



April 16, 2024 | Issue 80

## Resilience Report

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

# Emergency Management Implications from the Key Bridge Collapse



At approximately 1:30am on March 26, 2024, a cargo ship struck the Francis Scott Key Bridge, causing it to collapse and kill six (6) individuals. At time of writing, it was recently announced that the FBI and the U.S. Coast Guard have launched a [criminal investigation](#) into the crash.

The City of Baltimore has published and is maintaining a [dedicated webpage](#) to share information regarding the handling of the Key Bridge Collapse Response. The webpage also links to the site [KeyBridgeResponse2024.com](#), which is being maintained by the Unified Command to provide information to the public. The Unified Command includes the [U.S. Coast Guard](#), [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#), the Maryland Department of the Environment, Transportation Authority, and State Police, and Witt O'Brien's representing Synergy Marine. Response and recovery actions taken include bridge wreckage clearing, salvage operations, dive operations, establishment of a debris reporting hotline and Joint Information Center, operation of SBA Business Recovery Centers, provision of crisis and mental health resources, management of donation funds, and much more.

As CONSTANT reflects on the events of the Key Bridge Collapse, we do so with the utmost sympathy for those whose lives were lost during this tragic incident.

- **What you should know:** The Key Bridge Collapse, though attributable to the crash of the cargo ship *Dali*, puts a national spotlight on the importance of maintaining critical infrastructure, including bridges. According to the [American Road and Transportation Builders Association](#), there are 167M crossings on 42,400 bridges in the U.S. rated in poor condition as "structurally deficient." As the [Fern Hollow Bridge Collapse](#) in Pittsburgh, PA in 2022 most recently illuminated, maintenance and oversight failures at all levels of government can have significant consequences. The [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) is positioned to 'bridge' some of these gaps, and just last week, [\\$830M in grants](#) were also announced to make transportation infrastructure more resistant to climate change.
- **Why this matters:** Critical infrastructure causes many challenges to emergency managers, who not only play pivotal roles in response and recovery operations for incidents, but also bring significant knowledge of interdependencies, local and regional collaboration, and information sharing. With the [Transportation Systems Sector](#) playing a key role as one of the nation's [16 Critical Infrastructure Sectors](#), and Transportation being denoted as [Emergency Support Function \(ESF\) 1](#) in the [National Response Framework](#), the role of emergency management in incidents like the Key Bridge cannot be underscored. In the case of the Key Bridge, the Bridge fell under multiple local, state, and federal jurisdictional responsibilities, which meant that a Unified Command was established to coordinate the emergency response. In the Pittsburgh Fern Hollow Bridge collapse, response included Allegheny County and Pennsylvania State authorities. Review this article from Domestic Preparedness for [additional implications](#).

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## Upcoming Conferences

In March, CONSTANT team members were at the [National Emergency Management Association \(NEMA\) Mid-Year Forum](#) and the [2024 Preparedness Summit](#). If you missed our team members at these events or are looking to follow up, contact us at [info@constantassociates.com](mailto:info@constantassociates.com).

CONSTANT continues our attendance at upcoming industry conferences in May! Learn more below about where CONSTANT team members will be next month.

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## CESA Annual Conference and Training

CONSTANT is **exhibiting** at the [2024 CESA Annual Conference and Training](#)! We are excited for the opportunity to learn, network, and grow alongside our California clients and partners.

Information about CONSTANT's Exhibit at the CESA Conference can be found on our dedicated webpage [here](#). Among key highlights are:

- CONSTANT's Exhibit will be located at Booth 37. We will be exhibiting on Tuesday, May 7th between 7:00am and 3:30pm and Wednesday, May 8th between 7:30am-2:00pm.
  - ***Stop by CONSTANT's Exhibit to grab some swag, enter a raffle for a giveaway, and learn more about how we can work your organization to make the world a safer place.***
- Jessica Driskill will be speaking at the CESA Conference on Wednesday, May 8th at 2:30pm. Her session will be co-presented in coordination with Tulare County's Annette Burgos and is entitled "Transforming Crisis into Action: Using the AAR

Process to Strengthen Community Readiness for All Hazards.” The presentation will provide tips for maximizing the effectiveness of your next AAR.

## California Emergency Services Association

### Annual Conference and Training

Portfolio Manager Mona Bontty (top), Senior Associate Jessica Driskill (middle), and Project Manager Pattijean Hooper (bottom) are attending the CESA Annual Conference and Training.

*Cathedral City, CA  
May 6-9*



## Texas Emergency Management Conference

CONSTANT is thrilled to attend the [Texas Emergency Management Conference](#) for the first time! Texas resident Jessica Driskill will be in attendance on behalf of CONSTANT. Contact us at [info@constantassociates.com](mailto:info@constantassociates.com) if you are attending The Conference and are interested in connecting with Jessica.

## Texas Emergency Management Conference

### The Conference

Senior Associate  
Jessica Driskill is attending  
the Texas Emergency  
Management Conference.

*Fort Worth, TX  
May 28-31*



### In the News



#### Securing the Cities Program Evaluation

The GAO published a report about DHS's Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) Securing the Cities (STC) Program's challenges. As CWMD collects and reviews regional performance data to set assessment benchmarks in FY 25, the GAO has five (5) recommendations to strengthen transparency and accountability and enable the use of evidence to manage the STC program more effectively.

[Read More](#)



## The Latest from FEMA

FEMA recently celebrated its [45-year anniversary](#) and continues strengthening agency initiatives. Last month, FEMA's [disaster assistance reforms](#) officially went into effect. In April, FEMA also announced [direct and competitive funding](#) to support communities that are providing services to migrants. Also open through the end of the month is applications for FEMA's Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund.

[Read More](#)



## Past, Current, and Future Disasters

Beyond the Key Bridge incident, there were multiple disasters in March and April, and more are assumed to be on the way. At time of writing, [severe storms](#) threaten 40M Americans. The Northeast's 4.8 magnitude earthquake in April offered officials ['teachable moments'](#) for preparing for worse disasters. The Colorado State University team predicts a daunting 2024 Hurricane Season driven by rising ocean temperatures.

[Read More](#)

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## The Fun Stuff





## Earth Day 2024

EarthDay.org's 2024 theme is Planet vs. Plastics, calling to "advocate for widespread awareness on the health risk of plastics, rapidly phase out all single use plastics, urgently push for a strong UN Treaty on Plastic Pollution, and demand an end to fast fashion."

Learn more [here](#) and find Earth Day clean up [events](#) in your area.

## National Minority Health Month 2024

April is National Minority Health Month, an annual observance to build awareness of health disparities among racial and ethnic minority groups. This year's theme is "Be the Source for Better Health: Improving Health Outcomes Through Our Cultures, Communities, and Connections." Learn more and get involved [here](#).



## We're Here to Support You

If you need help with disaster preparedness, infectious disease planning, or anything in between, send us an email at [staff@constantassociates.com](mailto:staff@constantassociates.com). We are here to help.

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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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