The COVID-19 pandemic is putting an unprecedented strain on disaster-response systems. As regions face the start of hurricane, wildfire, flooding, and tornado seasons, active operations require immediate review of planning considerations to effectively implement co-response efforts. Hagerty Consulting is providing a co-response toolkit to inform natural disaster preparedness with considerations and strategies to quickly adapt response operations during the ongoing pandemic.

Co-Response Toolkit:

**Concurrent Incident Command**
- Formalize use of virtual tools and planning systems in emergency operating centers to absorb personnel quickly.
- Designate command structures to streamline communications during a co-response.
- Utilize exercises to evaluate the capacity of systems to respond during COVID-19.

**Evacuation**
- Determine adaptable evacuation routes well ahead of a natural disaster that are reviewed against significant outbreaks within and across at-risk states.
- Coordinate border crossing procedures across states and counties specific to potential evacuations.

**Sheltering**
- Map and coordinate shelters across regions that ensure that the full range of non-congregate, congregate, and supplementary shelters.
- Integrate social distancing and sanitization protocols in sheltering operations.

**Resource Management**
- Implement real-time risk assessments and inventories to expose gaps requiring support.
- Begin consistent resource stockpiling specific to public needs for a natural disaster.

**Legal Obstacles**
- Review new policies (e.g., defined essential services) and develop contingencies for streamlined disaster operations.

**Public Information**
- Inform public expectations and behavior for shelter-in-place, evacuation, and social distancing during a natural disaster.
- Track public movement and trends through cellular technology.

**Regional Coordination**
- Coordinate resources, evacuation routes, policy decisions, and response infrastructure at a regional level.