

September 23, 2015

The Resilience DART (Disaster Awareness Report) summarizes key developments related to resilience planning and design across the U.S.

The Parsons Brinckerhoff's Resilience Information Center is a website that allows users to track congressional, regulatory, and federal agency funding developments pertaining to resilience programs. The site provides links to notices of funding availability and funding allocations, Federal Register notices, fact sheets on agency emergency relief programs, etc. It can be accessed via the following link:

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

State of Affairs

Washington, DC / National / International

- FEMA and HUD have agreed to a 30-day extension for Sandy homeowners who are requesting that their claims for federal assistance get a second look (link below).

<http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2015/09/16/fema-extends-deadline-to-review-hurricane-sandy-flood-claims/>

- More than \$57 million in federal funds will help New York City make critical upgrades to the subway system to protect against storm-related damage, including a new emergency communications system and protection for station rooms (links below):

http://www.timesledger.com/stories/2015/37/subwayrepair_2015_09_11_q.html

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-more-57-million-improve-emergency-communications-systems-subway>

- Government agencies and wireless carriers have begun to put a framework in place that will maintain connectivity and facilitate recovery in areas affected by major weather events (link below).

<http://www.wirelessweek.com/article/2015/09/how-carriers-are-preparing-unthinkable>

- Weather experts are working to identify major storms known as Grey Swans which can be predicted but have no archival references, and which could have impacts much greater than anticipated (links below).

<http://news.yahoo.com/gray-swan-hurricanes-could-strike-unexpected-places-151611683.html>

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate2777.html>

- Ten years after Hurricane Katrina, an analysis by a risk management firm suggests that hurricane-driven storm surge will continue to drive up economic losses in coastal cities, including high-risk areas such as Tampa and Miami as well as New York, New Orleans, Boston and Baltimore (link below).

<http://www.fiercehomelandsecurity.com/story/future-coastal-flooding-risks-economic-losses-will-rise-several-major-us-ci/2015-08-31>

Regional (NY / NJ / CT / MA)

- Federal and state funding will support an expansion of sanitary sewer service in Suffolk County in New York, to mitigate the problems of flooding and septic system failure that occurred after Sandy (links below).

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-388-million-funding-critical-coastal-resiliency-and-sewer-expansion>

<http://www.longisland.com/news/09-14-15/cuomo-suffolk-county-coastal-resiliency-sewer-expansion-funding.html>

- The development of a microgrid in Potsdam, New York will not only improve power resilience in the event of a wider outage but could potentially offer reserves to National Grid (link below).

<http://northcountrynow.com/news/planned-microgrid-potsdam-could-be-first-nation-would-keep-essential-services-going-emergencies>

- The New York Transit Museum's new exhibition "Bringing Back the City: Mass Transit Responds to Crisis" provides a compelling look at the challenges of restoring the city's complex transit system after a crisis, highlighting the work of employees during recovery (links below).

<http://www.longisland.com/news/09-08-15/bringing-back-the-city-exhibition-ny-transit-museum.html>

<http://web.mta.info/mta/museum/whatsnew.htm>

- New federal grants have been awarded to the PATH rail system to repair damage sustained during Sandy and to assist in developing protective measures (link below).

<http://newjersey.realestaterama.com/2015/09/10/menendez-booker-sires-payne-panynj-announce-256m-in-path-sandy-relief-grants-ID01879.html>

Contact

Staff from WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff provided immediate support to help clients and communities in the New York metropolitan area recover and rebuild after Superstorm Sandy. The firm is currently participating in a range of projects to mitigate the effects of extreme weather and build resilience. For additional information, please contact:

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About WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff

WSP and Parsons Brinckerhoff have combined strengths and formed one of the world's leading engineering and professional services consulting firms. This global organization provides services designed to transform the built environment and restore the natural one. The firm's expertise ranges from environmental remediation and urban planning, to engineering iconic buildings and designing sustainable transport networks, to developing the energy sources of the future and enabling new ways of extracting essential resources. Approximately 32,000 employees, including engineers, technicians, scientists, architects, planners, surveyors, program and construction management professionals, as well as various environmental experts, work for this dynamic organization in more than 500 offices across 40 countries worldwide.