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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 train derailment that occurred last week in Ohio and its implications for response to a HazMat incident. We also examine the tragic earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, explore the growing threats of extremism and mass violence, and provide a roundup of emergency management news from FEMA and Cal OES. Finally, we spotlight Black History Month and look forward to Valentine's Day and the Super Bowl.*



## 'Disaster of the Century' Earthquake

- The death toll from the 7.8 and 7.5 magnitude earthquakes that hit Turkey and Syria on Monday is approaching [nearly 20,000](#) (as of writing), marking it as one of the [major natural disasters](#) of this century. Thousands of buildings have collapsed throughout the region and officials are saying that the [devastation was preventable](#) as questions arise about structural integrity.
- Meanwhile, [factors](#) such as the time of day in which the earthquakes occurred and the cold and weather systems impacting the region have complicated response and recovery efforts.
- We can all do our part to contribute to humanitarian assistance. Help the earthquake survivors in Turkey and Syria by [donating to fund relief efforts](#).

## The Growing Threats of Extremism and Mass Violence

- The threat landscape continues to expand and evolve, and [DHS is responding](#) by "reviewing the structure and mission of its intelligence division as the U.S. navigates a period of heightened polarization and radicalization."
- This comes in the wake of a [U.S. Secret Service Report](#) that examines Mass Attacks in Public Spaces from 2016 to 2020. The report analyzes 173 targeted

attacks and pre-attack behaviors of the attackers to provide key implications for policies and protocols as part of behavioral threat assessment programs.

- In the wake of California's tragic mass shootings, there are lessons for [soft targets](#) and for the softest point within them. CISA provides a [resource guide](#) for the security of soft targets and crowded places.

## EM Round Up

- A new [Census Bureau](#) tally estimates that 3M+ adults were forced to evacuate their home this past year as a result of a natural disaster. This number far exceeds previous estimations, including from the [Internal Displacement Monitoring Center](#), an independent source of data and analysis on internal displacement across the world.
- FEMA provided [a video](#) summarizing efforts undertaken thus far at the one-year mark of its [2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#). This includes simplifying the Individual Assistance application process to expand access, developing a [National Tribal Strategy](#), and expanding investment in mitigation projects.
- In our home base of California, Cal OES has [received its third accreditation](#) from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program, joining one of only four states to receive the accreditation since 2021.



*The [train derailment in eastern Ohio](#) last Friday resulted in a massive fire that could have resulted in an explosion and the release of toxic vinyl chloride. Luckily, multi-jurisdictional emergency managers responded to the incident quickly and have averted dire consequences. Below, we discuss the implications of large hazardous material incidents and how you can help your jurisdiction prepare for an event.*

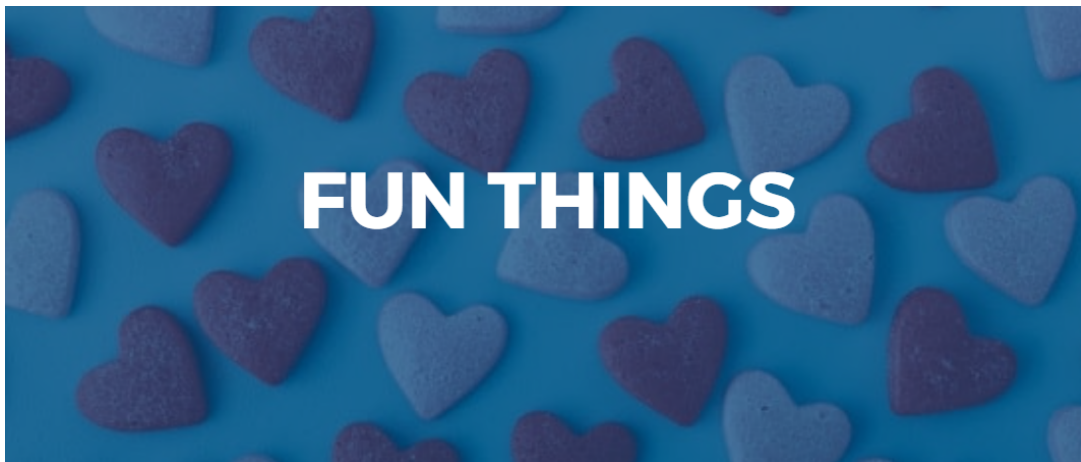
- Five of the Norfolk Southern railroad cars involved in the derailment contained gaseous [vinyl chloride](#), which creates toxic gases and dioxins when burned. These contaminants are dangerous to humans, but [controlled release and burning](#) of vinyl chloride prevented the cars from exploding.
- This controlled release also allowed emergency managers to activate the [Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center \(IMAAC\)](#). The IMAAC is a consortium of seven (7) federal agencies that support response efforts to hazardous materials incidents with [plume modeling](#). These models help responders know what areas should evacuate and when it is safe to return.
- In addition to the IMAAC, the response effort required quick collaboration between Norfolk Southern, the National Transportation Safety Board, the EPA

and local, county, and state agencies to assess the situation, evacuate residents, address the incident, and communicate with the public.

## Preparation for Response to a HazMat Incident

*What can you do to ensure your jurisdiction is prepared to respond to a hazardous material spill? Below, we provide recommendations for improving your agency's resilience to threats from hazardous materials incidents.*

- **Recommendation #1: Keep your CBRNE-related plans up to date; then exercise them.** A successful response to hazardous materials incidents requires coordination between numerous agencies. FEMA has [guidance for SLTT partners](#) on improving resilience to hazardous materials incidents. Incorporating hazardous materials into your Integrated Preparedness Planning and exercising regularly will keep your agency familiar with resilience practices.
- **Recommendation #2: Conduct a gap analysis of your hazardous material equipment and training.** In addition to ensuring your plans are updated, make sure that you know what equipment you have available, where it is, and that responders know how to use it. If you find gaps, reach out to other departments in your jurisdiction, your state agency, or your area UASI to find out about training opportunities or sharing resources.
- **Recommendation #3: Be aware of federal resources.** In addition to [planning guides](#) and the [IMAAC](#), FEMA and DTRA help SLTT agencies gain access to interactive web tools like [CBRNResponder](#) that can help improve resilience through support to planning, exercises, and incident response.



## Honoring Black History Month

- February is Black History Month – an annual [celebration](#) since 1976 recognizing the achievements and the important role of Black Americans in U.S. history. Read more about the origins of the month [here](#). Several federal agencies have compiled [exhibits and resources](#) to honor the contributions of Black Americans.

## Go Chiefs! And Eagles! And Rihanna!

- Super Bowl LVII is this Sunday, and we leave no stone unturned in providing you with everything you need for the game. From the [rankings](#) of the Chiefs and Eagles starters to the over/under on the most [popular appetizers](#) (it's buffalo

wings, in case you were wondering) to the overall [Super Bowl experience](#). And of course we would be remiss if we didn't mention the [commercials](#) or provide some [recipe resources](#). For a special bonus, check out some great food deals and other freebies [here](#).

### That's Amore

- Love is in the air! February 14 is the [annual celebration](#) of St. Valentine and romance of every kind. Flowers and candy are a traditional way to celebrate, but take your Valentine's Day celebration to the next level with the most popular gifts for both [men](#) and [women](#). And if you're on the fence about whether or not to propose to your sweetheart, here's what we think is a [very compelling reason](#) to pop the question at your local Cracker Barrel.



### 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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