

# President's Message

## NASAR

The results of the election for the Board of Directors have been finalized. We want to welcome Stephen Lewis from Tennessee as the newest Director. Craig Spieker (Ohio) was re-elected as a Director. We want to thank the other candidates who stepped up to throw their names in the hat. Stephen will be inducted to the Board at our January 2021 meeting.

With the effects of the coronavirus continuing to impact the globe, we have had a significant drop in in-person training activity. We have experimented with some virtual classes and are looking to expand this type of activity in 2021. We recognize that there are some search and rescue skills that require in-person interaction; however there are others that may be conducive to virtual learning. We will be experimenting to see what we can do.

We hope that all of you are finding ways to adapt to the changes in society being brought about by the coronavirus!

Stay safe, stay well!

Mike

---

## INDUSTRY NEWS

# After Laura, learning how to recover from a hurricane during a pandemic

## NPR

In Orange, Texas, just across the Sabine River from Louisiana, a line of cars hundreds deep snakes along a highway shoulder and into a parking lot. A local supermarket has set up an aid distribution center in the hot sun and humidity. Families are packed in their cars, waiting to get the basics: ice, water, a hot meal. Hurricane Laura is the first major test of whether the Gulf Coast is prepared to handle two disasters at once.

[READ MORE](#)

# September is National Preparedness Month

## USGS

September is National Preparedness Month, a time for Americans to review their preparedness plans for disasters or emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities. It's also historically the peak of hurricane season.

[READ MORE](#)

## At least 6 dead from massive California wildfire, community turns to volunteer firefighters

**ABC News**

The fires in California are growing and now at least six people have been killed and two more are missing, according to local authorities. More than two dozen major fires scorched across the state after an unprecedented storm resulted in nearly 11,000 lightning strikes over 72 hours last month.

[READ MORE](#)

## Before and after satellite images show widespread destruction from Hurricane Laura

**CNN**

New satellite images are giving a glimpse of the destruction that Hurricane Laura has waged across Louisiana. Hurricane Laura roared through southwestern Louisiana early last week, killing six and leaving behind a wide path of destruction. CNN has obtained new satellite images from Maxar Technologies that are showing just how destructive the storm was.

[READ MORE](#)

## Growing interest in healthy activity to support demand for sports equipment

**PR Newswire**

U.S. demand for sports equipment is forecast to grow 2.3% yearly in nominal terms through 2024, according to Sports Equipment: United States, a report recently released by Freedonia Focus Reports. Increasing personal disposable incomes and rising consumer spending will boost demand. In addition, growing interest in activities that improve health and combat obesity are expected to drive gains.

[READ MORE](#)

# Hiking with your dog — The best gear for your trip

**Forbes**

Like many outdoor recreation activities, hiking has experienced a huge popularity boom since the coronavirus pandemic began. People want to get out of their homes more, get exercise and fresh air, all while maintaining plenty of space and social distancing. Hiking is perfect, and you don't need any special skills.

[READ MORE](#)

## Now you can customize one of the best pocket knives for hiking

**Gear Patrol**

Benchmade's collection of customizable pocket knives just welcomed a new member: the Bugout. Originally designed with gram-counting backpackers and campers in mind, it's a classic folding design that features a 3.24-inch drop-point blade, but it weighs under two ounces. That fact, plus the inclusion of Benchmade's switch-style Axis lock, has earned it a mass following over just a few years.

[READ MORE](#)