

# Disaster News You Can Use

April 2023

## What's Inside:

- Industry News.....Pg. 2
- Policies & Research.....Pg. 3
- Industry Best Practices.....Pg. 4
- State EMA Program Management....Pg. 5
- Project Highlight.....Pg. 6



## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

### *April 11, 1965 Palm Sunday Tornado Outbreak*

On April 10–12, 1965, a devastating severe weather event affected the Midwestern and Southeastern United States. The tornado outbreak produced 55 confirmed tornadoes in one day and 16 hours. The worst part of the outbreak occurred during the afternoon hours of April 11 into the overnight hours going into April 12. This was the fourth deadliest tornado outbreak in U.S. history and the deadliest of all Indiana.



Double/twin funnel tornadoes in Midway, Indiana



Damage in Toledo, Ohio, following the F4 tornado of April 11, 1965



## AccuWeather's 2023 US tornado, severe weather forecast

The peak of severe weather season is fast approaching, and AccuWeather forecasters have broken down the risks expected, including how tornado numbers this year may spike compared to 2022. Meteorological spring brings the peak of severe thunderstorm activity across the United States, and AccuWeather meteorologists are predicting a bookend season for tornadoes and severe weather.



[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

A tornado touches down in Tulsa, Ok on Wednesday, March 30, 2016. Photo by Larry Papke

## Biden-Harris Administration Expands Assistance to Boost Climate Resilience and Support Communities Using Low-Carbon Materials

WASHINGTON -- As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's historic investments in America and climate resilience, FEMA announced today that it will make grant funds available to communities for low-carbon materials used in disaster recovery and climate resilience projects. States, tribes, territories and local communities will now have more access to cleaner building materials through eligible FEMA programs to rebuild from disasters or become more resilient to climate change. President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act enables FEMA to fund costs associated with low-carbon materials to help cut carbon pollution and support climate resilience and communities.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

## After deadly Mississippi tornadoes, federal officials vow disaster relief



State and federal authorities pledged long-term support to Mississippi counties devastated by Friday's tornadoes, saying they will work together to rebuild and get people back into their homes. Mississippi is hit by an average of 33 tornadoes each year, accounting for an average of eight deaths, according to the National Weather Service.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

Law enforcement officers climb through debris in the search for survivors March 25 in Rolling Fork, Miss.

## Forecasters fear rapid snowmelt in the Midwest could turn into major flooding this spring

This winter season has truly been remarkable to see snowfall of epic proportions blanket upstate New York, the Midwest and the mountains of the West.

Minneapolis is experiencing its eighth-snowiest season on record, with 81 inches of snow, compared to its average of 51 inches. Bismarck, North Dakota and Grand Rapids, Michigan, are experiencing their third-snowiest season; Duluth, Minnesota, is coming in at sixth; and Sioux Falls, South Dakota, is eighth.

Several more shots of snow will come to the Midwest again this week, only adding to the impressive snowpack.

But all the snow will eventually melt, and forecasters are fearing the worst.



NOAA's spring flood outlook depicting what areas could be vulnerable to flooding this spring.

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)



## New Industry Policies

- Biden Signs Bill to End COVID-19 National Emergency
- Census Data for Resiliency: Helping Communities Prepare, Respond and Recover
- Designating schools as critical infrastructure could help keep students safe

## Other Industry News

- 17 Cadets graduate from new Texas Emergency Management Academy
- More than \$26 Million paid in national flood insurance claims
- National Level Exercise 2024
- FEMA Releases Updates to National Risk Index
- Tornado destruction highlights low-income disaster preparedness challenges

## Noteworthy Research

- Recognizing and mitigating against COVID-19 consequence management impacts
- COVID-19 Data Driven Planning
- Looting or Community Solidarity? Reconciling Distorted Post-Hurricane Media Coverage
- Streamlining Emergency Management: Issues, Impacts, and Options for Improvement



Flooding in Northern California, January 2023  
Photo by Jason Doiy

## Upcoming Events

### Resilient World Webinars:



April 20th: [\*Adaptation and Readiness: Building & Sustaining a Comprehensive Public Health Program\*](#)

April 27th: [\*Lessons Learned: How our Technology was Born Out of Tornado & Flooding Experience\*](#)

[Click here to watch the replay of our past webinars!](#)

### Industry Conferences:

- April 20-21, 2023 IAEM Plugged In
- April 24-27, 2023 NACCHO Preparedness Summit -Atlanta, GA
- May 7-12, 2023 Governor's Hurricane Conference -West Palm Beach, FL
- May 30-June 2, 2023 Texas Emergency Management Conference -Fort Worth, TX



# INDUSTRY BEST PRACTICES



## Community Disaster Recovery Best Practices

Daniel Martin, PHD, CEM  
Managing Principal  
Dan.Martin@i-s-consulting.com

### Part 3 of 11: Coordinate Disaster Recovery Committees and Support Their Transition Throughout the Recovery Process

The severity and impacts of the event, as well as the disaster-experience, capability, capacity, and perspective of the affected individuals and groups, will have profound effect in how recovery is defined and activities are prioritized. Similar to the other operational phases of emergency management (i.e., preparedness, response, and mitigation), recovery does not exist within a defined boundary of activities or timeframe. Recovery is a complex process in which pre-disaster emergency management practices, community cultures, and bureaucratic systems can have profound influence on the recovery process.

There is not a defined transition from response to recovery, and therefore the most daunting challenges faced during response such as debris removal, sheltering/temporary housing, and restoration of critical lifeline infrastructures often carry over into disaster recovery operations. In essence the ability to effectively manage and deliver vital short-term needs and to understand the challenges of recovery prior to the event, have a direct effect on the ability of communities to focus on broader sustained long-term recovery objectives and influence long-term recovery decisions.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

## Innovations in Disaster Recovery

### Automating the FEMA PA Process from Cradle to Grave

Although disasters are devastating and disruptive, it is important to recognize that every disaster brings about opportunity for communities to improve their conditions and to build a more resilient future. That is, IF communities effectively manage important federal disaster assistance programs such as the FEMA Public Assistance Program.

Odysseus™ is designed to automate the FEMA Public Assistance claim from cradle to grave and provide a unique perspective so that affected communities can maximize vital disaster recovery funds.





# D Y S S E U S™

**672%**

INCREASE IN PROGRAM EFFICIENCY

**300<sup>x</sup>**

STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

**99%**

REGULATORY & PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

**54<sup>x</sup>**

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

**97%**

PERFORMANCE RATING

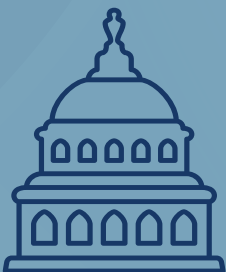


The Odysseus Enterprise System is a revolutionary software that is transforming preparedness, response, and resiliency program management for the modern professional! Its more than just an incident management tool. Its a force multiplier for comprehensive emergency management programs.

[Click Here to Learn More About Our Innovative Technology](#)



## PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS FOR STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES



- Increase Statewide Collaboration
- Manage Grant Programs Statewide
- Assess EMA Program Activities & Regulatory Compliance
- Manage Preparedness Activities Satewide
- Statewide Disaster Recovery & Mitigation Program Solution



Contact us today to learn more.



Odysseus@i-s-consulting.com  
847.437.4271



# INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS CONSULTING

**20+** YEARS  
EXPERIENCE

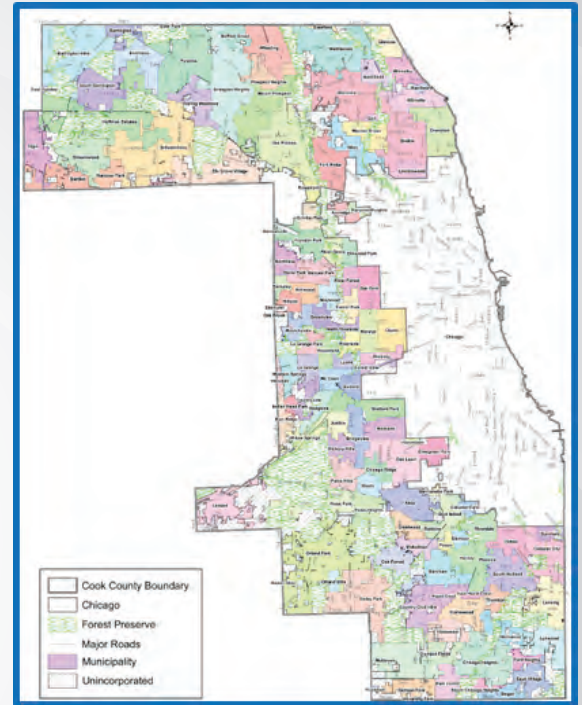
**120+** DISASTER  
OPERATIONS

**350+** EMPLOYEES  
& CONSULTANTS

**3K+** CLIENT & CUSTOMER  
ENGAGEMENTS

## Project Highlight

ISC was engaged by Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security (DRSEM) to complete the nation's largest Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJ-HMP) and implemented a county-wide community resiliency program management solution. Utilizing the Odysseus Enterprise System, ISC was able to make significant improvements from their previous MJ-HMP and obtain 100% participation across all jurisdictions within five months. The updated MJ-HMP covered a total of 136 jurisdictions and increased public participation by over 230%. Cook County was able to identify and manage over 1,000 mitigation actions across all participating municipalities and prepare annual progress reports and funding updates. Odysseus™ offers Cook County DRSEM a force multiplier to manage its disaster resiliency program, countywide.



ISC is a crisis and consequence management consultant firm that uses data-driven research, sophisticated crisis modeling, and seasoned consultants to help our clients build path to resiliency. We don't just help clients get their communities back to where they were - we make them better.



Contact **ISC** today to learn more.



[Inquiry@i-s-consulting.com](mailto:Inquiry@i-s-consulting.com)  
847.737.5395