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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 last week's winter weather and implications that it could have for future planning. We also highlight year-end reviews from FEMA, NSA, and John Hopkins, federal funding updates, and the latest across emergency management and health security. Finally, we count down to 2023 and look ahead to upcoming sporting events.



Year-End Reviews

- FEMA released its [2022 National Preparedness Report](#) last week. The 2022 report examines incidents from 2021 to identify risks, capabilities, and opportunities for all levels of government to inform programs, allocation of resources, and actions to improve resiliency.
- The NSA's [2022 Cybersecurity Year in Review](#) published last week provides proof points for the agency's abilities to scale cybersecurity solutions. [Themes for the report](#) emphasize the strength and growth of NSA partnerships, its device security and security infrastructure solutions, and its cybersecurity education initiatives.
- A [review of the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic](#) from Johns Hopkins reflected on the groundbreaking vaccine technology that provided jabs for children and the bivalent booster, making 2022 less deadly than the previous two years. The early wave of Omicron infections, continued misinformation, increased mental health risks, and the current tripledemic topped the negatives.

Federal Funding Updates

- The Biden-Harris Administration and FEMA announced the [Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund \(RLF\)](#) grant program last week. The RLF program provides \$500 million over five years, with \$50 million available in the

first year. The opportunity is available on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), and additional details are on [FEMA's RLF page](#).

- [Last week's GAO analysis](#) of CDBG-DR grants found that funds are slow to impact affected communities, partly due to long application and preconstruction phases. To help inform improvements in expediting grant dispersal, [GAO recommended](#) that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) gather and review data on timeliness of housing activities.
- Another [GAO report on COVID-19 relief funds](#) emphasized the need to expedite emergency funding to tribal recipients, who suffered disproportionate impacts from the pandemic. The report recommended to Congress that tribal recipients could receive funds quicker through existing emergency funding mechanisms.

Emergency Management and Health Security Roundup

- [Cal OES](#) is leading response and recovery efforts for last week's 6.4 magnitude earthquake near Ferndale in Humboldt County, CA, which has left two dead and 12 injured. [Emergency sheltering and supply distribution](#) to those affected are still available.
- With many emergency alerts relying on cell towers to deliver warnings, areas with inadequate or overloaded infrastructure often leave [residents without critical early warnings](#), according to a new report. Investing in infrastructure in rural and underserved communities and leveraging systems like FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) can help.
- Nine months into the [NIH's long Covid research project](#), clinical trials for treatments are expected to start in the first half of 2023. Patient groups have criticized the slow pacing of the RECOVER initiative, which incorporates more patient engagement than NIH typically includes.



A large winter storm impacted more than half of the United States during the holiday season, leading to subzero temperatures, widespread power outages, forceful winds, and major precipitation. While stories of cancelled airline travel continue to make the news, let's take a closer look into the latest in extreme winter weather, and climate change's potential impacts.

- [Buffalo, New York](#) was heavily impacted by last week's winter weather event, and the death toll has tragically topped 60. The storm is one of the deadliest in Buffalo's history and is the result of a [bomb cyclone](#), a storm that undergoes rapid strengthening. Accounts from Buffalo residents describe how [social media](#)

became a lifeline during the snowstorm, connecting individuals and neighbors through a Facebook group previously created during a 2014 snowstorm.

- In [Japan](#), heavy snow also killed 17 individuals and injured 90+ this past week. Though Japan's climate is predominantly temperate, the country has seen increasingly adverse weather over recent years.
- With officials calling this past week's storm a 'once in a generation storm,' meteorologists and researchers continue to probe the relationship between [climate change and extreme winter weather](#). While the link between climate change and other forms of extreme weather (i.e., heat waves, drought, etc.) are more clear, it is possible that the rapid warming of the Arctic is responsible for increased polar vortices and bomb cyclones, but research continues.
- Curious about the outlook for ongoing winter weather? Check out [NOAA's U.S. Winter Outlook](#). The Outlook predicted drier-than-average conditions in the South and wetter-than-average conditions in the Ohio Valley, Great Lakes, northern Rockies, and Northwest from late 2022 to early 2023.

Extreme Winter Weather Events

Preparedness for, response to, and recovery from extreme winter weather stretches the responsibility of many entities, including individuals, businesses, Emergency Management Departments, Public Works Departments, Transportation Departments, Police Departments, Fire Departments, Health Departments, Human Services Departments, and many more. As the U.S. continues to recover from last week's events and looks ahead to the threat of continued extreme winter weather, here are some recommendations from various perspectives.

- **Recommendation #1: Spread the message of individual preparedness to your constituents.** Events each year underscore the importance of individual preparedness for winter storms. From more recent events such as Texas's Winter Storm Uri to Virginia's I-95 meltdown and past events such as the Post-Christmas Storm of 2010, each event reinforces steps that individuals should take to prepare if they are able to do so. Here is the [CDC's Winter Storm resource page](#), which addresses communications, housing and vehicle preparations, animal care, etc.
- **Recommendation #2: Incorporate Whole Community considerations to your jurisdiction's response.** Not every individual or family can robustly prepare for an extreme winter weather event, and even so, it may not be enough depending on a number of variables. As such, it is critical that jurisdictions have a comprehensive plan for responding to winter storms, that should cover Whole Community considerations such as shelter and warming centers, robust public messaging, the impact of utility outages on vulnerable populations, mobility impacts, etc. Here's some examples from [Seattle](#) and [the State of Georgia](#).
- **Recommendation #3: Given the roles and responsibilities of various entities in responding to extreme winter storm events, ensure plans are designed to coordinate an effective response across multiple agencies and jurisdictions.** Conducting a TTX to kickoff and/or vet planning efforts can help your jurisdiction assess agencies' abilities to conduct all-hazards emergency response and recovery, better coordinate response operations, sustain continuity of operations, and share winter storm related preparation, response, and recovery solutions.



New Year's Six

- Hot semifinals and four high-profile bowl games make up the [New Year's Six this weekend](#). We have [semifinal predictions](#) (with condolences to [TCU fans scrambling for flights](#)), and a review of the [best new year's bowl games](#) in history.

Auld Lang Syne, Etc.

- On NYE this Saturday, celebrate with some [recipes to boost your luck](#), catch one of the [numerous TV specials](#), or try out one of these [family-friendly games](#). If you're into resolutions, NPR has an [inspirational guide](#) or [#ResolveToBeReady](#) with FEMA.

Science Rules

- 2022 was a big year for science. Check out a [compilation of favorites from Science](#), the [Smithsonian's 10 most significant stories](#), [five record-breaking science news items](#), and [eight times science exceeded expectations](#).



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