As the COVID-19 pandemic and its cascading effects unfold, we are participants in one of the most disruptive disasters on record. The attendant loss of life, financial crises, job loss, impoverishment and societal stress portend a lengthy and arduous recovery period.

National crises can produce a public imperative for resiliency and can reshape operational readiness. Chastened by the 9/11 attack, the US created a Department of Homeland Security, currently the third largest Cabinet department. In the intervening years, extensive re-tooling of government and private sector policy, workforce changes, technical innovation, and practice and protocol improvements have occurred.

Like 9/11, one of the pandemic’s indelible characteristics is that most citizens and policy-makers were unaware that a profound risk had been accumulating. A major pandemic is classified in many threat, hazard and risk assessments as a “low probability/high impact event,” at or near the bottom for serious response planning.

This may no longer be the case. Hopefully, community resilience will become a reinvigorated priority, including improving vulnerable systems, addressing supply chain frailties and, where warranted, reshaping prevention, planning and mitigation approaches. The pandemic has illustrated how important lifeline infrastructures are to the maintenance of community during highly adverse conditions. In addition to an upgraded pandemic response capability, future community resilience will hinge on the ability to withstand “black sky” events - catastrophic events that severely disrupt the normal functioning of critical infrastructures. It is essential that a period of science-grounded strategic thinking, assessment and innovation emerges.

In order to encourage this, JCIP invites pandemic-related commentary or research intended to assist decision-makers at the policy, professional, organizational and practice levels. They include but are not limited to:

- Policy change at the federal, state or local levels to improve the current and future pandemic response
- Strategies to upgrade healthcare and/or public health pandemic readiness and capacity
- New concepts of “community resilience” in light of long-term pandemic conditions and other realities
- Critical infrastructure resiliency investments, including those having economic stimulus potential
- Given its centrality to all sectors, high impact strategies to upgrade electric power system resilience
- Promising avenues to improve supply chain resilience for critical needs during pandemics
- New conceptions of “multi-hazard readiness” attuned to the current complex threat environment

Authors responding to the Special Call for Papers are encouraged to send an abstract (maximum 2 pages) by July 15, 2020 including the topic to be addressed, objectives, methods, and analytic design, as well as an attachment listing the name(s), capsule bio(s) and contact information for the author(s) to:

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The deadline for completed manuscripts is: September 15, 2020