



January 13, 2023 | Issue 63

# Resilience Report

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

*This week's Resilience Report takes a deeper dive into FEMA's 2022 National Preparedness Report and features recommendations from a former FEMA employee who is now a Senior Associate with CONSTANT. We also highlight the latest in pandemic-related news, the storms continuing to batter California, and trends in counterterrorism and cybersecurity. Finally, we honor the upcoming MLK Day.*



## Pandemic Updates and News

- COVID-19 revealed many shortcomings in national and international systems, including how to pay for a global response. In September 2022, the World Bank launched a [Pandemic Fund](#) to improve preparedness and response financing. This isn't the first time the World Bank has attempted to address funding, but this latest fund focuses more on prevention and preparedness, areas that critics believed fell short in the past.
- As the U.S. response to COVID turns into managing an ongoing endemic, federal health agencies, including HHS, FDA, CMS, and NIH are still facing [ongoing challenges and priorities](#), including finding a new Director for the NIH, a position that has been vacant for nearly a year.
- Following months of internal review and analysis, the CDC is planning on rolling out [operational and culture changes](#) within the agency, including more transparency and accountability, faster data sharing, and increased collaboration with partners. The ambitious project, called "CDC Moving Forward" also includes staffing changes and eliminating layers of management.

## Storms Continue to Batter California


- A [frenzy of storms](#) continue to batter California and meteorologists warn that the danger is far from over. The heavy rainfall is blamed for at least 18 deaths and

has causing widespread flooding, landslides, and extensive tree and property damage. As of Wednesday, another atmospheric river is predicted to bring [even more rain to the area](#).

- In what may be a familiar concern for emergency managers, California officials are also dealing with residents who [refuse to evacuate](#), even after very strong recommendations to do so. Officials are not forcing individuals to leave, but are ensuring rescue plans are in place.
- On New Year's Eve, San Francisco experienced its second wettest day on record – 5.54 inches within a 24-hour period – but the city has [blamed the National Weather Service for incorrect forecasts](#). The agency disputes this, saying that it accurately predicted the emergency.

### Counterterrorism and Cybersecurity Trends

- DHS released its [year in review](#), highlighting the range of threats and challenges the agency faced – from ransomware, cyberattacks, the war in Ukraine, and natural disasters – and the progress it has made as it continues to prepare for, respond, and recover from incidents.
- 2022 saw a diverse and wide-ranging series of threats that reflects the complexity of the terror landscape and what FBI Director Christopher Wray called the “[ideological hodgepodge](#)”. Seven [terrorism trends to watch in 2023](#) include the diverse nature of threats facing the country.
- A new report highlights [trends in ransomware attacks](#) on U.S. hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare organizations from 2016 – 2021. Over the five-year period, the number of annual attacks more than doubled, exposing the personal information of an estimated 42M patients.



## SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT: FEMA'S 2022 NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS REPORT

*At the end of 2022, FEMA published its annual [National Preparedness Report](#) (NPR). The 2022 NPR builds on previous NPRs and summarizes progress made toward building and sustaining disaster preparedness capabilities. To develop the NPR, FEMA utilized a research approach that included engaging with federal offices, analyzing THIRA/SPR submissions from SLTT governments, and conducting open-source research. Below are a few of the main findings within the report:*

- **What are the threats?** In their 2021 THIRA/SPR submissions, the largest number of SLTT communities identified a cyber-attack as the threat both most likely to occur and most stressing for community capabilities. This shows a lack of confidence in cyber-attack response capabilities and reinforces that the

country-wide lack of investment in adequate infrastructure and security is worrisome for many communities.

- **What about climate change?** The NPR reinforces the critical role that both federal and SLTT governments play in building resilience to climate change impacts. As governments pursue strategies to do so, the report provides more detail on grant and information resources available to advance resilience through targeted investments.
- **What progress has been made related to equity?** As disasters continue to occur more frequently, the differing impacts on various communities and individuals are reinforced. The NPR highlights data-driven analysis and collaborative dialogue and cooperation that has occurred across all levels to improve access to federal disaster recovery assistance and promote tools and resources that address equity in preparedness. However, the NPR stresses that FEMA and SLTT governments need to continue to work together to ensure all communities are aware of and can access resources and are able to leverage the support they need before, during, and after disasters.

### **A Deeper Dive into the NPR for Local Government**

*CONSTANT Senior Associate Kim Hayward Buys' tenured career includes service at FEMA and with Cook County, Illinois (home of Chicago). She provides a unique perspective of federal and local emergency management operations, and how local agencies can integrate recommendations from FEMA into their preparedness efforts. Kim provides the following tips to emergency managers who are reviewing the NPR and taking action based on its implications:*

- **Recommendation #1: Identify opportunities to factor climate risk into planning efforts.** As emergency managers, it can sometimes be difficult to plan for future risks when more immediate issues compete for limited time and resources. Emergency management is also a highly specialized field, and it's easy to operate in a silo absent proactive outreach and collaboration. Many jurisdictions have hazard mitigation plans, but do they adequately account for the future impacts of climate change? Take advantage of free online tools like Argonne National Laboratory's [Climate Risk and Resilience Portal](#) to better understand the impacts of future climate conditions in your jurisdiction. Reach out to others in your community working in environmental science, urban planning, or sustainability to identify opportunities to collaboratively reduce the impacts of future hazards.
- **Recommendation #2: Leverage federal resources to fund climate resilience and critical infrastructure projects.** The [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) of November 15, 2021 designated \$47B for climate resilience over five years to diversify resilience and mitigation programs. The Bill also included over \$1B in federal assistance to address cybersecurity and critical infrastructure improvements. In Fiscal Year 2022, FEMA's [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program](#) will make \$2.295B available for communities to invest in hazard mitigation projects. Familiarize yourself with these and other opportunities to invest in reducing long-term systemic hazard risk.
- **Recommendation #3: Intentionally build equity into individual and community preparedness.** Pre-existing social vulnerabilities and inequities will exacerbate the impacts of disasters on certain populations. Emergency managers should leverage existing data tools to understand their community's vulnerabilities and make better informed plans. FEMA's [National Risk Index](#)



allows users to visualize 18 natural hazards alongside social vulnerability and community resilience data down to the census tract level, which provides a holistic view of the relationship between risk and vulnerability. Additionally, emergency managers should proactively engage populations who will be disproportionately impacted during disasters to incorporate their needs into planning efforts. This engagement should include access and functional needs advocacy groups, non-profit organizations representing different cultural or linguistic populations, childcare providers, faith-based organizations, local libraries and others. Visit [ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) to view, download, and order a wide range of free publications designed to help individuals, households, and organizations prepare for disasters.

---



### Honoring MLK

- On Monday, we celebrate the [legacy](#) of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior. MLK Day is also designated as a National Day of Service and Americans are encouraged to use the day to [volunteer](#) to improve their communities. [Read more](#) about MLK Day, including the 15-year battle to establish the federal holiday.

### The Year of the Rabbit

- [Chinese New Year](#), also known as Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, begins this year on Sunday January 22. Marking the transition between zodiac signs, 2023 is the [Year of the Rabbit](#) and is predicted to be a year of hope. Join the festivities by cooking [12 traditional](#) Chinese New Year foods.

### All Things Sports

- This weekend is Super Wild Card Weekend for the NFL and here is [everything](#) you need to know to be in the know. Meanwhile, the NBA season is about halfway done, and with another month until the All-Star Weekend, here is an [early look](#) at events. Finally, with the NHL regular season in full swing, here are some team [performance grades](#) at the midseason mark by ESPN's analysts.



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.

---

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.

*Got this as a forward? You can subscribe to receive future issues of Resilience Report by clicking [here](#).*



Constant Associates, 21250 Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 400, Torrance, CA 90503  
[Manage preferences](#)