

Disaster News You Can Use

July 2023



What's Inside:

- Industry News.....Pg. 2
- Policies & Research.....Pg. 3
- Industry Best Practices.....Pg. 4
- Project Management for UASs.....Pg. 5
- Wildfire Study Project Highlight.....Pg. 6

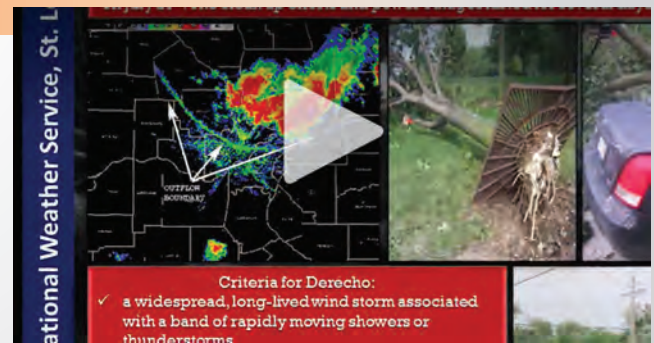


THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

July 2006 Derecho Series

During the heat wave of 2006, a set of derechos - severe winds with powerful thunderstorms - occurred on July 17-21, 2006. The first storms hit a wide swath of north-central and northeastern North America that stretched from the Upper Midwest through much of Ontario and into the northeastern United States. Another round struck the middle Mississippi River Valley, including two derechos that hit St. Louis, Missouri. The storms left more than three million people without power, some more than once and some for weeks.

For the St. Louis area, there was little warning that such a storm was going to hit. The moderate risk area was well to the north, and no severe weather was forecast in the area. The derecho surprised a sellout crowd of almost 44,000 St. Louis Cardinals fans, packed into the new Busch Stadium, to see the Cardinals take on the Atlanta Braves. Winds of about 80 mph whirled around the St. Louis area, sending the fans running for shelter. The winds knocked out power and broke windows out of the press box. Nearly two minutes after the winds began at 100 mph, they stopped, and it began to rain. In all, about 30 people were injured at the stadium.



Busch Stadium, Downtown St. Louis



First locally transmitted malaria cases detected in US in decades: What you should know

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a health advisory over the spread of a few malaria cases in Florida and Texas, marking the first time locally acquired infections of the disease have been detected in the U.S. in 20 years.

Five cases of malaria caught by people in the U.S. have been identified so far, four in Florida and one in Texas, in the past two months. The fact these individuals were infected in the U.S. is what is causing concern among health officials as infections like these haven't been seen since 2003.

Effective treatments and mitigation strategies against malaria are available in the U.S, though treatment for the disease can be unpleasant. One expert worries these cases are indicative of a larger problem. [FULL ARTICLE](#)

How extreme weather events are testing disaster preparedness and resilience

As the planet continues to warm, wildfires, hurricanes and floods are becoming more frequent and costly around the world. Join Washington Post Live for a series of conversations with Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Deanne Criswell and top experts about how extreme weather events are testing disaster preparedness and adaptation measures that can help communities be more resilient in the future.

“Heat is the number one natural hazard killer across the United States and we are seeing a continued increase in the number of heat domes different communities are experiencing...We have never issued an emergency or a major disaster declaration based on heat... But we do have a role, I think, in the heat conversation, and that's through preparedness and that's through our mitigation funding.” - Deanne Criswell [READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

Canada Marks Worst Wildfire Season on Record

Canada's wildfire season is now the worst ever recorded as the country has exceeded the largest area ever burned in a year, totaling more than 19.5 million acres so far.

There are at least 500 active fires burning around the country, 257 of which are classified as “out of control”, according to Canada Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC).



Smoke from wildfires in the provinces of Quebec and Nova Scotia is seen in Toronto

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

Disaster Assistance is Equally Accessible to Everyone Regardless of Disabilities

FEMA's mission is helping people before, during and after disasters in ways that maximize the inclusion of, and accessibility for, people with disabilities.

We provide federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, the public sector and non-profit organizations with the tools, training, resources, and strategies necessary to help ensure that people with disabilities can participate in, and benefit from, programs and services during all phases of emergency management.

Our Program and Policy Branch provides technical assistance to FEMA leadership, as well as to FEMA programs and components, to ensure that FEMA programs and services are meeting the needs of people with disabilities before, during and after disasters.

Be sure to let FEMA know if you have an accessibility need. During the application process, applicants for FEMA disaster assistance have equal access to FEMA programs and services. Applicants with disabilities who need accommodation should inform FEMA.

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)





INDUSTRY POLICIES & RESEARCH

New Industry Policies

- FEMA Stretched Beyond Climate Response as Disasters Balloon
- FEMA and SiriusXM Expand Relationship to Enhance Delivery of Emergency Alerts
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Weatherization Program Assistance (WAP)

Other Industry News

- FEMA seeking properties to support disaster survivors
- Train Derailment: Clark County EMA Shares Lessons
- Deadly flooding is hitting several countries at once. Scientists say this will only be more common
- Joint media statement - Disaster management expert heads review of disaster governance
- Critical infrastructure attacks are ramping up

Noteworthy Research

- Can AI Detect Early Risks Of Natural Disasters? Here's All You Need To Know
- Forecasting Flash Floods an Hour in Advance
- Climate Security Is National Security
- BRIC 2023 Stakeholder Engagement Survey
- Tailoring Disaster and Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery to the Needs of Older Adults and Disabled Americans
- Stressors and Mental Health Survey of Emergency Management Professionals



Several train cars derailed & railroad tracks were damaged May 12, 2022 in Clark County

Upcoming Events

Resilient World Webinars:



July 27th: [Disaster Recovery: Expediting community recovery using integrated, industry-best technology](#)

Aug. 24th: [Hazard Mitigation: The Odysseus Mitigation Program Management](#)

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

Industry Conferences:

- July 21-24, 2023 NACo Annual
- July 24-27, 2023 National Homeland Security Conference
- Sept. 5-8, 2023 Illinois Emergency Management Agency & Office of Homeland Security Training Summit



INDUSTRY BEST PRACTICES



Glen LaFond
Project Manager
Glen.LaFond@i-s-consulting.com

FEMA's Simplified Procedures: Taking Advantage of the APP CERT Project Process

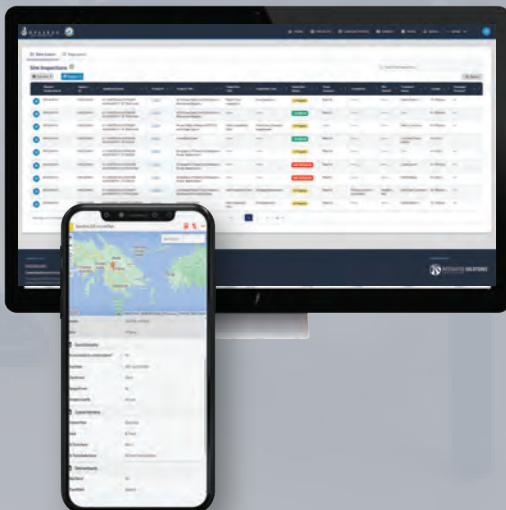
After a disaster strikes and an applicant has requested Public Assistance help from FEMA, the process of submitting all damages along with supporting documentation is often long and arduous. One method to help speed up the obligation of small, completed work projects is by submitting the projects as APP CERT projects.

In August 2022, FEMA increased the established threshold for Small Project maximum for the agency's Public Assistance (PA) program to \$1 million. The goal was that the increased threshold would reduce the administrative burden on state, local, tribal, or territorial (SLTT) governments and private non-profit (PNP) organizations receiving FEMA financial grants following a disaster. The PA Simplified Procedures Policy streamlines application procedures for Small Project funding under the PA program, simplifies the implementation of the PA program and supports rapid recovery for applicants. The use of simplified procedures, such as submitting self-certified estimates and summary reports, should allow applicants to receive funding early and promote rapid recovery from the disaster.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

Maximize Vital Community Disaster Recovery Funds

Successful community disaster recovery is directly correlated to the community's ability to leverage all available funds to build a more resilient future. Odyssey 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.



Conduct Field Survey of Damages

Odyssey™ offers an easy-to-use, mobile phone compatible application for real-time damage assessments and log site-specific damage inventory. No connectivity? No problem. Damages can be documented with or without connectivity.

Learn more about Odyssey™
Response & Recovery
Management



D Y S S E U S™

672%

INCREASE IN PROGRAM EFFICIENCY

300x

STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

99%

REGULATORY & PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

54x

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

97%

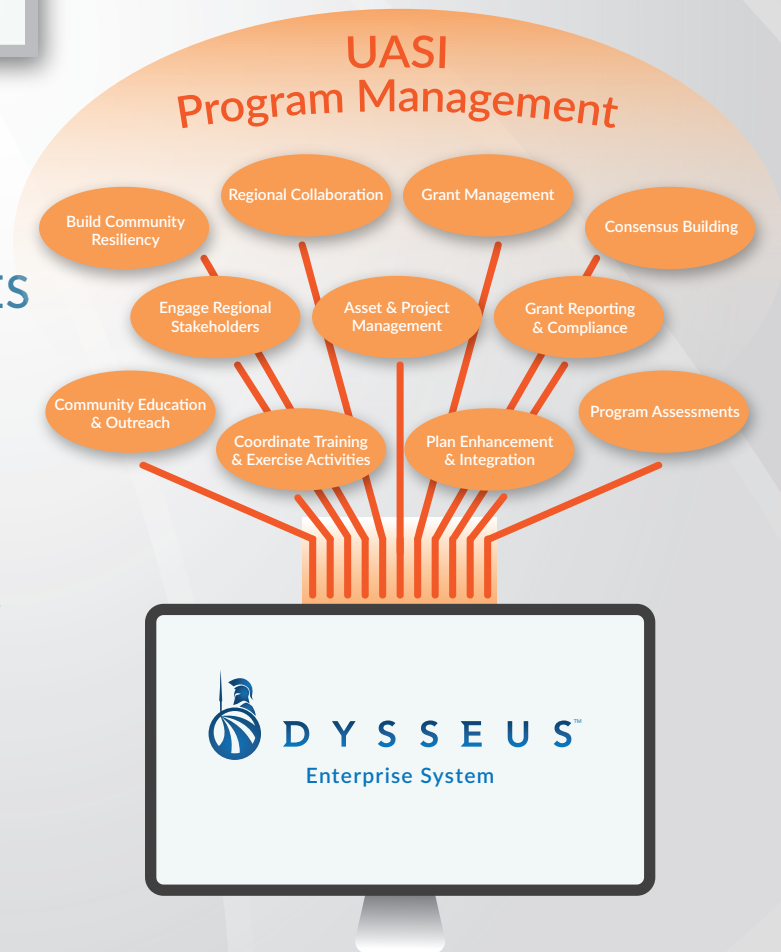
PERFORMANCE RATING



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.



Learn more about Odysseus™ In-Work

Contact us today to learn more.



Odysseus@i-s-consulting.com
847.437.4271



20+ YEARS
EXPERIENCE

120+ DISASTER
OPERATIONS

350+ EMPLOYEES
& CONSULTANTS

3K+ CLIENT & CUSTOMER
ENGAGEMENTS

Project Highlight

In October 2017, San Diego County recognized the 10-year anniversary of the October 2007 wildfires which burned over 370,000 acres, destroyed 2,590 structures, and resulted in 10 deaths. During this time of remembrance and reflection, the County of San Diego Office of Emergency Services (OES) also sought to identify if and how residents had changed their hazard risk behaviors and preparedness habits since the 2007 wildfires. The OES had completed a preparedness study in 2007, and they wanted to identify any changes that had occurred since 2007. With the anniversary date looming only two months away, San Diego OES hired ISC to create and distribute a social scientific study to investigate evidence-based metrics of community preparedness.

The survey was distributed to a representative sample of San Diego County residents over age 18 and in multiple languages and formats. The 2017 survey also addressed errors to sampling, coverage, measurement, and nonresponses that existed in the 2007 study, in order to increase the precision and accuracy of the findings. We ensured that the data results would be reliable within a 95% confidence level.

[READ THE FULL BLOG POST](#)

The study provided valuable insights into respondent behavior including but not limited to:

- ✓ Their risk perception to various hazards relative to their personal experience
- ✓ Their behaviors and beliefs in personal preparedness
- ✓ Their motivations and incentives to prepare for future disasters
- ✓ Methods and modes of how they receive and communicate disaster information
- ✓ Behaviors and beliefs that influence their decision to evacuate or shelter
- ✓ Their capability to recover after a disaster
- ✓ Their perception of County disaster services

