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Resilience Report

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

This week, we track Hurricane Fiona, the latest in public health, and grant funding. As September is National Preparedness Month, and the CDC runs a campaign in tandem with FEMA, we also advise how to tailor the month of recognition to #meetpeoplewheretheyare. And, we celebrate Oktoberfest and Rosh Hashanah.



Storms, Flooding, and Impacts of Climate Change

- Hurricane Fiona [struck Puerto Rico](#) earlier this week, leaving many without electricity or running water. The devastation to the island can be seen in stunning [before and after images](#). Meanwhile, FEMA has set up a [site](#) for individuals affected, as [Bermudans](#) prepare for the worst and more systems form in the Atlantic.
- One of the strongest storms to ever hit Alaska, [Typhoon Merbok](#), caused massive structural damage to the western coast of the state. Meanwhile, torrential rains caused [devastating flooding](#) in central Italy, and a [super typhoon](#) caused the evacuation of eight million people in Japan over the weekend.
- The House Ways and Means Committee is [investigating the impact](#) of climate change on the public health sector, including preparedness and mitigation activities. Wildlife officials are worried about the [future of rare species](#), as human activity, including overfishing, takes a toll.

Boosters, COVID-19 Updates, and Monkeypox

- [Pilot projects](#) are underway to ship COVID antivirals to developing countries but challenges are expected, including how to meet the anticipated demand.
- New [COVID boosters](#) are available in the U.S. but authorities are concerned with convincing Americans to get the latest shots. With flu season approaching,

here's [what you need to know](#) about getting your flu shot and updated COVID booster at the same time.

- Scientists are studying [past pandemics](#) to determine whether the monkeypox virus will become more lethal. Meanwhile, a new [Lancet Commission report](#) on the international COVID-19 response finds fault on multiple levels.

Grants, 911 Centers, and Thwarting Attacks from Above

- DHS awarded \$20M in [targeted violence and terrorism prevention grants](#) that are intended to provide resources to local communities, while a [new cybersecurity grant program](#) was just announced.
- A [recent report](#) that studied 911 centers around the country highlights concerns with cyber attacks, outdated technology and the move to next-generation 911 systems, and staffing shortages.
- TSA is working to develop [insider threat mitigation plans](#) (remember [this story](#) about a man who threatened to crash a stolen plane into a Walmart earlier this month?), while the FAA is focusing on building a robust [security framework](#) to guard against unmanned aircraft systems (drones).



Last issue, we talked about [National Preparedness Month](#) resources for your community. This week, we are highlighting how an equity lens affects calls to action in the context of the CDC's National Preparedness Month campaign that complements FEMA's focus on Black and African American communities. CDC's tandem campaign urges emergency managers and public health officials to [#MeetPeopleWhereTheyAre](#) in their preparedness and response capabilities. Many recommendations do not account for the impacts of systemic disparity and inequity. Below, we describe the CDC Digital Media Toolkit's resources, graphics, and social media content:

- [#MeetPeopleWhereTheyAre](#) focuses on empowering people to prepare for disasters while acknowledging that [social determinants of health \(SDOH\)](#) – non-medical factors that influence health outcomes – can affect those efforts. For example, a lower income family may be unable to stockpile three days of food.
- CDC's campaign examines how five SDOH domains impact emergency preparedness and response capabilities: [economic stability](#), [education access and quality](#), [health care access and quality](#), [neighborhood and built environment](#), and [social and community context](#).
- Each domain has unique graphics, examples of social media content, and resources to help emergency managers and public health officials

#meetpeoplewheretheyare. These include Twitter and Facebook posts featuring Whole Community considerations and links to additional information and agencies that support equitable preparedness efforts.

Adding Equity to Your National Preparedness Month Activities

Emergency managers, public health officials, and jurisdiction leaders have a powerful impact on individual emergency preparedness and response efforts. Below, we provide some suggestions on how to incorporate an equity lens when promoting National Preparedness Month in your community.

- **Spread the word about assistance programs.** Many local and federal agencies have resources to help individuals find ways to [evacuate without a car or access to public transportation](#), [pay less for flood insurance](#), use [mini food pantries](#) in emergencies, and other services. Raising awareness about these resources can help promote equitable preparedness efforts.
- **Learn about your community.** Health departments and assistance groups can leverage tools like the [CDC / Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry \(ATSDR\) Social Vulnerability Index](#) to learn about the people in their areas and identify populations that might need additional support during emergencies.
- **Leverage existing organizations and networks.** Organizations that already have infrastructure and relationships in place can help during emergencies. For example, [Meals On Wheels](#) can distribute emergency supplies in addition to food. Likewise, working with local groups, faith leaders, and ethnic media sources can help [build trust and limit the spread of misinformation](#).



It's the Time of the Year for Wiesen

- It is not October yet but [Oktoberfest](#) (Wiesn) began on September 17 in Munich (to a [large crowd](#)) and runs through October 3, marking a return after two years of COVID-19 restrictions. Celebrating in the U.S.? Check out this [map of Oktoberfests](#) across the country. Brush up on your [German phrases](#) and stock your fridge with some [Oktoberfest beers](#) before you zelebrieren. Prost!

Shana Tova!

- [Rosh Hashanah](#) begins this Sunday evening at sunset. The Jewish New Year commemorates the creation of the year and marks the beginning of the Days of Awe, which culminates with Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). Here are some [recipes](#) and everything you need to know to [celebrate](#) it.

Getting into the Thick of Fall Sports

- On the docket this weekend, college football continues to heat up with [conference play](#), week 3 NFL games promise some [great matchups](#), [soccer play](#) continues prior to the World Cup in November, the [NASCAR Cup Series playoffs](#) will be at the Texas Motor Speedway, and more. We look forward to watching from the couch, a tailgate, or a party with some [good snacks](#).



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.

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