

# THE PREPAREDNESS POST

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## *Though the Fire is Out, the Risk Remains*

*By Joe Dougherty, Utah Division of Emergency Management*

Even though Utah is the second driest state in the nation, we are still home to flash floods, freak storms, and fire-related debris flows.

Any type of water event can lead to flooding. Flood damage is terribly expensive. Water soaks into drywall; saturates carpets and it can carry mud, silt, or even sewage into your home.

Flooding can happen anywhere in the state.

Just because a wildfire may have left your home unscathed, a serious risk remains. Areas burned by wildfire leave behind soils that can easily be torn loose by rainfall and come barreling toward a home with devastating force. We call this hazard "flood after fire." Take extra precautions now to prepare to evacuate if you live below a burn scar.

Following a flood, many homeowners receive a rude awakening when they meet with their insurance adjusters and learn that none of that damage will be covered by their homeowners insurance policy. In Utah, flood insurance policies are held on fewer than five percent of homes.

What is it going to cost?

That depends. Homeowners whose property is already in flood hazard areas that have been mapped are generally required to have flood insurance by their mortgage lender.

Most Utah communities participate in a program that allows residents the option to purchase flood insurance through a Preferred Risk Policy even if they are not in a mapped flood area or in a low to moderate risk area. Generally, the cost is much lower than the homes that are required to have flood insurance.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) flood insurance rates do not differ from company to company or agent to agent. All policy premiums include certain fees and surcharges, so ask your agent about these when discussing a price quote.


For example a home with a basement is eligible for \$20,000 of coverage for \$127 a year.

More information about these policies is available: <https://www.floodsmart.gov/costs/why-am-i-paying-this-amount>

Insurance is one of the best ways to recover following a disaster.

Also, normally there is a 30-day waiting period for new policies to take effect. But for homes in the area of a burn scar, that 30-day waiting period is waived.

Make sure you are covered. Learn how to prepare for disasters at [BeReadyUtah.gov](http://BeReadyUtah.gov)

	
In this issue:	
Though the Fire is Out, the Risk Remains	1-2
PPHR Recognition	3
Remembering Terrie Wright	3
Dogs and the Next Pandemic	4
Preventing Birth Defects Associated with Zika Virus	5-6
Another Mosquito-borne Illness to Consider	6
Calendar	7-8

# FLOOD AFTER FIRE

Did you know that wildfires dramatically alter the terrain and increase the risk of floods?

**Reduce your risk. The time to buy flood insurance is now.**

Contact your local insurance agent for more information or visit the National Flood Insurance Program at [www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program](http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program)

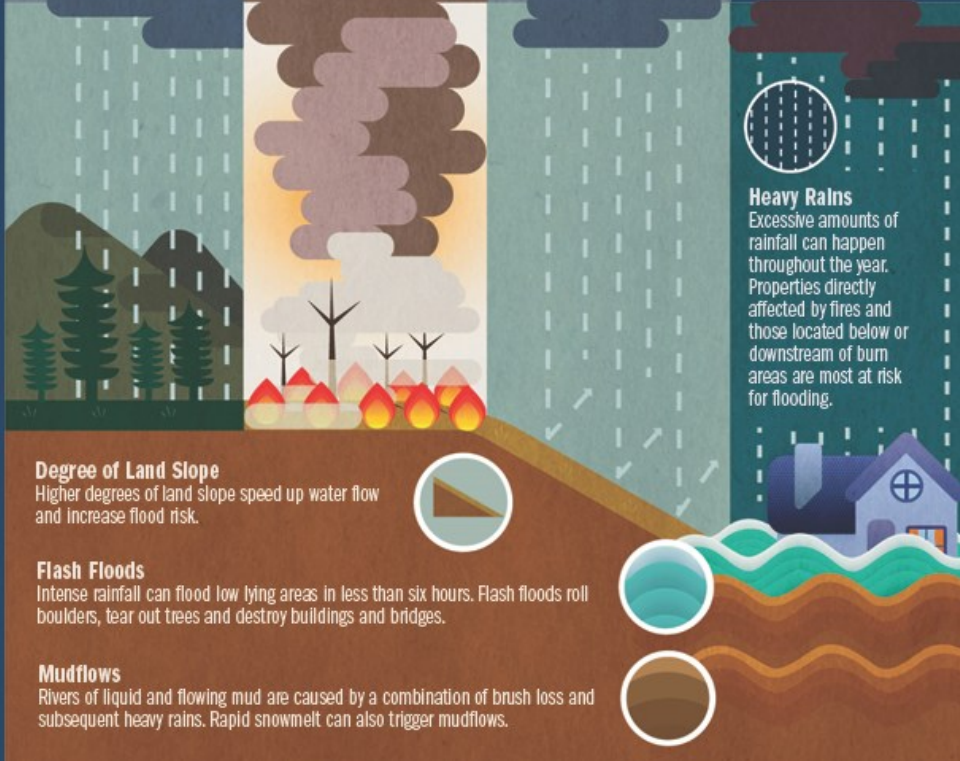


During normal conditions, vegetation helps absorb rainwater.

But after an intense wildfire, burned vegetation and charred soil form a water repellent layer, blocking water absorption.

During the next rainfall, water bounces off the soil.

And as a result, properties located below or downstream of the burn areas are at an increased risk for flooding.



**Degree of Land Slope**  
Higher degrees of land slope speed up water flow and increase flood risk.

**Flash Floods**  
Intense rainfall can flood low lying areas in less than six hours. Flash floods roll boulders, tear out trees and destroy buildings and bridges.

**Mudflows**  
Rivers of liquid and flowing mud are caused by a combination of brush loss and subsequent heavy rains. Rapid snowmelt can also trigger mudflows.

**Heavy Rains**  
Excessive amounts of rainfall can happen throughout the year. Properties directly affected by fires and those located below or downstream of burn areas are most at risk for flooding.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Utah's "Go to" Emergency Preparedness Event**

**Deseret News**

**UTAH PREPARE CONFERENCE & EXPO**

**September 28-29, 2018**  
 Friday 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
 Saturday 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Mountain America Expo Center  
 9575 S. State St., Sandy, Utah

\$5.00 per day  
 \$4.00 Online Early Bird Special until September 4  
 Children 12 and under FREE

[UtahPrepare.org](http://UtahPrepare.org)  
 #UtahPrepare



## Project Public Health Ready Recognition in Utah Congratulations to Davis, Salt Lake, and Tooele County Health Departments



The Davis County (DCHD), Salt Lake County (SLCoHD), and Tooele County (TCHD) health departments were recently recognized as Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) agencies at the 2018 Public Health Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, Georgia. PPHR is a criteria-based training and recognition program that assesses local health department capacity and capability to plan for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies. By completing the PPHR process, health departments have proven they are better prepared to respond to public health emergencies. PPHR is administered by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).

Back Row: Russ Pierson (UDOH), Dean Penovich (UDOH), Bob Jeppesen (SLCoHD), Jeff Coombs (TCHD), Gary Edwards (SLCoHD), Front Row: Paulette Valentine (SWUPHD), Chris Bateman (DCHD), Terry Begay (SLCoHD), Scott McKenzie (TCHD), Myron Bateman, Tooele County Commissioner

### Remembering Terrie Wright

Terrie Wright, lover of horses and dogs (especially her loyal canine companion, Cache), passed away at her home August 18, 2018. Those of us who were lucky enough to work with Terrie will remember her contagious laugh and wonderful sense of humor. Some will also smile when reminded of some unusual situations Terrie seemed to attract in life.

Terrie's public health career began after she graduated as an RN. She worked in the emergency room at Castleview Hospital until she was hired by the Southeast Utah Health Department (SEUHD) on July 1, 1995. Her first position was the K-3 RN in Emery County where she worked with low income, special needs families. When that position was ending, Terrie applied to become the preparedness planner, a position she started July 1, 2002. That position morphed into the emergency response coordinator position, a position she held until she retired on November 30, 2015.

Terrie was trained in ICS and NIMS, Hazmat certified, and a trained PIO. She worked with all community partners in the four county area and lead SEUHD's first ICS trainings and practices.

She was also known for a taxi ride that cost about \$500. Terrie flew to Emmitsburg, MD for training. At the airport, Terrie and another Utahn who was there for the training, followed a group of people they thought were going to Emmitsburg. They boarded the bus and when it stopped at the hotel, they were with the wrong group of people, and the opposite direction of where they needed to be! The pair had to take a taxi to return to the training center. Terrie wrote a LONG letter of explanation to document the cost.

Several members of SEUHD staff often traveled together for business. Dave Cunningham always liked to find a good steak house and Terrie enjoyed steak, too, but it was always topped with catsup! She didn't like heights, but she humored her co-workers and even went to the top of the "Tower of the Americas" in San Antonio. But, she carefully stayed far from the edges, even on the observation deck.

Terrie, you will be missed and remembered by many.



## Dogs and the Next Pandemic

Based on an article printed in the NPHIC News Highlights

Researchers warn while Fido might be blissfully unaware, he could be putting his favorite humans at risk for another influenza pandemic. Scientists base this on the increasing diversity of flu within dogs, and new evidence that the virus is capable of jumping from pigs into canines. This scenario matches the one which occurred during 2009's H1N1 pandemic which began in birds.

According to the team behind the new study, a similar scenario could evolve with dogs, although there is currently no evidence of transmission between humans and our canine pets.

One of the researchers, Adolfo García-Sastre of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York says, "The majority of pandemics have been associated with pigs as an intermediate host between avian viruses and human hosts." He adds, "In this study, we identified influenza viruses jumping from pigs into dogs."



The first identified case of a flu virus passing from a horse to a dog occurred 15 years ago. Five years ago, scientists found viruses jumping between birds and dogs. Apparently, pigs can also be added to that list of maladies passing between species, and it's all happening relatively quickly.

In Southern China between 2013 and 2015, samples were taken from dogs visiting the vet for respiratory problems and about 15 percent of the dogs had influenza. The researchers then sequenced complete genomes for 16 influenza viruses and found matches with certain types of swine flu, and new variations on existing canine flu viruses. García-Sastre says, "What we have found is another set of viruses that come from swine that are originally avian in origin, and now they are jumping into dogs and have been reasserted with other viruses in dogs." In other words, they are starting to interact with one another.

Researchers add all the dogs in the study were from a single region in China and the picture could be different worldwide. Still, they warn, the potential exists.

To read the full study, visit—<http://mbio.asm.org/content/9/3/e00909-18.full>.

### POWER OF PREPAREDNESS: PREPARE YOUR HEALTH



## Preventing Birth Defects Associated with Zika Virus

by Dallin Peterson (BOE) and Maria Huynh (UBDN)

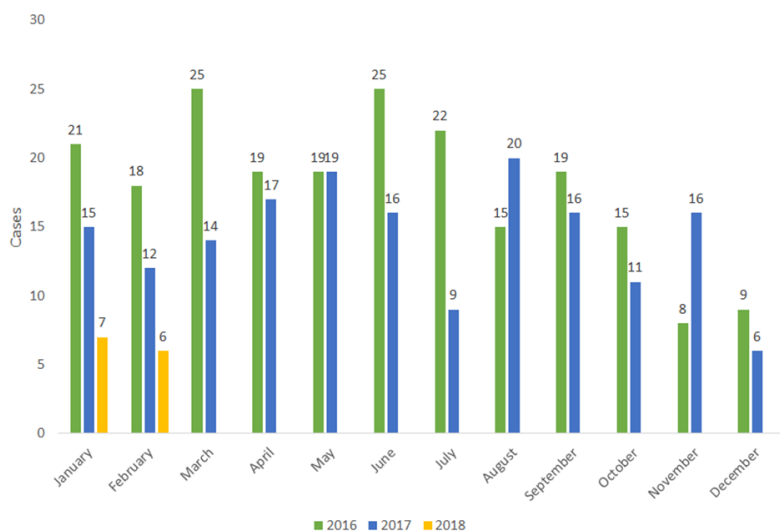
It's been more than two years since Zika virus was announced as an international public health emergency. At that time, Zika transmission was reported in 23 countries and territories of the Americas. Given the elevated level of concern and uncertainty, several Utah Department of Health (UDOH) programs, local health districts, and community partners responded quickly to prevent the Zika virus from profoundly impacting Utah mothers, infants, and families. In collaboration with several other programs, the Bureau of Epidemiology (BOE) and the Utah Birth Defect Network (UBDN) continue to monitor the potential impact of Zika virus in our community.

The BOE monitors results of individuals tested in Utah. As of August 16, 2018, 46 people have tested positive for Zika, 22 of whom were pregnant. All but one of these individual was infected outside of Utah in an area with active Zika virus transmission. The one exception was had no known risk factors other than having had contact with a family member who was infected with Zika virus.

Of the 22 pregnant females who tested positive for Zika, 18 gave birth to infants with no apparent abnormalities, two had fetal losses, one was lost to follow up, and one is still expecting. Tissues were collected from both fetal losses; results in both cases indicated the presence of Zika virus. The UDOH and medical providers will continue to follow the infants for two years to assess potential effects of Zika infection that may show up later in life.

[Congenital Zika syndrome](#) occurs when the Zika virus is passed from mother to baby in the prenatal period. The UBDN collaborates with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct rapid surveillance on all Utah births with birth defects potentially associated with Zika virus infection. The purpose of this surveillance is to identify infants at risk for congenital Zika syndrome who were not detected previously. [Birth defects](#) associated with Zika virus include brain abnormalities, neural tube defects, eye abnormalities, and central nervous system dysfunction. Congenital Zika syndrome is only confirmed through determining Zika virus exposure, ruling out other etiologies, and having an infant test positive for Zika virus through laboratory testing.

**Figure 1: Births with defects potentially associated with Zika virus infection, Utah resident births, January 2016 - April 2018**



The UBDN is reviewing 399 Utah births occurring between January 1, 2016 and April 30, 2018 with birth defects potentially associated with Zika virus infection in order to determine the possible impact of Zika virus. The majority of these infants were not tested for Zika virus infection due to lack of known risk factors. Additionally, serologic testing is effective only 2-12 weeks after exposure to Zika virus, and many of the mothers followed by UBDN are outside that window. Testing through public health requires evidence the mother may have been exposed to Zika virus either by travel or unprotected sex with someone who traveled to an area with Zika virus transmission.

To collect information on risk factors among Utah residents, the UBDN added Zika virus-related questions to the Utah birth

## Preventing Birth Defects Associated with Zika Virus—continued

record in March 2017. Between March 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017, birth records showed five mothers had Zika virus infection during their pregnancy and five infants were born with microcephaly. A total of 4,145 mothers and 4,635 fathers reported traveling to an area with Zika virus transmission in the previous 12 months.

Table 1 shows the five most common areas with active Zika virus transmission visited by Utah residents. Visit [CDC's website](#) for information on areas with active Zika virus transmission. Out of the 4,145 mothers who reported travel, 16.3% (677) of the mothers self-reported being tested for Zika virus, 6% (250) had lab reports for Zika virus testing, and 6% (249) reported both. Of the 4,635 fathers who reported travel, 9.4% (436) of the fathers self-reported being tested for Zika virus.

**Table 1: Top five common areas with Zika virus transmission traveled by Utah residents**

Areas with Zika Virus Transmission	Number of Mothers	Number of Fathers
Florida	1,255	1,401
Texas	1,219	1,575
Bahamas	156	154
Jamaica	79	75
Thailand	60	73

The UBDN, in collaboration with local health departments, conducts follow-up on infants born to mothers who test positive for Zika virus infection at two, six, and 12 months after delivery to ensure proper developmental milestones are achieved. Visit the Utah Department of Health [Bureau of Epidemiology](#) website for information on Zika testing guidelines.

The BOE, UBDN, and other UDOH programs will continue to collaborate with public health and community partners to prevent and monitor Zika virus and congenital Zika syndrome in Utah. For further information, visit <http://health.utah.gov/zika/>.

## Another Mosquito-borne Virus to Consider

University of Florida researchers have confirmed the first known case of a human infected with the mosquito-borne Keystone virus. In August 2016, a 16-year-old boy in North Central Florida visited an urgent care clinic after coming down with a fever and a severe rash during the Zika outbreak. Doctors tested the patient for Zika and other pathogens but couldn't figure out what the problem was until lab work identified the Keystone virus. Although the virus has never been found in humans before, a University of Florida [statement](#) claims the infection may actually be fairly common in North Florida. The virus was first found in mosquitoes in the U.S. in 1964, when it was isolated in Keystone, Florida. Since then, it "has been found in animal populations along coastal regions stretching from Texas to the Chesapeake Bay," according to the statement. Lead study author, John Lednicky says, "Keystone is part of a group of viruses known to cause encephalitis in several species, including humans."





## Calendar

## 2018 Training

Date	Event	Location	Information
September 12-13 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents	Calvin Rampton Complex: Room Redwood A  4501 S. 2700 W.  Salt Lake City, UT	<b>FREE</b> <b>Prerequisites include: ICS-100, ICS-200, IS-700 (NIMS), and IS-800.b (NRF) courses</b> To Register: UTRAIN <b>Course #101105</b> dpsdemtrainex@utah.gov 801-538-3400
September 17-18 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Public Health and Disasters Conference	Viridian Event Center West Jordan, UT	<a href="https://medicine.utah.edu/dfpm/public-health/professional-edu/public-health-disasters-conference/">https://medicine.utah.edu/dfpm/public-health/professional-edu/public-health-disasters-conference/</a>
September 19 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	Lunch and Learn: You are the Help until Help Arrives	Intermountain Center for Disaster Preparedness (ICDP) 3rd Floor North 325 8th Avenue C Street Salt Lake City, UT	<b>FREE</b> To Register: UTRAIN <b>Course #1079093</b> intermountaincdp@imail.org (801)408-5920
September 28-29 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.  8 am. to 6 p.m.	Deseret News Utah Prepare Conference and Expo	Mountain America Expo Center  Sandy, UT	<a href="https://www.utah.gov/beready/prepare-conference/">https://www.utah.gov/beready/prepare-conference/</a>
October 2-4, 2018 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Hospital Emergency Response Training for Mass Casualty/ HERT/PER-902	Intermountain Center for Disaster Preparedness (ICDP) 3rd Floor North 325 8th Avenue C Street Salt Lake City, UT	<b>FREE</b> <b>Prerequisites include: IS-100.HCb, IS-200.HCa, and IS-700.a. It is recommended to have successfully completed CBRNE or HAZMAT training at the operations level as specified in 29 CFR 1910.120 (g) (6) (ii)</b> To Register: UTRAIN <b>Course #1059959</b> barb.clark@imail.org 801-408-7061
October 23-25, 2018 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	EOC Operations & Planning for All-Hazards Events (MGT-346)	Dixie Applied Technology College 610 S. Airport Road  St. George, UT	<b>FREE</b> To Register: UTRAIN <b>Course #1031265</b> krepp@utah.gov 801-209-2070

Newsletter produced by Charla Haley



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH**

Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness

## Calendar

## 2016-2017 Training

Date	Event	Location	Information
October 25, 2018 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Management of Spontaneous Volunteers in Disasters	Sevier County EMS 50 Westview Drive Richfield, Utah	FREE To Register: UTRAIN <b>Course #1061086</b> Tracy Bodily tbodily@utah.gov
November 1-3, 2018 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents	Dixie Applied Technology College 610 S. Airport Road St. George, UT	FREE To Register: UTRAIN <b>Course # 1011051</b> dpsdemtrainex@utah.gov 801-538-3400
November 2, 2018 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.	One-day symposium on disaster and emergency readiness topics	SLC Marriott University Park 480 Wakara Way Salt Lake City, UT	FREE To Register: UTRAIN <b>Course #1065094</b> barb.clark@imail.org 801-408-7061
November 14, 2018 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. November 15, 2018 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	ICS-400 Advanced ICS Command & General Staff-Complex Incidents	Central Utah Public Health Department 70 Westview Drive Richfield, UT	FREE To Register: UTRAIN <b>Course #1011057</b> dpsdemtrainex@utah.gov 801-538-3400
November 27-28, 2018 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Basic Public Information Officer Course	Wasatch County Search & Rescue/EOC 1361 S Hwy 40 Heber City, UT	FREE To Register: UTRAIN <b>Course #101053</b> dpsdemtrainex@utah.gov 801-538-3400
December 5, 2018 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Joint Information System/Joint Information Center Planning for Tribal, State and Local Public Information Officers (G-291)	Wasatch County Sheriff's Office 1361 S HWY 40 Heber City, UT	FREE To Register: UTRAIN <b>Course #1020466</b> dpsdemtrainex@utah.gov 801-538-3400



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