

THE RESILIENCE DART

Parsons Brinckerhoff Resilience Disaster Awareness Report

June 10, 2015

The Parsons Brinckerhoff Resilience DART (Disaster Awareness Report) summarizes key developments related to resilience planning and design across the US, including the region affected by Superstorm Sandy.

Parsons Brinckerhoff's Resilience Information Center: A website established by Parsons Brinckerhoff allows users to track congressional, regulatory, and federal agency funding developments pertaining to Superstorm Sandy and resilience programs. The site provides links to the final Sandy bill, notices of funding availability and funding allocations, Federal Register notices, fact sheets on agency Emergency Relief programs, testimony from Sandy implementation hearings, etc. The website can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.pbtransportationupdate.com/legislation/resiliency_issues_and_hurricane.aspx

State of Affairs:

Washington, DC/National/International

- The start of the Atlantic hurricane season on June 1 highlights the choice communities face of whether to stay in place or evacuate during a storm—a complex issue that involves available data, demographics, access to transportation and decision-making based on past experience (link below).

<http://theconversation.com/should-i-stay-or-should-i-go-timing-affects-hurricane-evacuation-decisions-40141>

- A new storm predictor was introduced at the sixth annual Hurricane Conference that will help emergency managers warn residents about flooding potential and assist in evacuation decisions (links below).

<http://www.ibamag.com/news/new-technology-discussed-at-hurricane-conference-22744.aspx>

<http://www.witn.com/weather/hurricane/headlines/New-tech-305259001.html>

- The recent flooding in Texas and Oklahoma presents new tests for the National Flood Insurance Program, and increases pressure for reform after allegations of improprieties in claims handling following Sandy (links below).

<https://theconversation.com/texas-floods-highlight-need-to-reform-key-insurance-program-42235>

<http://www.newsmax.com/US/sandy-hurricane-fema-homeowners/2015/06/03/id/648440/>

- Ten years after one of the busiest hurricane seasons on record, there are improvements in storm forecasting but not much progress in assessing a storm's intensity (links below).

<http://www.npr.org/2015/06/01/410291173/10-years-since-katrina-a-look-back-at-the-busiest-hurricane-season>

http://www.nola.com/hurricane/index.ssf/2015/05/major_improvements_in_hurricane.html

- A research team led by the University of Miami will look at the elements that produced a storm of Sandy's ferocity and examine the impacts of climate change over the near term (link below).

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/article21621621.html>

- The issue of how climate change and extreme weather affect disabled people and marginalized communities was the central topic at the recent National Adaptation Forum in St. Louis (links below).

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/05/20/3660371/national-climate-adaptation-forum-equity/>

<http://www.nationaladaptationforum.org/>

<http://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/whistler/extreme-weather-events-mean-future-will-look-different/Content?oid=2656026>

Regional (New York/New Jersey/Connecticut/Massachusetts)

- One expert believes that bridging the gap between what climate models deliver and what planners and managers need to know would help predict local and regional impacts with more reliability, and help guide public policy (link below).

http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/05/18/can-green-virtues-help-us-survive-climate-change/?_r=0

- It's not just people who are struggling with the effects of Sandy in the Northeast—trees are dead or dying in large numbers because of the long-term impact of salt-water infiltration (link below).

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/new-york-city-still-feeling-the-wrath-of-superstorm-sandy/>

Contact:

Parsons Brinckerhoff provided immediate support to help clients and communities in the New York metropolitan area recover and rebuild after Superstorm Sandy, and is currently participating in a range of projects to mitigate the effects of extreme weather and build resilience in the region. For information on the firm's activities and capabilities, please contact:

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