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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 devastating earthquakes that struck Turkey and Syria and reinforces how jurisdictions across the U.S. can prepare for a quake. We also provide updates on the chemical train derailment, outlines some news from FEMA, and give a wacky weather update. Finally, we look ahead to the Academy Awards and baseball season and continue to celebrate Black History Month.

Resilience Report Update: *This edition will be the last bi-weekly newsletter for CONSTANT. Beginning next month, we are switching to a monthly format that will focus on highlighting news and trends in emergency management, health security, and emerging threats and how they impact our communities, nation, and world. We'll also bring you our team's expert perspectives on these issues. Thank you for your support and we look forward to continuing to share our insights with you!*



Train Derailment Implications Continue

- The EPA has [taken control](#) of the Ohio train derailment cleanup, ordering Norfolk Southern to be financially responsible for the environmental cleanup. The EPA is providing updates about its emergency response [here](#). Just how dangerous was the Ohio Chemical Train Derailment? Read the perspective of an [Environmental Engineer](#) for more information.

The Latest from FEMA

- FEMA seeks public feedback on drafts of an "[Achieving Equitable Recovery: A Post-Disaster Guide for Local Officials](#)" and nine [Hazard Mitigation resource](#) typing documents by mid-March. Meanwhile, other FEMA-related news includes a new [research report](#) on expanding equity in FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants and a potential [new alert messaging](#) solution.

Wacky Weather and Climate Change

- Earlier this week, 65M+ people across 29 states from California to Maine were under [winter weather alerts](#) while a heat wave provided unseasonably warm temperatures in the South. FEMA is developing [new trainings](#) on Climate Resilience and Equitable Disaster Response that are expected to be available in fall 2023. This comes amidst criticism about the [National Flood Insurance Program](#) and climate change's disproportionate impact on BIPOC and low-income communities.



Earlier this week, six people were killed when [another earthquake](#) hit the border region of Turkey and Syria, following the massive quake that killed nearly 50,000 people and decimated the area two weeks ago. We discuss the implications of these potentially devastating events and how you can help your jurisdiction prepare for a catastrophe.

- Over 900,000 earthquakes occur throughout the world each year, but the recent events in Turkey and Syria may rank as one of the [worst natural disasters in the area's history](#) because of its location along regional fault lines.
- Earthquakes have the potential to bring [tremendous damage](#) in a short period of time. Tremors can cause structural damage while more extensive ground shaking can cause building collapse, landslides, fires, floods, and tsunamis.
- Recovery efforts from major incidents like these can take years and cost [millions of dollars](#). One of the largest earthquakes ever recorded was a magnitude 9.0 quake that struck Japan in 2011. In addition to a death toll of over 18,000, it caused a devastating tsunami and a meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. Twelve years later, the aftermath has had a [lasting impact](#).

Earthquake Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

What do you need to know about earthquakes as both an emergency manager and a community member?

- **[Recommendation #1: Understand and plan for the hazards in your area.](#)** Some areas in the U.S. are prone to earthquakes because of their proximity to fault lines, but being outside of one of these areas does not mean that you are not vulnerable. There are even [areas in the midwestern and eastern U.S.](#) that are in earthquake zones. Having a [hazard mitigation plan](#) that details potential threats and mitigation strategies is crucial for any jurisdiction. Furthermore, areas with higher risk for a catastrophic incident may consider undergoing coordinated disaster planning as exemplified through federal, state, and regional

efforts undertaken by FEMA and the States of [California](#) and [Oregon](#).

- **[Recommendation #2: Know the resources that are available to you and your community.](#)** In addition to [search teams](#) for the initial response, there are a number of [federal agencies](#) who can provide valuable assistance. There is even an annual day dedicated to earthquake preparedness and drills, [the Great ShakeOut](#). Finally, it is also important to understand the [facts \(and fiction\)](#) about earthquakes to ensure your community is prepared.
- **[Recommendation #3: Plan for the immediate and long-term response and recovery.](#)** The immediate aftermath of an earthquake is focused on the [response and rescue](#), but the ongoing recovery from even a small event can often stretch for [months or years](#). Turkey will likely take [years](#) to recover from the recent quakes. Preparing your community for the immediate aftermath as well as the [ongoing weeks and months](#) that follow, is helpful in providing perspective and ensuring the support your residents will need.



And the Oscar Goes To...

- The Academy Awards air on March 12. Whether you're on team awards season or are more [skeptical of the hype](#), we have the [nominees](#) and [predictions](#) to tide you over until the show. In a rare alignment to emergency management, the show will have its first [Crisis Team](#) following the infamous 2022 slap incident.

Play Ball!

- The long wait for baseball's return ends today with [spring training](#) games officially under way. [Cactus League](#) and [Grapefruit League](#) game schedules are up, and we have a breakdown on how the teams are looking [here](#).

Black History Month Continues

- We still have a few days left to celebrate Black History Month. Check out this [op-ed](#) on why this year is especially important to celebrate or browse through [this compilation of incredible stories](#) honoring Black heritage.

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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