

Our mission is working together as ONE DPS to provide a safe and secure Utah.

Keith D. Squires
Commissioner



Utah

Department of Public Safety

DPS in the News



To reduce crashes on U.S. Interstates, the UHP joined a multi-state enforcement project that was conducted August 28-30, 2015, along Interstate 80 and Interstate 35. Both roads have high volumes of traffic and traffic crashes and cover over 4,400 miles of roadway. Click here to watch a story about the enforcement effort on Fox 13.

New Deputy Commissioner

In August, Commissioner Squires appointed Nannette Rolfe to serve along with Colonel Fuhr as one of his two deputy commissioners.

Deputy Commissioner Rolfe has been an employee with the Utah Department of Public Safety for the last 29 years. She has worked in several divisions including the Bureau of Criminal Identification where she was a Bureau Director, the Division of Emergency Management where she served as a Division Director, and her most recent assignment where she

was the Director of the Driver License Division.

Deputy Commissioner Rolfe brings a wealth of experience and institutional knowledge to her new position. As a civilian Commissioner she will bring a unique perspective to DPS, which has 1600 employees, of which two-thirds are civilian. Commissioner Squires is looking forward to her insight and assistance as we continue to find ways to advance the work conditions and services of the Utah Department of Public Safety.



Colonel Fuhr, Deputy Commissioner Rolfe and Commissioner Squires at the recent promotional ceremony

Combating Credit Card Fraud

Both the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) and the Statewide Intelligence Analysis Center (SIAC) dealt with credit card fraud in August.

When assisting UHP, SBI recovered one credit card skimmer and 34 fraudulent credit cards that had been re-programmed with other individuals' account information. It appears that the suspects had been using the fraudulent cards to purchase gift cards in northern Utah. SBI has been contacting the banks involved and has located at least one victim who is a resident of Utah.

Vernal City PD sent the SIAC information regarding several fraud suspects using stolen credit card information from several jurisdictions in Utah. The SIAC put together a fraud bulletin and distributed it through the Intelligence Liaison Officer network and to neighboring fusion centers. As a result, the Salt Lake City DEA and Wyoming detectives contacted Vernal, identifying the suspects, stating they had connected cases, and that the suspects had just been indicted in South Dakota.



Gold King Mine Spill Collaboration

The Division of Emergency Management was heavily involved in various aspects of dealing with the recent Gold King Mine wastewater spill. During the process, DEM worked closely with numerous local, state, tribal and federal partners.

On Wednesday August 5, 2015, the EPA unexpectedly released wastewater from the Gold King Mine located in Silverton, Colorado during an investigation of contamination. Three million gallons of the mine's wastewater spilled into Cement Creek which is a tributary stream of the Animas River in Colorado. The Animas River flows southwest through Colorado until it hits New Mexico turning into the San Juan River. The San Juan River continues southwest into the State of Utah, and continues to flow through the Navajo Nation Communities of Aneth, Montezuma Creek, Mexican Hat, Halchita and eventually into Lake Powell.



Photo credit: Durango Herald

The public was advised not to use the Animas or San Juan River's water for recreational, agriculture, or public use until test results would prove it safe. State agencies deployed several resources to assist with local efforts to take necessary actions to protect the public's health and property.

Area command, unified command posts and EOCs were activated within the States of Colorado, New Mexico and Utah, as well as the Navajo Nation and local county governments. Joint Operation Centers were organized in Durango, Colorado and Salt Lake

City, Utah.

Press releases from the State of Utah were released to media to get information out to the public to establish uniform messaging. Daily coordination calls were facilitated to ensure information was shared to all Utah agencies. Public information officers from eight state agencies successfully coordinated public messaging using Google Drive and Gmail following the spill. The responses and coordination involved many state agencies, including the Utah Departments of Public Safety, Health, Environmental Quality, Agriculture and Food, and Natural Resources. The Governor's Office and the Office of Tourism were also involved.

This was a great exercise of DEM's procedures during an actual event to keep the public informed and to keep the state agencies on message.

Because the incident was so complex and communication was difficult at times, DEM deployed a small team, along with their command post, to San Juan County to assist with local efforts. They also assisted the Utah communities within the Navajo Nation. The team consisted of a Public Information Officer, a Liaison Officer, a Logistics specialist and a Planner. The State EOC activated to a Level 3 - Monitoring. Multiple agencies continue coordination efforts, including dissemination of information and plans for long term monitoring. Excerpted from an article written by Angelia Crowther

Road Test Marathon

To continue with their reputation of outstanding customer service, the Driver License Division held a road test marathon on Saturday, August 22nd. Nearing the end of summer, the testing schedule can back up 4 and 5 weeks, due mainly to students going back to school and wanting their driver license. DLD

opened 6 of their Wasatch Front Offices (Orem, South Valley, West Valley, Fairpark, Farmington and Ogden) for this special project, and had extra personnel assisting in the testing. The project was a great success with 478 road test completed in one day.