



Complex Disaster Management during a Pandemic

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As emergency managers prepared for the 2020 Hurricane Season, COVID-19 raged across the nation. CDC guidance for preventing the spread of COVID conflicted with evacuation and sheltering requirements to protect people from the effects of these storms. Social distancing, shortfalls in PPE, and lack of volunteers called into question the traditional approaches to mass care of feeding and sheltering disaster survivors.

NGOs and Government Agencies rushed to provide solutions before the first of 12 landfalling tropical systems in the United States. Further wildfires, widespread power outages, floods, and extreme cold created more challenges and tested these strategies.