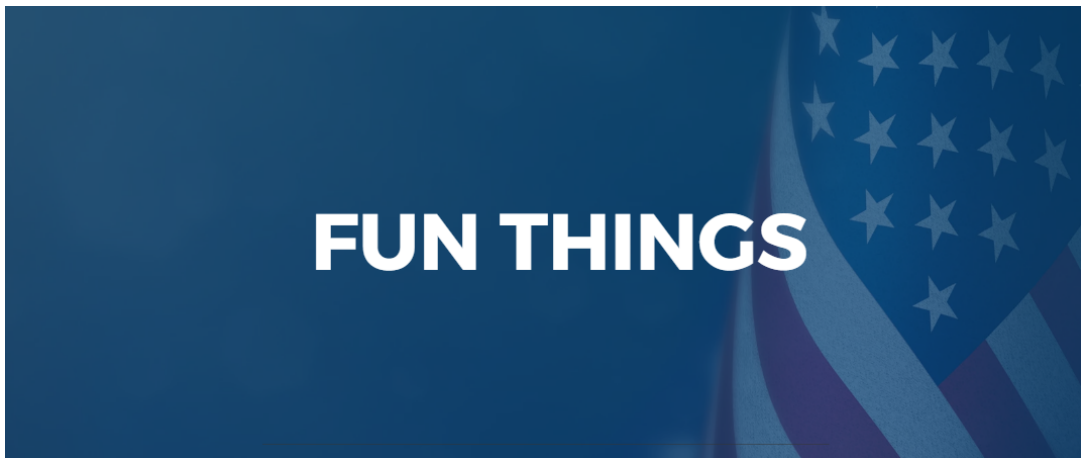
- [Special events](#) are defined as “a non-routine activity within a community that brings together a large number of people” where the community’s ability to respond to a large-scale disaster is potentially sacrificed and/or the event/activities involved are expected to cause exceptional demand for response services. A mass gathering is typically a subset of a special event, should the event attract a large crowd.
- A crowd may exhibit different ‘crowd types’ such as ambulatory (ex: exiting a venue), cohesive/spectator (ex: watching a sporting event), participatory (ex: running a marathon), demonstrator (ex: participating in a sit-in), violent (ex: a mob), and more at a special event. [Sociology theorists](#) generally describe four or five crowd types. Depending on the event type, officials might expect attendees to exhibit behaviors of a specific crowd type, but must be prepared for anything.
- The safety of an event is also influenced by several other factors, including crowd composition, [crowd catalysts](#), and [critical crowd density](#).
- In [Itaewon](#), critical crowd density played a pivotal role in the outcomes of the tragic incident, and a crowd safety expert argues that ‘stampede’ does not correctly characterize the cycle of events, as the term unfairly blames the crowd rather than authorities who planned and were managing the event.

### Special Events and Emergency Management Planning

*Special events occur all the time, like this weekend’s [New York City Marathon](#), and officials in charge of planning them need to develop *Special Event Emergency Plans* or *Public Safety Plans*. Emergency managers have resources available to support*

planning, and we include them below with recommendations for implementation. While special event planning is nuanced, the recommendations provide key considerations.

- **Recommendation #1: Involve the Special Event Promoter or Sponsor in Planning Efforts:** Generating buy-in and participation from the special event sponsor or promoter will help ensure that public safety rules and regulations are taken seriously from the top down. Some communities have additional oversight on special event planners through permitting processes or having requirements for contingency plans in order to book a venue.
- **Recommendation #2: Participate in DHS' Special Events Program (SEP) to be assigned a Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR) and receive federal support as needed.** Each year, a voluntary data call for SEAR events is issued by DHS' Office of Operations Coordination (OPS). Submitted events are evaluated on a scale of 1-5 as aligned to the ratings on this [fact sheet](#), specifically based on terrorist attack scenarios. While not all events warrant a SEAR level, submission prioritizes events submitted for awareness and consideration of federal support.
- **Recommendation #3: Establish a multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdiction (as applicable) Planning Committee to inform your event planning.** The foundation of successful special event planning is having all of the major players at the table to participate in and approve the planning framework, build relationships, and solidify roles and responsibilities. The [Bay Area UASI's Large Special Events Planning Guide and CONOPS](#) goes into further detail as an example of how to initiate and conduct planning for special events.



### The Fall Classic

- The [World Series](#) is in full swing and is still anyone's race, although time is running out. Game 5 was last night, and although the Astros and Phillies had been tied at two games each, [the Houston Astro's](#) win puts the team one game away from winning it all. History was made in game 4, where the Astros combined to [pitch a no-hitter](#), only the second in world series history. As America's [favorite baseball pontificator](#) would say, "it ain't over till it's over."

### Remembering our Nation's Veterans

- Next Friday, November 11, is [Veterans Day](#), where we honor the military service of the men and women who have defended our country. This year's theme is honor, as depicted in the [poster](#) that was selected in the Veterans Association annual contest to commemorate the day. Did you know that Constant Associates

participates in the [DOD SkillBridge program](#)? We are very proud of our many team members who have served in the military and are grateful for their service.

## Daylights Savings and Election Day

- Two other big days are coming up this week. [Daylight savings time](#) ends at 2:00 am this Sunday, but the [debate](#) over whether it should remain in place continues, at least for another year. And Americans will be heading to the polls on Tuesday for this year's general elections. Politics aside, here's some [interesting facts](#) about the day (we like George Washington's tactics!).



## 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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