

Disaster News You Can Use

August 2023

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THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

August 1993 Mississippi River Flood

On August 1st, 1993, the Mississippi River at St. Louis crested at 49.58 feet, the highest stage ever recorded. The size and impact of the Great Flood of 1993 was unprecedented and has been considered the most costly and devastating flood to ravage the U.S. in modern history. The number of record river levels, the aerial extent, the number of persons displaced, amount of crop and property damage and its duration surpassed all earlier U.S. floods in modern times.

In the St. Louis National Weather Service (NWS) forecast area encompassing eastern Missouri and southwest Illinois, 36 forecast points rose above flood stage, and 20 river stage records were broken. The 1993 flood broke record river levels set during the 1973 Mississippi and the 1951 Missouri River floods.



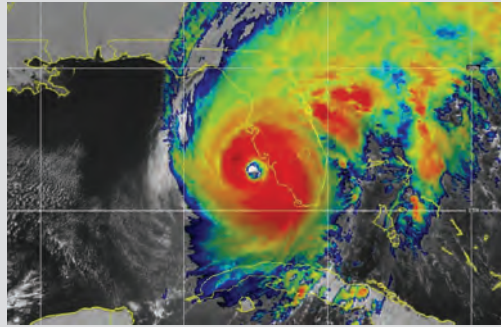
Waterway -At the flood's peak on August 1, more than 1,000,000 cubic feet of water rushed past the Gateway Arch in St. Louis every second.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)



Experts call for above-average hurricane season with peak weeks ahead

Colorado State University updated their hurricane season outlook this week. They're continuing to call for an above-average season, with increased odds of a major hurricane striking the U.S. Gulf Coast or Eastern Seaboard this season. It could mark the eighth consecutive season with an average or above-average number of storms in the Atlantic, which has been churning out destructive hurricanes at a breakneck pace since the last slowdown in 2015.



[FULL ARTICLE](#)

Editorial: Heat waves are disasters. Why don't they get federal disaster relief?

When communities are hit by hurricanes, floods and wildfires they can often count on receiving federal disaster relief to help respond to the unfolding crisis and recover from its effects.

But no U.S. president has ever issued an emergency or major disaster declaration for extreme heat, even though it's the deadliest weather-related hazard. That means that local communities and states are mostly on their own as they deal with events like this summer's stifling, weeks-long spell of dangerous heat.



A car passes a bank sign displaying a temp of 116 degrees in Sacramento, CA

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

FEMA and FCC Plan Nationwide Emergency Alert Test for Oct. 4, 2023

Test Messages Will be Sent to All TVs, Radios and Cell Phones

WASHINGTON -- FEMA, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), will conduct a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) this fall.

The national test will consist of two portions, testing WEA and EAS capabilities. Both tests are scheduled to begin at approximately 2:20 p.m. ET on Wednesday, Oct. 4.

The WEA portion of the test will be directed to all consumer cell phones. This will be the third nationwide test, but the second test to all cellular devices. The test message will display in either English or in Spanish, depending on the language settings of the wireless handset.

The EAS portion of the test will be sent to radios and televisions. This will be the seventh nationwide EAS test.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

FEMA Hosts Hurricane Season Media Tour Ahead of the Peak Part of Season

PHILADELPHIA - On July 31st, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 3 hosted a media tour of the Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) led by Regional Administrator MaryAnn Tierney to highlight the importance of preparedness ahead of the peak of hurricane season.

In June, the National Weather Service issued its 2023 Hurricane Season outlook, which predicted a near-normal Atlantic Hurricane Season. The Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 through November 30, with most activity occurring between mid-August and mid-October.

Peak season storms such as Tropical Storm Isaias in August 2020 and Hurricane Ida in September 2021 had devastating impacts on parts of the region including Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Hurricanes are not just a coastal threat. They can bring heavy rain, flooding, and high winds to communities inland as well.



Region 3 Administrator MaryAnn Tierney talks about hurricane preparation during media tour of the Regional Response Coordination Center.

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)



INDUSTRY POLICIES & RESEARCH

New Industry Policies

- GAO Asks Congress to Consider a Means-Based Flood Assistance Program
- Senate Passes Bipartisan Bill to Simplify FEMA Disaster Assistance Applications
- FEMA shares troubling update ahead of peak hurricane season

Other Industry News

- FEMA to Highlight Hazard Mitigation Projects Nationwide, Announce Additional Climate Resilience Funding During Disaster Resilience Month
- DHS Announces Funding Allocations for FY 2023 Preparedness Grants
- More work needed to improve equity in public health
- 7 Best Practices for Implementing Housing Recovery Programs
- How Well-Managed Dams and Smart Forecasting Can Limit Flooding as Extreme Storms Become More Common in a Warming World
- New emergency management director confirmed

A house that has been demolished in the wake of Hurricane Sandy Oct. 29, 2012

Noteworthy Research

- Challenges and cooperation in emergency and disaster risk management: The way forward through COVID-19 and beyond
- Natural hazards international rescue response mechanism and development trends under UN framework
- Moral Concern, Ethical Action: Closing Comments from the 2023 Natural Hazards Workshop
- How Do We Know Whether Federal Disaster Programs Are Equitable?
- Aging and Emotional Well-Being After Disasters Vulnerability and Resilience
- When Mass Shooters Are Seeking Fame



Upcoming Events

Resilient World Webinars:



Do you know you can access all of our webinar replays? Learn more about the Odysseus Enterprise System and how it can assist your organization with all aspects of your preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery program management.

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

Industry Conferences:

- Sept. 5-8, 2023 Illinois Emergency Management Agency & Office of Homeland Security Training Summit
- Sept. 30- Oct. 4, 2023 ICMA Annual Conference
- Oct. 2-5, 2023 NEMA Annual Forum



INDUSTRY BEST PRACTICES



Emergency Preparedness Program

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Today, all levels of government and private sector stakeholders face an increasing number of disasters, which may be driven by pandemics, weather, environmental changes, civil unrest, man-made incidents, and more. These events can impact community sectors, creating challenges that require immediate and long-term support and recovery strategies.

For this reason, government and private sector entities require a comprehensive preparedness program that not only meets the challenges of today, but also the emerging threats of tomorrow.

Emergency Preparedness Program Challenge

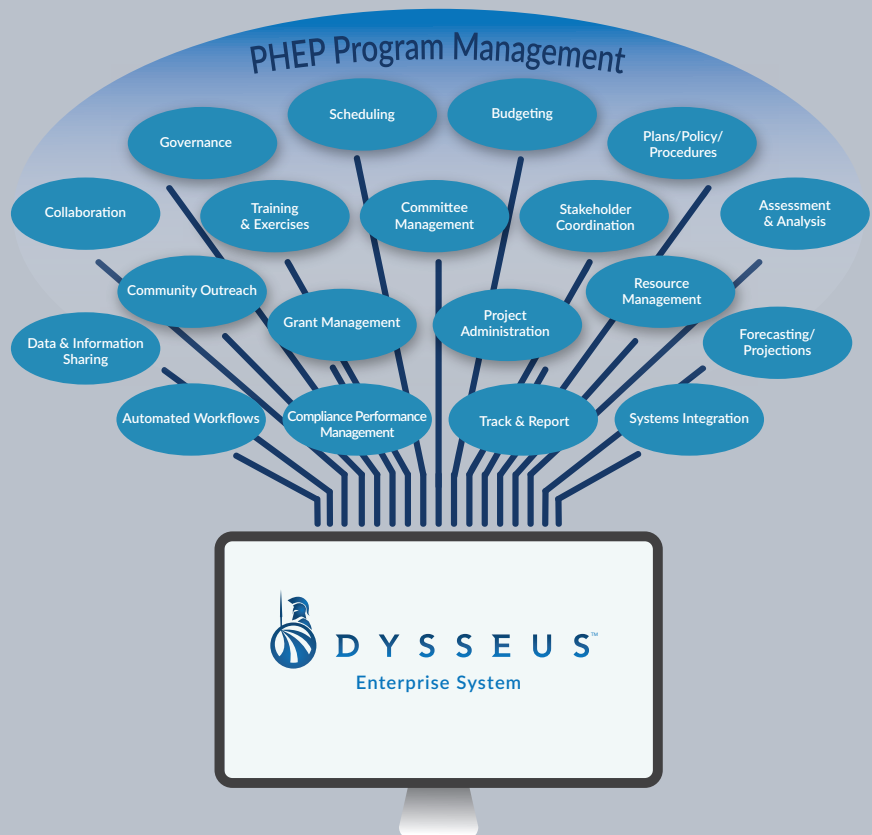
These funding sources are directly tied to expected deliverables. It is necessary to demonstrate compliance to ensure continued funding, but a comprehensive preparedness program must also:

- Ensure annual assessments, planning, training, exercising, and stakeholder engagement are ongoing.
- Ensure personnel (internal and external stakeholders who are assigned key preparedness tasks) have access and participate in annual assessments, planning, training, and exercising activities.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

Elevating Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Community Resilience

Successful community disaster recovery is directly correlated to the community's ability to leverage all available funds to build a more resilient future. Odysseus offers a unique perspective, providing a platform for communities to manage, track, and monitor disaster recovery funds from multiple federal and state grant assistance programs. The result is an opportunity to leverage every available dollar, identify gaps in disaster funding, and maximize your community's disaster recovery potential.



Learn more about Odysseus™
In Work with Public Health
Preparedness Programs



D Y S S E U S™

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INCREASE IN PROGRAM EFFICIENCY

300x

STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

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REGULATORY & PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

54x

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

97%

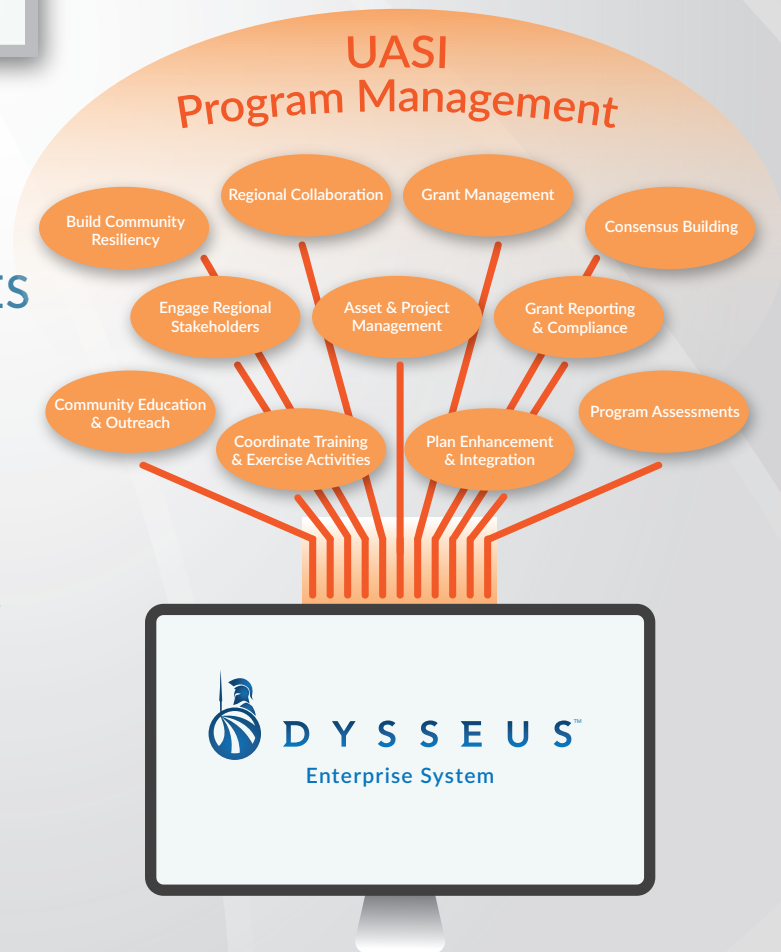
PERFORMANCE RATING



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

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS FOR URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVES

Odysseus™ provides UASIs and their regional partners with a single, unified system to manage all UASI program requirements including grant management and reporting, coordinate preparedness activities, facilitate collaboration and sharing, assess performance, monitor compliance, and much, much more. Odysseus™ is designed to be a program management tool and allows for the full integration of other incident management software programs.



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Contact us today to learn more.



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ENGAGEMENTS

Project Highlight

Kansas City Region ESF 8 Interactive Exercise and Training Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)

ISC worked closely with the Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC's) Plans Subcommittee to develop the Kansas City Metropolitan Region's Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8, Regional Mass Care Plan. ESF 8 describes the coordination of available public health and medical services capabilities in the Kansas City Metropolitan area to achieve the first lines of response to bioterrorism, pandemic influenza, mass fatalities and other public health emergencies which require a coordinated response from multiple jurisdictions and facilities.



Kansas City, MO

Computer-Based Training

To complement this regional plan, ISC developed an interactive training and exercise module that is used by the region to educate partners and validate operational concepts of the plan. The scenario used in the interactive exercise involved the dispersion of aerosolized Bacillus anthracis slurry from a low-flying charter plane during the 84th Annual KCP&L Plaza Lighting Ceremony. Over 300,000 attendees of the event are exposed, resulting in the activation of ESF 8 and mobilization of the Region's medical and health resources.



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Contact **ISC** today to learn more.



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