

# Disaster News You Can Use

December 2023



## What's Inside:

- Industry News.....Pg. 2
- Policies & Research.....Pg. 3
- Industry Best Practices.....Pg. 4
- Hazard Mitigation Management.....Pg. 5
- Innovative Technology.....Pg. 6

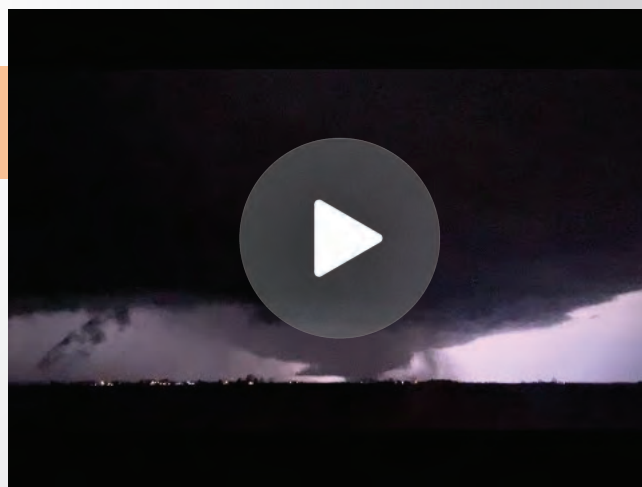


## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

### *The December 2021 Tornado Outbreak -Explained*

The tornadoes that ripped across the central and southern U.S. late in the evening of December 10, 2021, were notable in many ways.

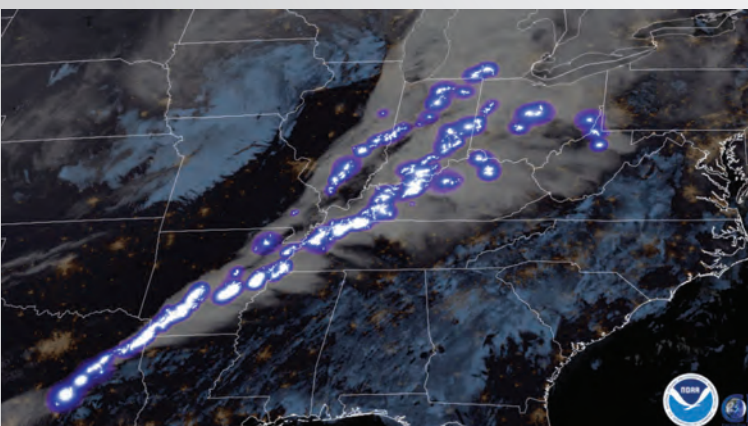
The thunderstorms and tornadoes they produced traveled far – sometimes far more than 100 miles – and the impacts were widespread. NOAA's National Weather Service has confirmed 61 tornadoes as of December 18. The very fact that tornadoes of this



intensity struck in late autumn, rather than in the spring and summer when thunderstorms and tornadoes are more likely, is remarkable.

Eight states – Kentucky, Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri, Illinois, Georgia, Ohio and Indiana – reported tornadoes that killed more than 80 people and brought devastating damage to communities.

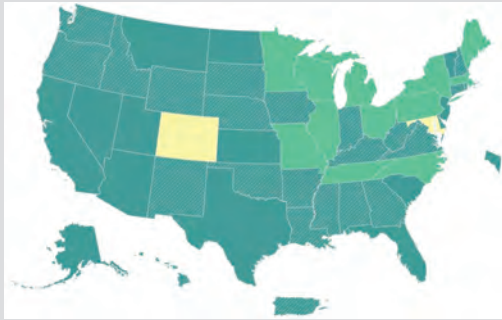
Can a specific tornado be linked to climate change? Attributing a specific tornado to the effects of climate change remains challenging. However, we can say that warmer winter temperatures attributed to climate change are projected to create conditions that make tornadoes more likely [READ THE ARTICLE](#)



A view from NOAA's GOES-16 satellite taken at 11:46 pm CST on Dec. 10, 2021 of the tornado outbreak across the central & southern U.S.



## COVID Map Shows 8 States With Rise in Deaths



Deaths due to COVID-19 have increased in eight states across the U.S. in the week ending November 11 compared to the previous week, according to the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Those states were Michigan (+1.2 percent), Illinois (+0.8 percent), Missouri (+0.5 percent), Tennessee (+0.5 percent), North Carolina (+0.4 percent), Maine (+0.4 percent), Colorado (+0.1 percent), and Maryland (+3 percent), which also reported the highest jump in COVID-related deaths in the entire country.

[FULL ARTICLE](#)

## President Biden Approves Emergency Declaration for U.S. Virgin Islands

FEMA announced that federal disaster assistance has been made available to the U.S. Virgin Islands to supplement the territory's response efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from elevated levels of lead and copper in the water supply beginning on Oct. 25, 2023, and continuing.

The President's action authorizes FEMA to coordinate all disaster relief efforts which have the purpose of alleviating the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population and to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives, protect property and public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe on the island of St. Croix.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

## FEMA Launches First-Ever #WinterReady Campaign, Urges the Nation to Get Prepared for Extreme Cold and Winter Weather

In time for holiday travel and winter weather, FEMA's Ready Campaign launched the first-ever #WinterReady campaign encouraging people to identify and reduce the risks they face during the winter season. FEMA's #WinterReady Campaign provides easy, low-cost tips to keep you safe including ways to keep homes warm, travel safely, prepare for inclement weather and simple steps to mitigate the risks of home fires which are most prevalent during this time.



[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

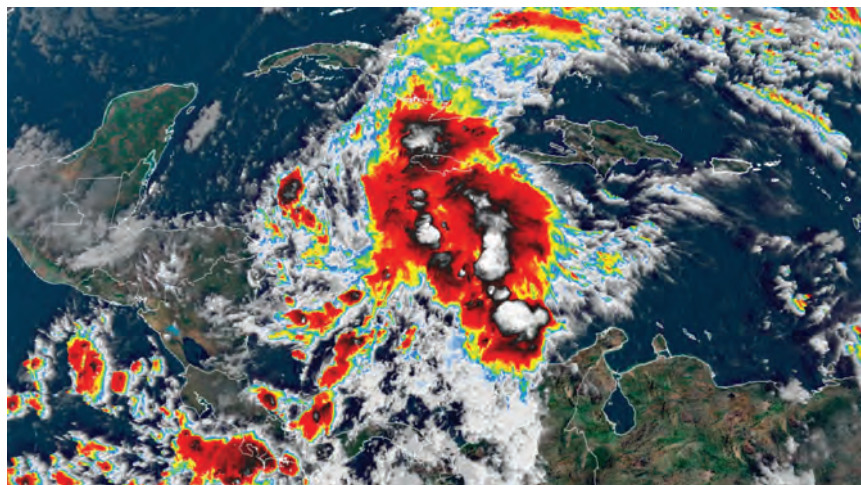
## Atlantic hurricane season isn't over yet as trouble looms in the Caribbean

The 2023 Atlantic hurricane season technically comes to a close November 30th, but parts of the Atlantic Ocean are still churning. A potential tropical cyclone spun to life on Thursday, Nov 16th and is expected to become a tropical storm in the Caribbean Sea - the area forecasters marked as the zone to watch in November.

The potential storm was thwarted earlier by a few environmental factors. In order to develop and strengthen, a tropical system needs warm water, low wind shear and plenty of moisture. However, not all of these were in place across the Caribbean Sea.

Sea surface temperatures remain plenty warm to support tropical development, but wind shear emerged as a limiting factor. Wind shear can tear a storm's circulation apart or prevent one from forming altogether.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

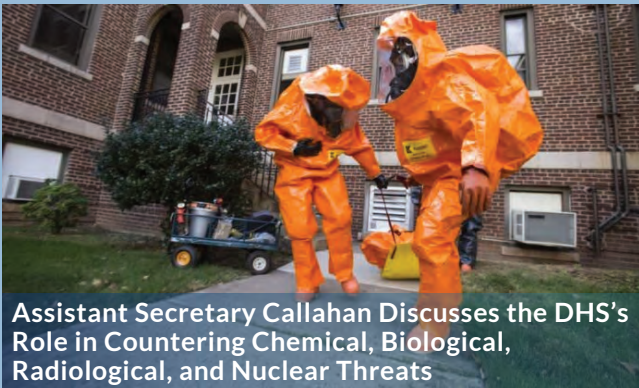


Satellite imagery of the Caribbean Sea taken November 16, 2023



## New Industry Policies

- Congresswoman reintroduces a bill that would form a natural disaster safety board
- FEMA Makes Advancements for Climate Resiliency
- FEMA Announces Update to Tribal Mitigation Planning Policy
- White House Urges \$23.5 Billion for New Natural Disaster Aid
- FEMA Releases National Tribal Strategy Progress Report



**Assistant Secretary Callahan Discusses the DHS's Role in Countering Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Threats**

U.S. Army Survey Team members retrieve a colleague during a WMD training proficiency evaluation at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center-Lyons, in Lyons, N.J.

## Research & Innovation

- How the Spokane Region Long Term Recovery Group formed to help residents after the Gray, Oregon Road fires
- Pooling multiple models during COVID-19 pandemic provided more reliable projections about an uncertain future
- The Role of Business Support Organizations in Advancing Equitable Economic Recovery
- New flood model factors in human reactions
- A Toolkit for Community-Police Dialogue
- An Assessment of Climate Change in U.S. Central Command

**'The silent pandemic': A hotter world makes it harder to stop the spread of deadly superbugs**



## Other Industry News

- Australian Ports Resume Some Operations after Major Cyberattack
- FEMA releases procurement under grants checklists for stakeholders
- FEMA and CISA release a cyber incident planning guide for emergency managers
- 2024 EMAP Baseline Assessment Program Grant Funded Opportunity
- FEMA announces \$211M to fund dam safety grants
- FEMA Announces \$2 billion in Funding to Boost Climate Resilience Nationwide

**Vulnerable families need a more responsive and reliable federal disaster safety net**



## Upcoming Events

### Industry Conferences:

- Nov. 28-30, 2023 NHC Preparedness Conference Las Vegas, NV
- Dec. 7-8, 2023 Ohio Emergency Management Winter Conference and Vendor Show



# INDUSTRY BEST PRACTICES



**Dane Clausen**  
Managing Director of Marketing  
Dane.Clausen@i-s-consulting.com

## FEMA Delegates Local Mitigation Plan Approvals to Capable States

In 2013, the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act amended the Stafford Act to allow FEMA to pilot the Program Administration by States (PAS). This program delegates approval of local hazard mitigation plans to qualified and willing states through a formal application process. This shift of plan approval from federal to state level aims to enable more efficient review cycles. It also empowers states as key partners in driving resilience across their communities. Just five states currently hold PAS authority to sign off on local mitigation plans meeting federal requirements: Florida, North Dakota, Ohio, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

While a modest start, interest should rapidly expand as PAS's benefits materialize. With over 19,000 local plans nationally, FEMA staff spend substantial time on labor-intensive reviews. Offloading these to capable states allows redirecting resources toward enhancing policies, programs, and technical assistance for all jurisdictions. States have clear incentives too. Those taking on plan approval authority can better support locals through unified state-level planning resources, expertise, and guidance. It also gives states primary influence over the mitigation vision taking shape community by community. Obtaining PAS delegation hinges on state capability and initiative. FEMA's updated Hazard Mitigation Assistance guidance outlines the application process. Key steps include:

1. Having a FEMA-approved Enhanced State Mitigation Plan demonstrating rigorous state planning procedures for all-hazard risk reduction.
2. Submitting a PAS application to the FEMA Regional Administrator formally requesting delegation authority. This must cover the state's legal authority, staff resources, review procedures, and more.
3. Entering into a delegation Memorandum of Agreement with FEMA after demonstrating satisfactory capability to uphold federal mitigation planning standards.

A key capability for states pursuing PAS is establishing rigorous and standardized internal planning procedures. Odysseus's Knowledge Management System (KMS) provides an invaluable tool to develop consistent mitigation documentation and guidance.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

## Project Highlight

### *Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan*

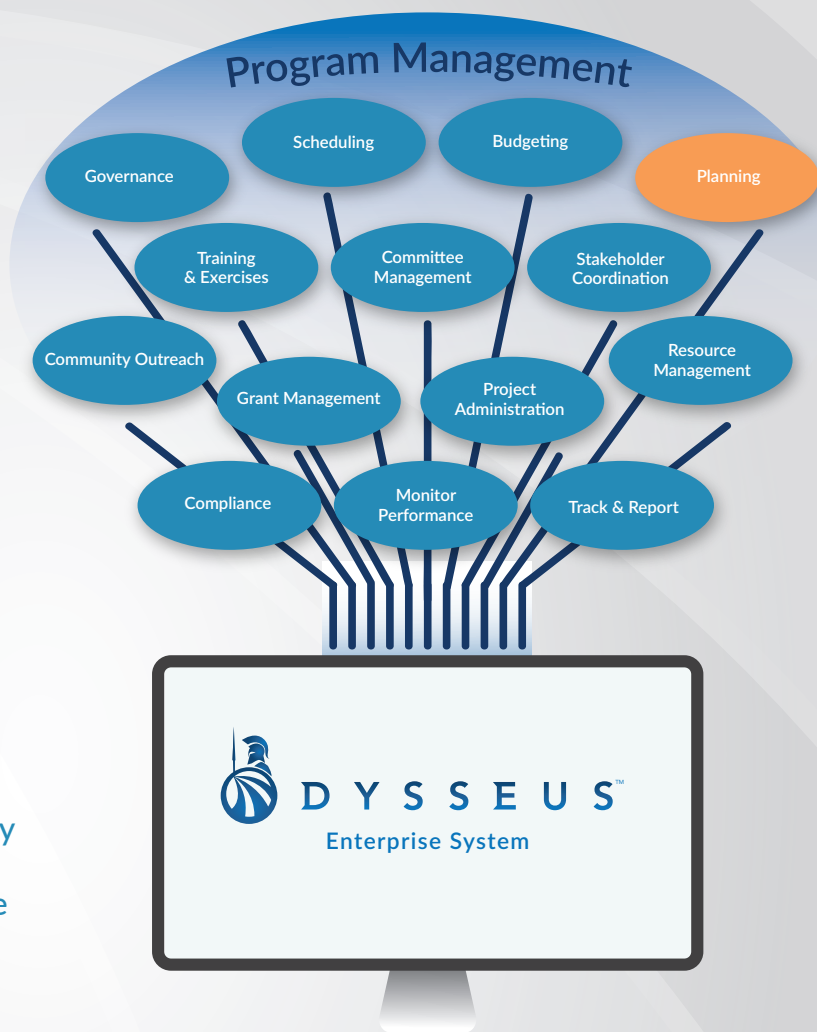
#### **Hamilton County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency (EMHSA)**

In 2018, ISC successfully developed a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJ-HMP) for Hamilton County, Ohio's Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency (EMHSA), with the support of the Odysseus™ KMS. During this project, the ISC Team facilitated nine webinars over two weeks to introduce the mitigation planning process to local officials, engaging 47 of the County's 48 jurisdictions to participate in at least one webinar. Next, ISC planned and facilitated seven hazard mitigation planning workshops throughout the County to identify hazards and update and consider new mitigation strategies, gaining full participation from each of the County's 48 jurisdictions. Our Team then designed and distributed a comprehensive public survey that reached 1,825 residents and resulted in 1,328 completed responses. ISC leveraged survey data to inform the hazard risk prioritization process, ensuring the MJ-HMP addressed the public's concerns and priorities. ISC also planned, advertised for, and executed two public forums sharing the MJ-HMP draft with County residents, providing all members of the community with an opportunity to provide input for review and comment. MJ-HMP participants assessed over 300 hazard mitigation strategies/actions, resulting in a prioritized list of 111 new strategies/actions, in addition to 180 ongoing/updated mitigation strategies/actions from the 2013 Plan, and 47 completed strategies/actions. The County's MJ-HMP received Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and FEMA approval.

# Odysseus™ in Work Hazard Mitigation Program Management

The Odysseus™ Enterprise System gives you a complete platform to manage every aspect of a hazard mitigation program. With Odysseus™, hazard mitigation programs are integrated with the other operational phases of response, recovery, and mitigation, providing a unified and comprehensive program management solution.

- ✓ Facilitate and Track the Planning Process
- ✓ Manage Mitigation Planning Activities
- ✓ Assess and Model Hazard Risks
- ✓ Deliver and Develop Mitigation Training
- ✓ Improve Collaboration, Quality and Efficiency
- ✓ Systematically Evaluate Program Compliance
- ✓ Create Customized Assessments
- ✓ Track and Administer Preparedness Grants
- ✓ Project Tracking, Scheduling, and Management



## RESILIENT WORLD WEBINAR

[Catch our webinar replays here!](#)



# D Y S S E U S <sup>TM</sup>

**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 Industry's First Comprehensive Emergency and Disaster Program Management Software

Odysseus<sup>TM</sup> offers a suite of tools and systems designed, dedicated to the efficient management of comprehensive disaster and emergency management programs. The union of technological and programmatic features offers organizations an efficient and effective method to systematically design, develop, maintain, and continually improve all elements of a comprehensive emergency management program.



Click Here to  
Learn More About Our  
Innovative Technology

Contact us today to learn more.



Odysseus@i-s-consulting.com  
847.437.4271