

# DISASTER NEWS YOU CAN USE

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## Latest News

**Where is the ice? Great Lakes ice cover is nearly non-existent and reaches 50-year record low**

A warm start to the winter season has left the Great Lakes virtually ice-free and with their lowest ice cover to kick off a new year in at least 50 years.

On New Year's Day, only 0.35% of the Great Lakes were covered in ice, the lowest on record for the date, and well below the historical average of nearly 10% for this point in winter, according to [data](#) from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL).

This year's missing ice in the Great Lakes adds to a growing trend of winter ailments plaguing the US, from dwindling snowpacks in the West to [an ongoing snow drought in the Northeast](#), all becoming more common due to warming temperatures from the climate crisis.

Since record-keeping began in 1973, researchers have found the Great Lakes have been experiencing a massive decline in ice, with the peak coverage dropping by about 5% each decade.....[Read Full Article](#).....



# Industry News



## 15 million Americans under flood watch as rain drenches Northeast

Fifteen million Americans are under flood watch and eight million are facing winter and snow alerts Sunday as a coastal storm drenching the Northeast is predicted to downpour for most of the day.

What's falling from the sky depends on where you are and when.....[Read Full Article](#).....

In 2023, FEMA responded to more than 100 disasters. Survivors received more than \$1.3 billion to jumpstart their recovery, with communities and states receiving nearly \$12 billion to rebuild infrastructure damaged by disasters.

Grant funding will help these communities become more resilient and more prepared for disasters.....[Read Full Article](#).....

## 2023 FEMA BY THE NUMBERS



**\$3B**

in grants building climate resilient communities



**100+**  
new disasters supported

**\$1.3B**

in survivors' pockets to jump-start their recovery

**\$11.8B**

toward rebuilding roads, public buildings and infrastructure damaged by disasters



**260+**

in-person Tribal Nation engagements



**\$18M**

available for a new Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Program



**\$350M**

for Nonprofit Security Grant Program to make communities safer; 50% increase in applications

Ready



- Launched a campaign focused on older adults
- Developed a Partnership with the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers
- Produced an Older Adult Preparedness Guide
- Launched the #SummerReady and #WinterReady campaigns

# Industry News



## FEMA Announces Reinsurance Program to Manage Future Flood Risk in 2024

FEMA announced its 2024 traditional reinsurance placement for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), continuing its risk management practice against catastrophic flood losses.

The agency has transferred an additional \$619.5 million of the NFIP's financial risk to the private reinsurance market.....[Read Full Article](#).....

## Desert Has Gotten More Snow in One Day Than NYC Has in Nearly 2 Year

A storm moving across the southern United States has dumped more snow on New Mexico in one day than New York City has received in nearly two years. The storm moved eastward from the Pacific. It arrived in New Mexico on morning of January 4 and has already dumped seven inches of snow in the state's high-terrain areas.

Meanwhile, New York and other Interstate 95 corridor cities like Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., have seen limited snowfall since the 2022 winter season. New York City hasn't received an inch of snow from a single snowstorm since 2022....[Read Full Article](#)....



This satellite view shows the Great Lakes on December 13, 2023.

# INDUSTRY BEST PRACTICES

## Empowered by New Authority, Revolutionize Local Mitigation Planning with Odysseus

FEMA recently released an updated Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide (HMA Guide) that decentralizes approval authority for local hazard mitigation plans to certain states. This seismic shift empowers those states to transform and modernize their mitigation planning process.

As of December 2023, the following trailblazing states can now approve local mitigation plans: Florida, North Dakota, Ohio, Vermont, and Wisconsin. For these newly deputized states, 2023 represents a prime opportunity to enhance mitigation planning like never before.

At Integrated Solutions Consulting (ISC), our proprietary Odysseus Knowledge Management System (KMS) is purpose-built to help you capitalize on this autonomy. Odysseus revolutionizes legacy mitigation planning processes through robust digital capabilities.



Core benefits of the Odysseus platform include:

- **Centralized Data Hub:** Odysseus acts as a central repository for all plan data, documentation, media, and workflows. Information lives in one secure and user-friendly digital environment instead of scattered across emails, file shares, spreadsheets, and paper records.
- **Process Automation:** Odysseus leverages intelligent automation through workflows, alerts, questionnaires, and integrations. This alleviates the burden of repetitive manual processes to increase efficiency. Resources can shift focus from administrative tasks to higher value mitigation planning activities.
- **Enhanced Reporting & Analytics:** Odysseus generates user-friendly dashboards and reports from plan data. This fosters data-driven decision making with unprecedented visibility into plan progress, participation levels, recurring deficiencies, highest risk areas, and more.
- **Cross-Departmental Collaboration:** Odysseus connects all mitigation planning stakeholders into one platform. Comments, messages, document co-authoring, and assignments streamline real-time coordination across personnel, departments, and agencies.
- **Integrations & Compliance:** Odysseus integrates with leading planning tools like ArcGIS along with state systems and software. Standard templates guarantee local plan submissions comply with changing state and federal guidelines.

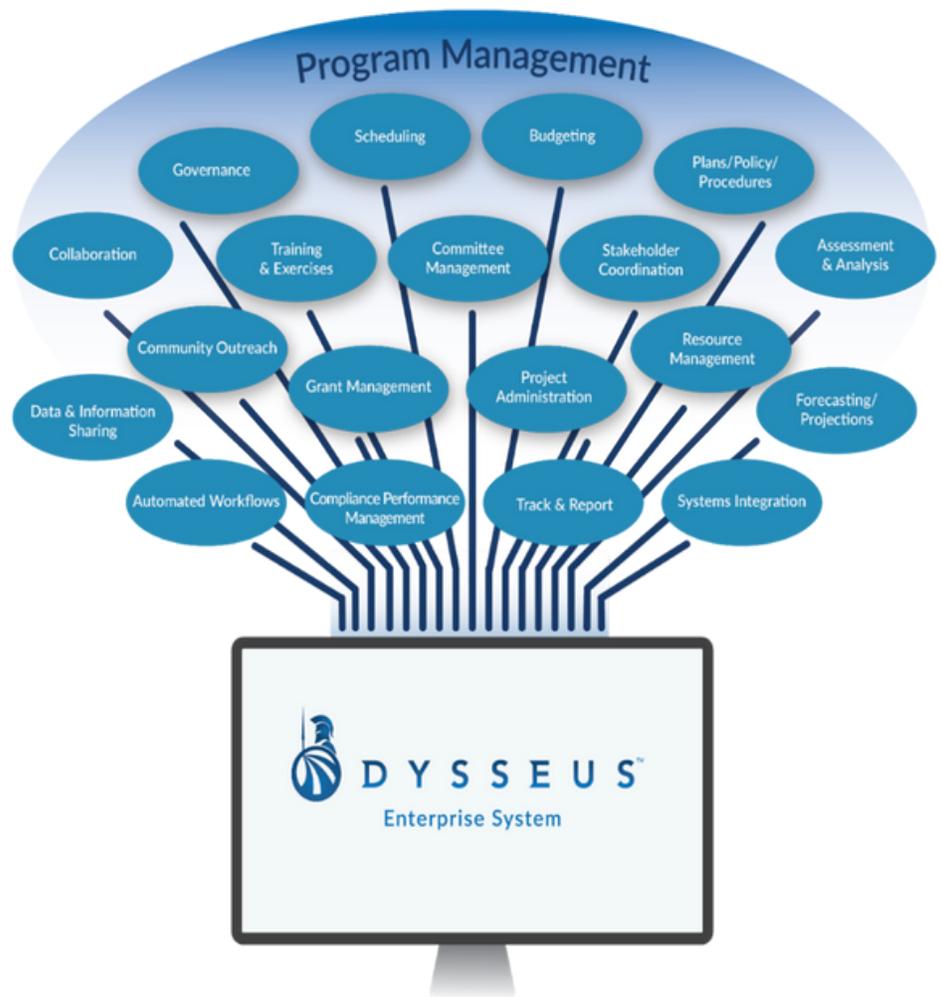
With decentralized authority to transform local mitigation planning now in your hands, Odysseus provides the digital capabilities to fully capitalize. Join our forward-thinking clients and revolutionize your hazard mitigation program. Let's connect to explore if there is a good fit for collaboration.....[Click here to learn more!!!](#)

# 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





# 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™ 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.



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