DISASTER NEWS YOU CAN USE

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INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS CONSULTING

June 2026

Whats Inside:

This Month in Disaster History

The Cuyahoga RIver Fire

On June 22, 1969, an oil slick and accumulated industrial debris on the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland, Ohio, ignited under railroad trestles, creating a dramatic blaze that reached heights of up to five stories. Though extinguished in about 30 minutes by fireboats and land units, the fire caused approximately $50,000–$100,000 in damage to infrastructure. This was not the first time the river burned—it had ignited at least 12–13 times since 1868 due to chronic pollution from steel mills, refineries, and other industries dumping oily wastes, chemicals, and debris—but the 1969 event captured national attention amid rising environmental consciousness.

Scientifically, the fire exemplified anthropogenic environmental degradation rather than a purely natural hazard. Decades of unchecked industrial discharge created highly flammable surface slicks with low flash points, exacerbated by poor waste management and the river's role as an industrial sewer. From a disaster science perspective, it represented a "technological disaster" or...

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Post-Disaster Learning Loops

From Thery to Improved Governance

In the complex field of emergency management, post-disaster learning loops represent a critical mechanism for transforming chaotic experiences into structured governance improvements. Organizational learning theory, particularly single-loop and double-loop learning frameworks developed by Argyris and Schön, provides a foundational lens. Single-loop learning focuses on correcting errors within existing procedures, while double-loop learning challenges underlying assumptions and mental models to foster deeper systemic change. In disaster contexts, these loops enable agencies to move beyond immediate fixes toward resilient governance structures that integrate formal plans with real-world dynamics.

Continued on Page 3

2026 Hurricane Season: Priorities & Gaps

Early indicators from NOAA point to a more active than average 2026 Atlantic hurricane season, driven by warmer sea-surface temperatures, a weakening El Niño pattern, and...

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Disaster History

Continued...

South Fork Dam Breach and Johnstown Flood

Continued

"na-tech" event (natural-technological hybrid in some classifications), where human systems amplified vulnerability.

Cuyahoga River on fire ~ Ken Summers

Impacts on Cleveland were primarily symbolic and reputational, though tangible damages included bridge repairs and short-term disruptions. The river's severe pollution had already rendered it nearly lifeless, contributing to broader Lake Erie degradation. The fire amplified public outrage, tarnishing Cleveland's image but galvanizing local leadership, notably Mayor Carl Stokes, who highlighted systemic failures.

Legislative changes were profound. The event, alongside other crises, accelerated the modern environmental movement. It helped spur the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1970, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1972, which established federal standards for water quality, permits, and enforcement. These shifted primary authority from local/state levels to federal oversight, addressing gaps in prior fragmented regulation.

Today, risks persist but are greatly mitigated. Legacy contaminated sediments remain, with ongoing EPA-led cleanups under the Great Lakes Legacy Act, including major remediation behind the Gorge Dam (started 2025, targeting completion ~2027). The Cuyahoga River Area of Concern (AOC) continues progress toward delisting. Current efforts include water trail safety initiatives, monitoring, and habitat restoration. Contemporary lessons for the emergency management community emphasize integrating environmental hazards into all-hazards planning, community engagement, and proactive mitigation—core to frameworks like the National Response Framework.

Disaster sociology highlights issues of environmental justice and unequal vulnerability, while emergency management science stresses lessons from technological disasters on interagency coordination and public-private partnerships.

Mitigation today involves robust regulatory compliance, sediment remediation, green infrastructure, and public education. Emergency managers in Cuyahoga County incorporate these into hazard mitigation plans and EOPs, focusing on resilience against combined natural-technological threats. The Cuyahoga story reminds us that vigilance against pollution and investment in science-based preparedness prevent recurrence while building community resilience.

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Post Disaster Learning Loops

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Post-Disaster Learning Loops: Theory to Improved Governance

Continued

After-Action Reports (AARs) serve as the primary vehicle for initiating these learning loops. FEMA and other agencies emphasize systematic AARs to capture strengths, gaps, and improvement areas across preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. Effective AARs facilitate knowledge capture from emergent behaviors—spontaneous citizen actions or informal networks that often fill gaps in official responses. By documenting these phenomena, organizations can transition from ad-hoc improvisation to standardized protocols, enhancing future operations. Lessons learned databases, such as those maintained by the Homeland Security Information Network or state-level repositories, further institutionalize this knowledge, preventing the common "forgetting curve" that erodes gains between events.

Continuous improvement emerges when learning loops feed directly into governance updates. Organizational theory highlights the importance of adaptive capacity, where feedback mechanisms create iterative cycles of reflection, analysis, and action. For emergency management, this means embedding lessons into Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) processes, hazard mitigation plans, and exercises. Integrating emergent behaviors—such as community self-organization during response—into formal frameworks can amplify effectiveness while maintaining coordination under National Incident Management System (NIMS) principles.

Notable examples illustrate successful translation of theory into practice. Following Hurricane Katrina, extensive AARs revealed deficiencies in interagency coordination and evacuation protocols. Subsequent double-loop learning led to reforms in the National Response Framework and widespread adoption of the National Incident Management System. Emergent community behaviors, including spontaneous volunteer networks, informed the development of structured volunteer management guidelines now integrated into many local hazard mitigation plans.

More recently, after-action analyses from events like Hurricane Ian in Florida highlighted the value of emergent groups in debris management and mutual aid. These insights were incorporated into updated exercises and mitigation strategies for coastal communities, demonstrating how lessons learned databases can standardize best practices. Organizations like Integrated Solutions Consulting (ISC) support such efforts by facilitating AARs, developing governance tools, and leveraging platforms like Odysseus EM365 to manage knowledge across the emergency management cycle.

By systematically applying organizational learning theory, emergency management professionals can close the gap between disaster experiences and improved governance. This approach not only enhances compliance with standards like EMAP but also builds truly adaptive communities capable of withstanding future threats. As disasters grow in complexity, investing in robust learning loops remains essential for turning emergent innovation into enduring resilience.

References

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2026 Hurricane Season
Continued

‘26 Hurricane Seaon Gaps
Continued

elevated atmospheric moisture across the Caribbean and Gulf. While the official NOAA forecast will be released later this month, the current signals are strong enough that state and local governments—especially across Florida and the Gulf Coast—should begin tightening preparedness and continuity measures now.

For jurisdictions already balancing aging infrastructure, staffing constraints, and open disaster closeouts, the 2026 season presents both operational and financial risk. A proactive tune-up of core preparedness systems can significantly reduce response friction and protect future FEMA reimbursement.

Why This Season Matters
Several environmental factors are converging to increase the likelihood of tropical development:

- Above-average Atlantic water temperatures, which fuel storm intensity
- Reduced vertical wind shear, allowing storms to organize more quickly
- Higher moisture content in the Gulf and Caribbean, supporting rapid intensification

These conditions mirror patterns seen in recent high impact seasons. For Florida and Gulf states, the takeaway is clear: early preparedness actions will matter more this year than in a typical season.
Key Preparedness Gaps for 2026

These conditions mirror patterns seen in recent high-impact seasons. For Florida and Gulf states, the takeaway is clear: early preparedness actions will matter more this year than in a typical season.

Preparedness Gaps for this Hurricane Season

Across the region, ISC is seeing several recurring vulnerabilities that could complicate response and reimbursement if not addressed before landfall:

Continued on page 5.

2026 Hurricane Season: Priorities & Gaps
Continued

2026 Hurricane Season Outlok: Preparedness Priorities & Gaps

Continued

1. Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs) Needing Modernization.
2. Many EOPs still lack updated hazard analyses, cyber-incident annexes, or continuity-of-operations (COOP) integration. FEMA's 2024–2025 guidance updates have raised expectations for clarity, roles, and cross-functional coordination.
3. Debris Management Plans Out of Sync With FEMA Requirements
4. Debris plans written before 2022 often miss current procurement, monitoring, and environmental compliance standards. FEMA is scrutinizing debris contracts more aggressively, and outdated plans increase the risk of deobligation.
5. Continuity and Staffing Challenges
6. Jurisdictions continue to face turnover in emergency management, finance, and public works. Without refreshed COOP plans and cross-training, response operations can stall at critical moments.
7. Gaps in Documentation and Cost-Tracking Readiness
8. Communities still recovering from prior events often lack the systems needed to capture eligible costs from day one of a new disaster—especially for emergency protective measures and debris.

Written By: Glen LaFond
Senior Disaster Recovery Consultant
Glen LaFond has more than 25 years combined of Emergency, Construction, Project, and Financial Management experience in both the public and private sector. For the past 15 years, Glen has worked on 16 disasters, including hurricane, flood, wind, and earthquake hazards.

How ISC Helps Clients Prepare Before Landfall

ISC supports state and local governments with targeted, rapid-deployment preparedness tune-ups designed to strengthen operational readiness and reduce financial risk. Our pre-season services include:

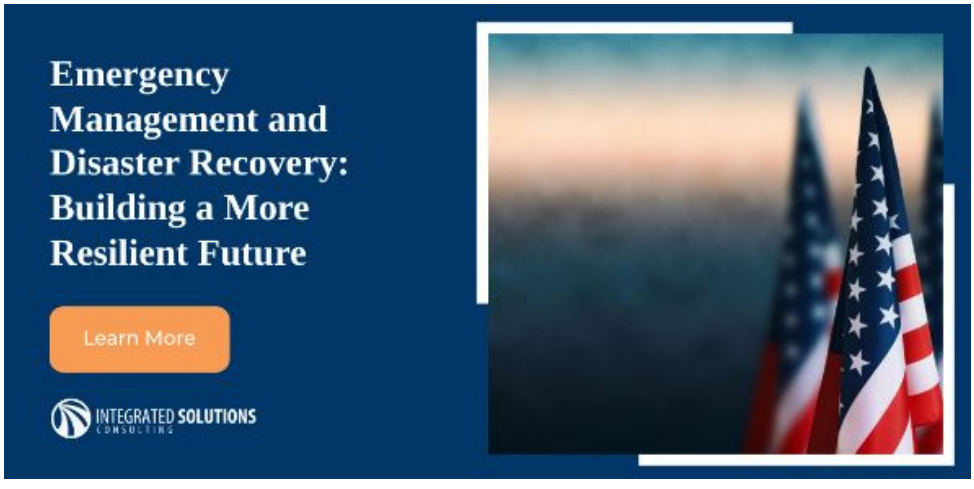
- EOP and annex updates aligned with FEMA's most recent guidance
- Debris management plan modernization, including procurement and monitoring frameworks
- Continuity of operations (COOP) refresh, with staffing matrices and essential function mapping
- Pre-disaster cost-tracking and documentation systems, ensuring FEMA-eligible work is captured from day one
- Tabletop exercises and leadership briefings tailored to local hazards and organizational structure
- Technology support, including readiness assessments for ISC's recovery and documentation platforms

These efforts help ensure that when a storm threatens, your jurisdiction can respond decisively—and recover funding efficiently.

Looking Ahead

With a potentially active season approaching, now is the time for communities to strengthen their preparedness posture. A focused investment in planning, continuity, and documentation readiness can significantly reduce operational strain and protect federal funding.

Contact us to discuss your community's current preparedness. ISC stands ready to support your team with the expertise, tools, and technology needed to navigate the 2026 hurricane season with confidence.



Announcing: Odysseus EM365 Ai

Establishing Ai Community Disaster Intelligence

Odysseus EM365 Ai Enhancements

The Odysseus EM365 platform, developed by Integrated Solutions Consulting (ISC), integrates a governed AI assistant designed to enhance emergency management practices while ensuring outputs are drawn exclusively from vetted, jurisdiction-specific sources such as regulatory databases, peer-reviewed research, and operational guidance. The AI operates within a controlled knowledge environment, avoiding unverified open internet data to maintain accuracy, compliance, and professional defensibility. By handling up to 90% of analytical and procedural tasks, it serves as a force multiplier for practitioners, supporting everything from plan customization to risk analysis, while human experts provide the critical 10% of judgment and oversight. Built on over two decades of ISC's expertise across 7,000+ jurisdictions, EM365 transforms routine workflows into efficient, resilient processes that preserve institutional knowledge and mitigate liability risks in high-stakes scenarios.

The Odysseus EM365 AI builds upon the Community Vulnerability, Risk, and Resiliency (CVR2) model, a patent-pending, evidence-based framework that has served as the industry's leading risk assessment methodologies for the past 15 years. The CVR2's 4,500 evidence-based indicators and measurements of community vulnerability, risk, and resilience serve as a foundational framework for generating reliable community disaster intelligence.

Additionally, the EM365 AI framework is aligned with major federal and state regulatory requirements, evidence-based best practices, and industry standards in emergency management—including EMAP (ANSI/EMAP 5-2022), NFPA (e.g., 1600 and 1660), NWS StormReady, and ISO standards (e.g., 22320:2018)—to ensure all programmatic plans, strategies, assessments, and outputs are compliant and defensible. This generates tailored, auditable outputs that streamline accreditation processes, reduce liability risks, and support proactive alignment with evolving regulations, enhancing programmatic integrity and operational effectiveness across jurisdictions.

The EM365 Ai governed environment systematically configures the evidence-based knowledge and compliance standards into a system-of-sytems architecture, providing a single platform that not only provides best-in-class technology but also a force multiplier that drives efficiencies and alleviates administrative burden. By integrating this robust analytical foundation into the EM365 platform's governed AI environment, the system ensures that AI-generated outputs are not only data-driven and jurisdictionally tailored but also scientifically defensible, enabling emergency managers to make informed decisions that enhance preparedness, response effectiveness, and long-term community resilience while minimizing reliance on unverified external sources.

ODYSSEUS™

EM365-Ai

The EM365 AI assistant empowers local emergency managers by ensuring outputs are drawn exclusively from a library of 50,000 vetted, jurisdiction-specific sources, regulatory databases, peer-reviewed research, documented best practices and operational guidance.

#1 EM Ai Solution

Schedule a Demo

Disaster Resource Center

Free Tool Kits & Resources

Whether you are dealing with a declared disaster or need program guidance, ISC is there to help you.

Hazard-Specific Tool Kits

Disaster Resource Center

Best Practices Library

On-Call Expert Support

Disaster Policy & Research

May 2026

News & Policy

- White House releases presidential message on National Hurricane Preparedness Week
- FEMA brings back employees it recently let go as it looks to 'stabilize' its workforce
- Longest DHS shutdown in history put cities at risk: What to know now
- Cities are rehearsing for deadly heat. Will it help when disaster comes?
- FEMA is actively coordinating with federal, state, local and private-sector partners to ensure safety during FIFA World Cup 2026
- Task force recommends changing, not dismantling, FEMA
- FEMA Review Council recommendations reinforce the need for national emergency management standards
- U.S. Coast Guard to establish Special Missions Command as disaster and maritime response demands grow
- Why 2026 could be one of the worst wildfire seasons in recent U.S. history
- Column: When approval delays become public safety risks
- Three policy failures are undermining America's CBRN detection readiness
- Accelerating 'Super El Niño' expected to suppress Atlantic hurricanes, bring stormy pattern to southern U.S.
- Long-awaited FEMA council report sets the stage for reform
- House panel approves slate of DHS intelligence reform bills
- FEMA can't help until it handles its own disaster
- The Antarctic Treaty System needs a disaster management authority to guard the continent against disasters
- Hurricane forecasts have improved dramatically, saving lives, but federal cuts stretch NOAA to the breaking point
- FEMA review signals shift to state-led disaster management
- Disaster policy nerds explain the good, bad, and ugly in FEMA Review Council Report
- The next era of Atlantic hurricanes could be far more destructive
- Wildfire season is off to a historic start and it could get worse

Research & Innovations

- Shelter management during pandemics: lessons from cascading risks of cyclones and COVID-19
- How states are navigating the intersection of disasters and public health
- Space systems are already critical infrastructure — We must start treating them that way
- Documentation discipline: Preparedness before the storm
- National Hurricane Center updates forecast products ahead of 2026 season
- How public safety agencies can tap drones to protect major events
- New dataset uses AI and disaster news to fill in knowledge gaps and map interconnected risks
- Shelter and health response to functional and access needs in disaster health
- What the (rather brief) history of hantavirus reveals about its spread
- How the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers partners with communities during high-water events
- Underwater robotic drones show how tropical cyclones affect the deep ocean
- Column: Emergency management and generative AI
- Bridging the accessibility gap in emergency management
- Strengthening emergency management through accreditation
- Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB) Report 2026: A World on the Edge — Priorities for a Pandemic-Resilient Future
- How prepared are we for a public-health emergency?
- $15,000 A mile: The brutal math of wildfire recovery in cattle country
- Updated Return on Investment for Preparedness to Respond Study

International News

- Government of Canada marks Emergency Preparedness Week and strengthens federal emergency management
- Climate disasters don't just destroy homes, they change lives forever. We spoke with cyclone survivors in Zimbabwe
- Greece launches six new microsatellites for civil protection, environmental monitoring
- Mapping displacement to build a resilient Caribbean
- Human-to-human transmission of killer hantavirus suspected in cruise ship outbreak
- UNESCO strengthens cultural emergency preparedness and response across Middle East
- South Africa declares natural disaster as flooding kills 10
- The Mediterranean sea is capable of generating hurricanes and climate change will make them worse
- High risk yet home to thousands: The makeshift towns at the mercy of landslides and floods in Peru
- 117 killed as storms lash Uttar Pradesh with cyclone-like 130-mph winds

Preparedness Best Practice:
Special Event Crisis Preparedness

Across the nation, communities and venue owners are responsible for managing thousands of special events for sporting events, festivals, concerts, conventions, tourist attractions, and other public and private mass gatherings. These events not only draw hundreds of thousands of people into a community or specific venue, magnifying the potential of a crisis or the consequences of a natural emergency or disease outbreak, but some events may be a potential target for terrorism or civil unrest.

Whether these events are designated as a National Special Security Event, past special event crises have demonstrated that communities and venue owners must be well prepared. Pre-incident emergency planning and crisis management strategies will help manage the crisis response operations and identify strategies to successfully manage communication, reputational risk, and recovery.

Special Event Crisis and Emergency Incidents are on the Rise

Large public and private special events are on the rise but so too are the number of large-scale emergencies that result in mass casualties and civil disturbance. Large special events serve as economic drivers for many communities; however, special event organizers must also consider that in today's world there are an increasing number of security concerns they must be prepared to handle. Here are a few trends that every community, venue owner, and special event organizer must consider.

Emergency Preparedness Best Practices for Special Events

Emergency preparedness for special events goes well beyond stationing security guards at various locations to manage the risk exposure and potential consequence of a crisis. Crisis and emergency preparedness is a complex process that must be integrated into the operational elements of the event security so that readiness is maintained. Here are a few best practices and tips:

- Have extensive knowledge of the venue, inside and out
- Assess potential threats
- Determine attendee risks
- Develop venue-specific security plans
- Develop scalable emergency response strategies
- Develop crisis management and business resumption strategies
- Coordinate with community partners and first responders
- Train, exercise, and drill the plan with staff and community stakeholders
- Control the crowd
- Debrief and make improvements
- Stay connected
- Do not underestimate the importance of crisis and emergency preparedness.

Large Scale Emergencies on the Rise:

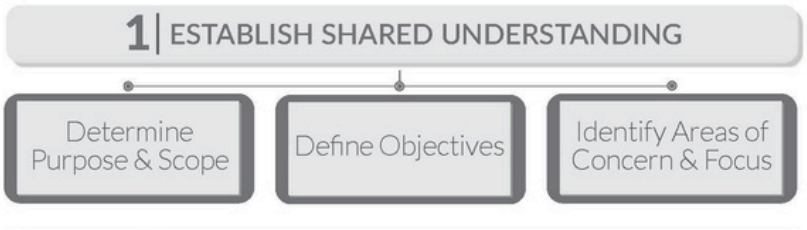
- According to the FBI, over the past twenty years there have been over 300 active shooter incidents resulting in almost 3,000 casualties and 1,000 fatalities.
- In 2020, the United States had a record number of public demonstrations that grew into civil disturbances resulting in over $2 billion in damages according to the Verisk Property Claims Services.
- According to the Center for Strategic & International Studies, over the past twenty-five years there have been over 900 terrorist attacks and foiled plots in the United States. These terrorist plots were made by religious, left-wing, right-wing, and ethnonationalist groups.
- Research indicates that disease outbreaks have been increasing significantly since 1980 and this risk will continue beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and into the decades to come.
- According to the International Disaster Database, natural disasters and large-scale emergencies are on the rise, globally and the United States. Although deaths from natural disasters are down, the cost and economic loss from natural disasters has risen exponentially.

Response Best Practices

Elevate Preparedness with Systematic AAR/IP Methods

Some of the most significant changes to how we prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate for disasters have occurred as a result of thoughtful and critical post-incident reviews. The After-Action Review (AAR) and Improvement Plan (IP) is a vital instrument to document the successes, gaps, and areas of improvement needed to strengthen comprehensive strategies for future incidents and disasters.

The value of the AAR/IP is directly proportionate to the thoroughness, analysis, and synthesis of the information obtained throughout the AAR/IP process. Using tested and validated systematic methods and techniques we can control for the quality of the data gathering and analysis and thus ensure more substantial and reliable findings. At ISC we developed a method to developing AARs and IPs that is consistent with industry standards while incorporating scientific methods to ensure rigor, accuracy, and validity throughout the AAR/IP process. By applying a scientific method to the AAR/IP process, ISC can create results that are as much as 97.5% accurate and reliable. The following highlights our five step process:



An AAR/IP can vary in a myriad of ways. Establishing a shared understanding on the purpose and scope, defining the objectives, and identifying areas of concern and focus will ensure the success of the outcomes.

Incidents are complex with numerous layers of cause-and-effects and involving multiple stakeholders. Thoroughly compiling and objectively analyzing the data will ensure the appropriate rigor in the AAR/IP process.

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How Research Can Improve EM

Despite the progress we have made in professionalizing emergency management over the years, the development and application of research continues to remain a low priority for our emergency management system. There are multiple reasons why ranging from a belief that research is simply an "academic exercise" to a lack of understanding and appreciation of the value research offers the profession. The reality is research is fundamental for today's emergency management system and a core function of the modern emergency manager.

Although many do not realize it, the emergency management community utilize research every day, albeit it may not meet the rigor to produce accurate and valid results. For example, conducting community resiliency surveys is an example of basic research that allows us to create a baseline understanding of our community and how things work. Applied research is the application of theory (which is derived from basic research) to practical situations. Developing a hazard risk assessment is an example of applied research.

With the escalating increase in the number of disasters and the need for organizations to be accountable to the public for their actions, emergency management agencies are increasingly obliged to consider seriously the role of research in establishing best practice, creating more effective policies, increasing capabilities, and improving all phases of disaster management.

Research is a critical component of modernizing the emergency management profession. First, it provides a professional knowledge base that is continuously tested, validated and improved upon. Research challenges taken-for-granted knowledge and understandings, thereby undermining the very sense of certainty that is an important feature of emergency...

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Response Best Practices:
Continued...

Elevate Preparedness with Systematic AAR/IP Methods *(Continued)*

The AAR/IP development process must ascertain the varying perspectives of stakeholders through an array of modes (interviews, surveys, focus groups, etc.). By using tested and proven methodological techniques, the review team can comprehensively examine the issues while controlling for quality and accuracy.

Analyzing the data and information occurs throughout the AAR/IP development process. However, after engaging the stakeholders, the review team should immerse themselves in the data that has been obtained to ensure nothing has left to be undiscovered. The review team must assess for areas of bias or agenda-setting to ensure accuracy of the After-Action Report.

Identifying and incorporating improvements is a vital component of the AAR process and helps to ensure a more resilient and prepared future. Too often this is where the AAR/IP process falls short. The IP should include actionable steps and time frames to implement improvements. It is important that leadership is well informed of these improvements and supports their implementation. Once there is agreement, there must be a strategy to execute and monitor the progress.

How Research Can Improve EM *(Continued)*

management practice. It helps solve the "wet-noodle approach" to the policy making and practice in emergency management by providing evidence-based answers, solutions, innovations, and decisions that are routinely challenged and validated. Most importantly, it elevates the competency and esteem of the profession by legitimizing what we do and how we do it.

Research is not a practice that is only done by ivory tower academics. One does not have to possess a doctorate degree to conduct great research. Conversely, poor research can be done by accomplished researchers. Quality research is systematic, controlled, objective, generalizable, and constantly examined, tested, and improved.

Perhaps with a new perception and recognition of the value of research, the emergency management community can not only further enhance the capabilities of our emergency management system but also the esteem of the profession.

Case Study: Community Resiliency Study

ISC was commissioned by San Diego and Miami-Dade counties to conduct a research-based study of the disaster resiliency of residents. The study was representative of the whole community and achieved a 95% confidence level with less than a 3% margin of error. The survey instrument was translated into multiple languages and distributed in multiple formats to ensure a representative sample of the community participated. The survey instrument was designed to using proven scientific indicators that measure individual and community disaster resiliency. The results of this community study would provide both counties with reliable and accurate quantifiable data to help direct the future of their emergency management programs. .

Learn More About Our Work

Recovery Best Practices

Continued...

Community Disaster Recovery Success Series

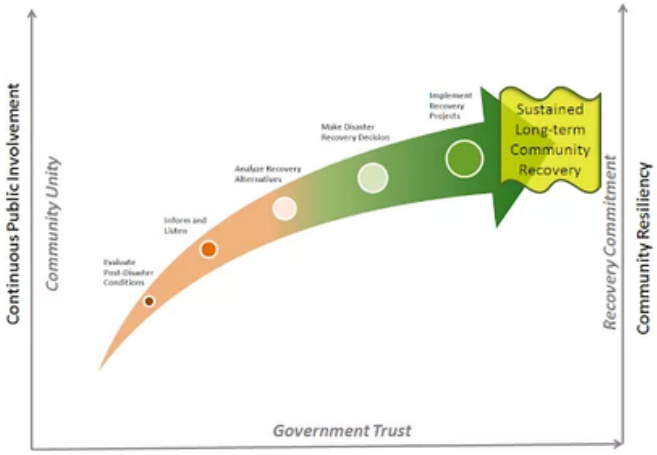
Part 1 of 11: Establish Recovery Governance that Expands the Window of Opportunities

(continued)

Our everyday decisions are governed by processes and routines that assist us in identifying the problem, determining strategies to resolve the problem, evaluating these alternatives, choosing the best alternative, and then implementing the resolution. These procedures and routines are carried out by organizations that offer consistency, commitment, and confidence in the decision-making process. After disaster, these processes and routines may be disrupted or may not be set up to adequately handle the litany of complex post-disaster recovery issues. A defined and shared pre-disaster process for managing disaster recovery activities and coordinating with local, regional, state and federal partners is paramount to community recovery success.

Unlike the tactical incident strategies that are paramount to managing information and resources during the response phase, community disaster recovery is an organic and inductive process that fosters community unity and an open autonomy that promotes effective decision-making that benefits the majority. The disaster process goes through a period called 'Communitas' where disaster-stricken communities take on a shared identity of "disaster victim" and establish a sense of equality between community groups that otherwise take opposing views. During this period, conditions are optimal for community unity, empowerment, and agreement. Research has shown that social trust in government becomes a symbolic token to a community, can extend the period of 'Communitas', and facilitate an effective community recovery decision-making process.

A united community will strengthen the potential for agreement on difficult disaster recovery issues and facilitate a sustained commitment between otherwise divergent parties. Building a mutual understanding between conflicted parties will reduce controversial engagements and increase efforts to resolve issues collaboratively with a shared understanding and respect. A community that maintains a sense of unity will enable community recovery decision-makers to be increasingly sensitized to the public concerns. A united community will begin to see the long-term recovery organization as a trusted and focal agent, elevating its status and maintaining its credibility and legitimacy within the community.



The net result will be an organization that can assist communities with the immediate evaluation of post-disaster conditions and needs; outreach efforts that will inform, listen to, and resolve potential conflict with the community; thorough and unbiased analysis of the benefits and challenges recovery alternatives; processes that will facilitate accurate disaster recovery decisions; and track the implementation of recovery projects and offer corrective actions if necessary.

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Recovery Best Practices

Continued...

Community Disaster Recovery Success Series

Part 1: Establish Recovery Governance that Expands the Window of Opportunities (continued)

Committed and structured governance would result in a rational system for efficient and effective long-term community recovery. A defined and open decision-making process will provide organizational legitimacy and improve the quality of decisions being made. Decisions will be made in a timely manner and based on a well-informed organization and public. Independent decisions may appear quick and easy, but often they meet public resistance causing increased cost and project implementation delays, if not project termination. A committed and structured long-term community recovery structure will prevent uninformed and unilateral decisions and provide an open forum to discuss potential regulatory and budgetary challenges to implementing a project. The organization, as well as the public, take ownership in the decision and ultimately increase the ease of implementing the project.

Read more on the Community Disaster Recovery Success Series.

Maximize Vital Community Disaster Recovery Funds

Odysseus Features for Disaster Grant Management Solutions

Mitigation Best Practices

Creating and Maintaining a Sustainable Hazard Mitigation Program

There is a growing challenge for communities of all sizes to regularly update, maintain, and implement their hazard mitigation plans. However, according to FEMA, over half of the nation's municipal and county mitigation plans have fallen out of compliance and many communities struggle to implement key mitigation initiatives. As a result, communities have wasted the initial investment to develop mitigation plans and find themselves spending the same effort, if not more, in developing a new, compliant plan and be eligible for pre- and post-disaster funding.

ISC's core preparedness philosophy takes a holistic approach to crisis management, prevention, and recovery. We craft an interconnected strategy of planning, training, and crisis response to ensure a community's needs are met in totality.

Our comprehensive and programmatic solutions are executed by knowledgeable staff who have developed plans for some of our Nation's largest communities. We are a team of experts who have implemented billions of dollars in pre- and post-disaster mitigation projects. Our innovations focus on meaningful mitigation processes and outcomes while easing the burden in developing, maintaining, and implementing your community's mitigation investments.

Click below to watch a video on ISC's hazard mitigation program management strategies.

Learn More About Our Work

MITIGATION CORE CAPABILITIES:

- Program Management and Support
- Risk and Disaster Resilience Assessment
- Community Resilience
- Long-Term Vulnerability Reduction
- Threats and Hazards Identification
- Comprehensive Emergency Preparedness and Planning Development
- Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Recovery
- Technical Support
- Committee and Workgroup Governance Development
- Community Outreach
- Grant Management and Procurement Support
- Community Technical Surveys & Analysis
- Mapping and Geospatial Analysis

Disaster News

Current FEMA Disaster Declarations: May 2026

May 2026 continued the steady pace of Presidential emergency, major disaster, and fire management assistance declarations observed earlier in the year. Activity focused heavily on approvals and amendments addressing lingering impacts from winter storms and older incidents across multiple states and tribes, alongside targeted emergency support for a chemical incident and an uptick in wildfire-related Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAGs) as the fire season intensified. No broad surge in new emergency declarations (EM series) materialized, but spring weather patterns and emerging wildfires drove fresh federal actions.

Major disaster declarations (DR series) approved or announced included several for winter storm and severe weather events from late 2025/early 2026, providing critical recovery resources such as Public Assistance and Individual Assistance:

- San Carlos Apache Tribe (DR-4911): Major disaster declaration on May 29, 2026, for severe storms and flooding (incident period October 10–13, 2025).
- Native Village of Kipnuk (DR-4912): Major disaster declaration on May 29, 2026, for severe storms, flooding, and remnants of Typhoon Halong (incident period October 8–13, 2025).
- Kentucky (DR-4913-KY): Major disaster declaration on May 29, 2026, for severe winter storm (incident period January 23–27, 2026).
- Fort Peck Tribes (DR-4914): Major disaster declaration on May 29, 2026, for severe winter storm and straight-line winds (incident period December 17–18, 2025).
- Crow Tribe of Montana (DR-4915): Major disaster declaration on May 29, 2026, for severe winter storm and straight-line winds (incident period December 17–19, 2025).
- Delaware (DR-4916-DE): Major disaster declaration on May 29, 2026, for severe winter storm (incident period February 22–23, 2026)

Amendments to prior declarations and other targeted actions supported ongoing recovery efforts in affected jurisdictions. New emergency declarations (EM series):

- California (EM-3646-CA): Emergency declaration on May 25, 2026, for a chemical incident (incident period May 21–29, 2026). This provided initial federal support for response and protective measures.

Fire Management Assistance declarations (FM series) showed continued activity, aiding states in containing wildfires that threatened escalation to major disasters:

- California Bain Fire (FM-5636-CA): Declared May 20, 2026 (incident starting May 19, 2026, and continuing).

Industry Innovations

ODYSSEUS™
EM365 Ai

672%	300X	99%	54X	97%
INCREASE IN PROGRAM EFFICIENCY	STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION	REGULATORY & PROGRAM COMPLIANCE	RETURN ON INVESTMENT	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

EM Innovations in Work

Odysseus™ EM-365
Statewide Comprehensive EM Program Management

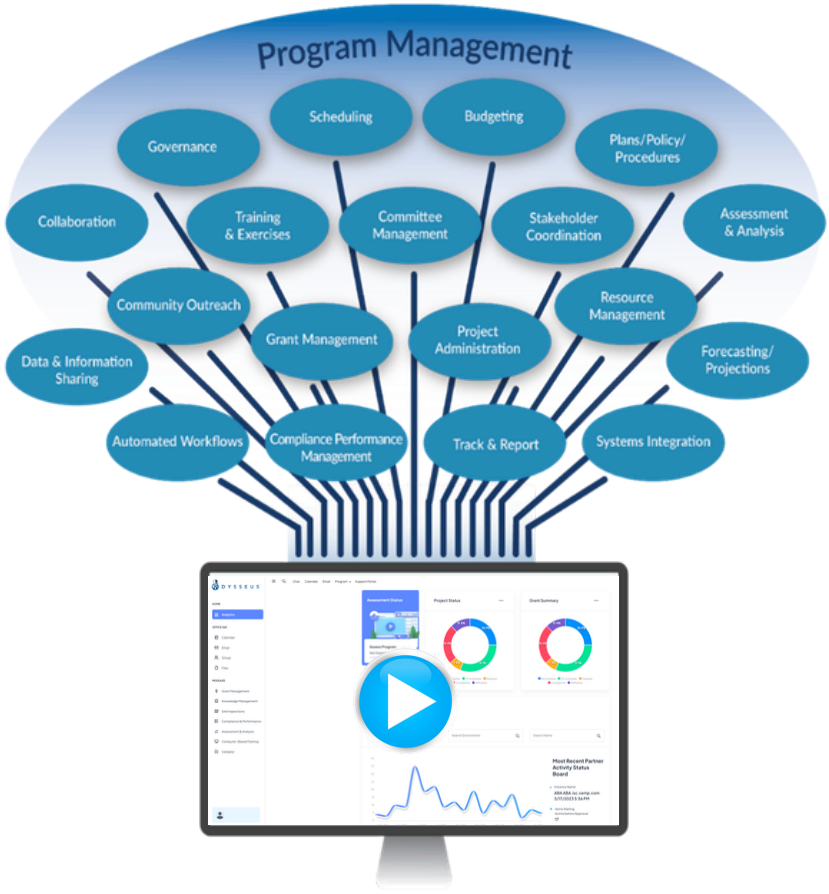
State Emergency Management Agencies

Although they provide much needed resources and capabilities during the time of a crisis or disaster, a State emergency management agency's (EMA) operational focus extends far beyond the response phase of an incident. The reality is that the success of a State EMA's response operation is intimately related to its ability to systematically track, guide, direct, monitor, manage, and administer all aspects of a comprehensive emergency management program across all state agency, county and municipal government partners, regional authorities, and other stakeholders.

Although the value is unmeasurable, many states think that coordinating a statewide comprehensive emergency management program would be a formidable task that would require significant resources. That's not true anymore.

Odysseus™ offers state emergency management agencies a software solution for managing a unified statewide comprehensive emergency management program. Odysseus'™ "system-of-systems" architecture gives state EMA's a force multiplier to manage EMA program requirements statewide.

Designed by our team of leading emergency managers and software technicians, Odysseus™ offers a unique State EMA program management platform. It is a program management tool and allows for the full integration of other incident management software programs.



EM Innovations in Work

Odysseus™ EM-365
Statewide Comprehensive EM Program Management

Comprehensive EM Features

Preparedness Programs
- Planning Management
- Training Management
- Exercise Management
- Continuity of Operations
- Community Outreach
- Program Evaluation
- Program Compliance
- Project Reporting & Tracking
- Grant Management

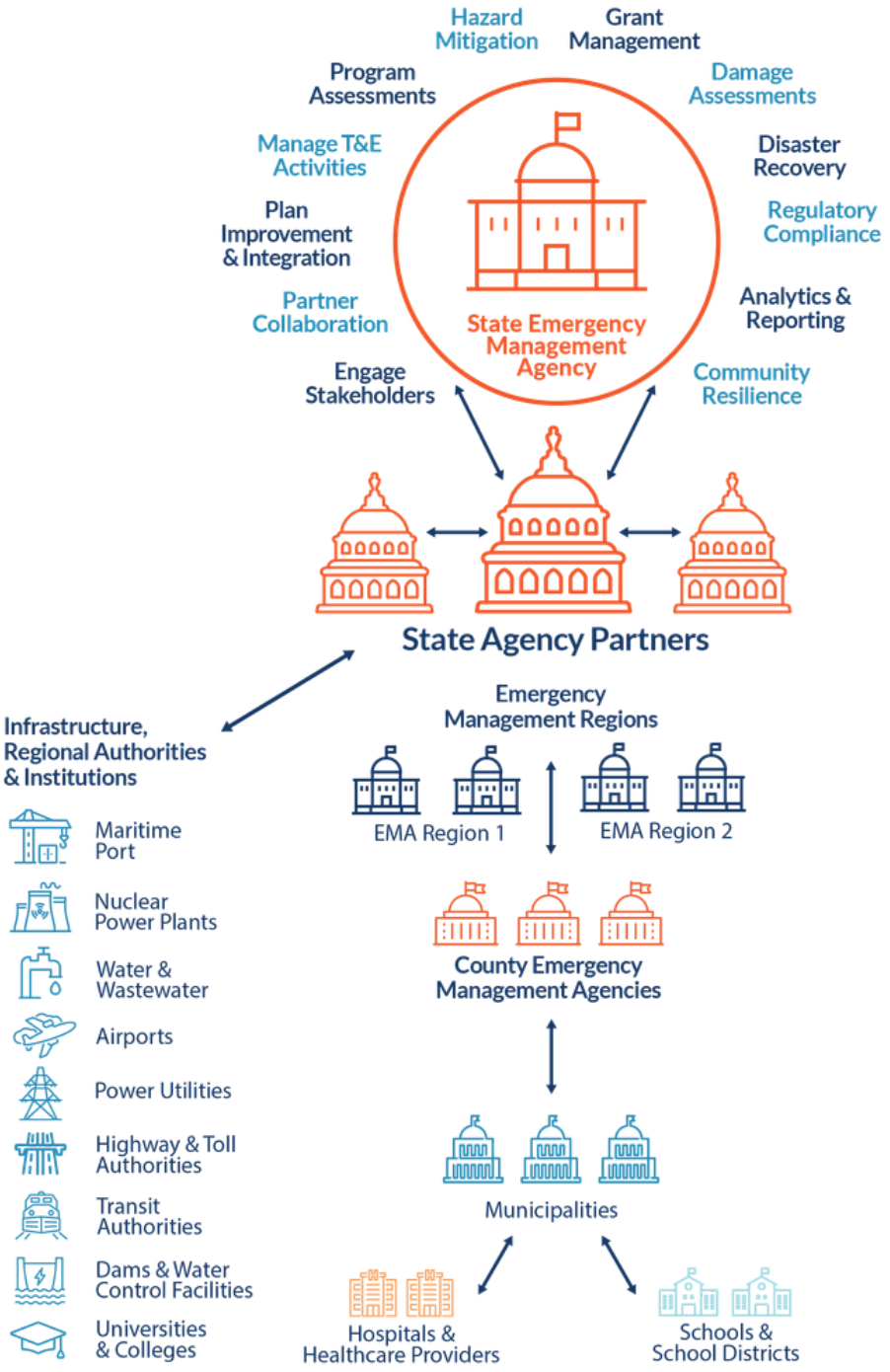
Response Programs
- Incident Action Planning
- Situational Awareness Sharing
- Ops & Incident Reporting
- After-Action Review Analysis
- Preliminary Damage Assessments
- Cost & Expense Tracking
- Information Sharing

Recovery Programs
- Damage Assessments
- Debris Monitoring
- FEMA Public Assistance
- FEMA Individual Assistance
- HUD CDBG-DR
- Recovery Project Tracking
- Closeout & Audits

Mitigation Programs
- Mitigation Planning
- Risk Assessments
- Federal Cost Share Tracking
- Grant & Project Management

Click Here to Learn More

System-of-Systems Comprehensive EM Network



ODYSSEUS™ IN WORK

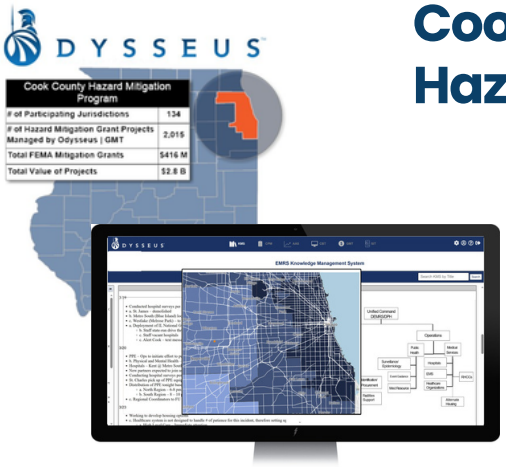
Hazard Mitigation Program Management
Elevate Your Community Disaster Resiliency

Odysseus Features for Hazard Mitigation Program Solutions

Features

- Track Plan Development & Update
- Create Efficiencies with Plan Maintenance
- Track In-Kind Match Effort Contributions
- Mitigation Committee Management Tools
- Assess Hazard Mitigation Opportunities
- Real Time Tracking of Mitigation Grant Funds
- Interactive Mapping & Hazard Modeling
- Streamline Multi-Jurisdictional Planning
- Mitigation Crosswalk Compliance Metrics
- Track Mitigation Plan Participation
- Manage & Track Progress of Community Mitigation Projects
- Train Staff on FEMA Mitigation Requirements and Drive Accountability
- Maximize Federal Funding Possibilities
- Identify Mitigation Funding Gaps
- Adaptable and Customizable to Meet Your Needs
- Increase Hazard Mitigation Program Efficiency

Case Studies



Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

- 136 Participating Jurisdictions
- 230% Increase in HMP Participation
- 2,015 Mitigation Projects Identified
- $400+ Million in FEMA HMGP Grants
- $2.8+ Billion in Pre-Disaster Mitigation Actions
- 100% FEMA Compliant
- Completed in Less Than 5 Months

Click Here to Learn More About

Schedule a Demo

Building a More Resilient Future

INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS CONSULTING

Click Below to Learn How We Build a More Resilient Future

ABOUT US

Integrated Solutions Consulting is a professional services firm focused on developing and implementing comprehensive crisis and consequence management solutions. We are a team of innovative problem-solvers that combine experience and evidence-based knowledge to deliver practical, best practice results across multiple industries to make communities safer and more resilient

Top Supplier Performance Rating
dun & bradstreet
97.1%
Successful Performance

We help our clients by providing comprehensive emergency management consulting services that use data-driven research, sophisticated crisis modeling and seasoned consultants to help our clients manage unexpected emergency and disaster situations.

MARKETS WE SERVE

- Federal, State, and Local Governments
- Tribal Nations & Communities of Diversity & Inclusion
- Organizations & Corporations
- Hospitals & Healthcare
- Schools,Universities, & Education
- Critical Infrastructure
- Ports & Transportation
- Utilities
- Special Venues
- Churches & Community Civic Groups

Expertise: Preparedness

The Value of Preparedness

Recent events remind us that every community must make a continued investment in preparing for the next emergency or disaster. Empirical evidence has shown a direct correlation between the level of preparedness and the level of resiliency in a community. Specifically, the more prepared communities are, the greater their ability to effectively respond to and recover from disaster and minimize the impact of a disaster.

INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS CONSULTING

However, the most resilient communities go beyond simply developing a response plan that "checks the box" and supported by periodic training and scenario-based exercises. The stark reality is that our communities are becoming increasingly complex with intricate relationships and interdependencies between our social, built, and natural environments. These community conditions often intersect with our hazard risks, impacting a community for years to come.