



The

Journal

Utah Emergency Management

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If 2014 is anything like 2013, 2015 will be starting any day now. Case in point: January is over. That means the next Great Utah ShakeOut is just two months away. The Governor's Public Safety Summit is three months away, and Vigilant Guard, a major full-scale exercise, will be here in 10 short months.

And that's just for starters. 2014 is going to offer all of us so many chances to improve our programs and our own readiness through training and conferences.

As we begin looking at our calendars this year, may we focus on reviewing and updating our plans, training and exercising our plans and identifying our capabilities and how we can enhance them. Next year, the process will begin anew. What goals do you want to accomplish this year?

May I recommend the following as ways to continue developing your emergency management program:

- **The Great Utah ShakeOut, April 17, 2014, 10:15 a.m.**

This is the only statewide emergency drill in Utah. We invite emergency managers to engage their communities and to conduct outreach activities that will help communities participate in this drill. At 10:15 a.m. on April 17, hundreds of thousands of Utahns will drop, cover and hold on for one minute and then review their emergency plans and procedures. Registration needs to be completed each year at ShakeOut.org/Utah.

- **Utah Certified Emergency Manager Accreditation**


Utah is one of just a handful of states that doesn't offer a state level emergency management accreditation. We are in the process of developing an incremental accreditation program that will help Utah emergency managers progress toward earning the Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) designation awarded by the International Association of Emergency Managers.

This Utah CEM program is designed to encourage the professionalization of the emergency management discipline and will promote partnerships and contributions among our community.

Look for more information about the Utah CEM program to be released in coming months.

Do you have great plans for 2014? Feel free to share them with us at Utah DEM, as we strive to highlight the best practices, programs, and plans across the state. We know you do great work in your communities. Thank you for all you do to make Utah more prepared and more resilient.

Thank you for your service,



Director Kris Hamlet



**COMING
SOON**

The Great
Utah
**Shake
Out** TM



Access and Functional Needs: Challenge or Opportunity?

Opinion Editorial by Don Cobb

Seasoned emergency managers know that persons with access and functional needs present unique considerations in our work, right? Well, not really more than anyone else. Despite some obvious challenges, meeting access and functional needs head-on presents a great opportunity to better our EM programs and our communities.

Given that physical or mental handicaps and disabilities may require obvious accommodations, what makes these requirements fundamentally different from the so-called “special needs” each one of us presents? Sure, it may be a matter of degree, but based on the number of individuals in our society who vary from some statistical norm, it’s pretty hard to describe “different” as truly “unusual.”

Here are a few suggestions:

- ◆ Embrace members of the access and functional needs community as essential players on our EM team.
- ◆ Research and study. Important information is readily available from many quarters.
- ◆ Promote inclusiveness, not exclusivity. Include per-

sons with access and functional needs in all phases of our work. They have a wealth of first-hand knowledge and experience. Listen and learn.

- ◆ Recognize that personal history may have skewed some folks’ perspectives on government’s capabilities, or even its intentions toward them. Where negativity exists, change those opinions by example.
- ◆ Work closely with agencies and organizations representing persons with access and functional needs.
- ◆ Remember the Golden Rule. While The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and a host of related laws, rules and regulations compel us to perform our work on behalf of persons with access and functional needs in certain manners, but in the end, it will be our hearts and minds that’ll get the job done.



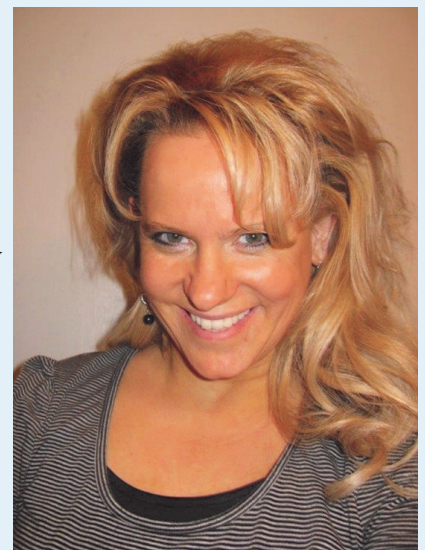
The challenges EMs face in addressing access and functional needs issues pale in comparison to those met daily by the many people who live with them. These folks are our loved ones, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and any may be our mentors. Let’s take every opportunity to come together and work toward mutual solutions and better emergency management.

The Local Perspective:

Midvale City Emergency Management

By Lisa Schwartz, Midvale City Emergency Manager

After five great years at the City of Taylorsville, I am excited to have accepted the new challenge of becoming the Emergency Manager at Midvale City. Those who know me know that I love emergency management and go at full speed all of the time. So, in light of that, the first thing I did was take a look at the city’s Emergency Operations Plan. This was a good experience for me as Midvale has their own Public Works department so naturally many of the operations and logistics aspects of the plan are now directed by city staff which is different from the plan I had developed in Taylorsville. Once edits were made, the plan was sent for approval to the city manager for review.



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The second task I tackled was developing a strategic plan for our emergency management program in which I could present what goals and benchmarks I expected our program to reach within the next 5 years. This had been a benefit to me in the past as it has helped me stay on track and more focused on making sure we would continue to reach our intended readiness. I decided it was just as necessary here at Midvale. The plan is a great way to help our city staff and elected officials understand what direction I would like to take us and how their support would allow that to happen.

After finishing those plans I drew up a written Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan and presented that to the city manager and our Midvale UPD Precinct for review and comment. It is no secret that my favorite part of emergency management is training and exercise. It may as well be my hobby and I am one of those sick people that actually enjoys training and doing exercises. At the focus of the first year of that plan, I wanted to do something that I had done in Taylorsville that had worked very well. Each month we will have an hour and a half training with all city staff as well as with our local UPD and UFA partners. The first part of the training will be a seminar in which we will discuss and teach ICS/EOC principles or other EM topics. Following, we will do a workshop in which we will break out into EOC sections and fill out a set of ICS forms. I am going to use the Tornado scenario that we used for our valleywide Mass Care tabletop exercise a couple of years ago. I will have the tornado hit the Cardwell Oil property on State Street and head nearly due north, after already hitting the prison and the Rio Tinto Stadium. That will give our Ops section a chance to chew on priorities and response actions while keeping in mind that communications may be down and all response capability at a maximum capacity. Once they determine their priorities and look for ways to get the resources they need to coordinate for, then each month following, they will use that information to fill out the ICS forms. By the end of the year, they will have filled out all of them. The advantage to this is that everyone fills out the forms at a pace that will allow them to understand them more effectively and the cross-training will automatically be built-in to my training plan by doing that. Training for the years following will be to exercise in the EOC and do whatever functional drills are needful.

I am never one to underestimate the need to have my finger on the pulse our jurisdiction. My determination to engage the community of Midvale will be a priority. In the event of a catastrophic incident, the only way we will be able to get good damage assessment as well as help from the neighborhoods, is to allow them to be invested in our emergency management program. I plan to divide the city into emergency response zones and begin to interview residents that have had CERT and other ICS training to become Area Coordinators. Area Coordinators can become a great asset as they can assist with preparedness efforts and be further trained for response and reporting during an incident. I am strict on Standard Operating Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures as I do this as a protection to them and the city.

For now, this is plenty to keep me busy as I continue to take an assessment of the preparedness and planning needs Midvale has in regard to all aspects of emergency management. I am grateful to be in Midvale and want to thank all of you for being a part of my EM family and for helping me whenever I call for a favor!



What's in Your Weather? Building A Weather-Ready Nation

By Kevin Barjenbruch

The past couple of years have served as an important reminder to all of us that severe weather can strike any time and any place. Nearly every region of the United States experienced some form of extreme weather from winter storms, to flooding, to violent tornadoes, to wild land fires. Over this same period of time in Utah, we have seen flooding from spring snowmelt, a damaging downslope wind event that produced over \$80 million in damage, fatalities from lightning, and wild land fires and associated debris flows. Remember those winter storm events last January that led to treacherous commutes and disrupted commerce? Of course, the potential also looms for a devastating earthquake that would necessitate weather support for events ranging from hazardous material incidents to flash flooding from dam failures, to search and rescue operations.

With the above in mind, the Weather-Ready Nation initiative, led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is about building community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather and water events. Some 90 percent of all presidentially declared disasters are weather related, leading to approximately 500 deaths per year and nearly \$14 billion in dam-

ages. As we've seen during the past year, it's not a question of if we'll be dealing with hazardous weather but rather, when! Building a Weather-Ready Nation requires the action of a vast network of partners including other government agencies, emergency managers, researchers, the media, the insurance industry, non-profits, the private sector, the Weather Enterprise, and more.

The end goal is a Weather-Ready Nation, in which society is prepared for and responds appropriately to weather-dependent events. A key component of this is ensuring that community leaders, and the people in those communities, make timely, informed decisions that protect themselves, their loved ones, and their livelihoods.

With all of this in mind, this recurring segment of the *Journal* will focus on decision support services from the National Weather Service, a line office of NOAA, ranging from web services, to notifications, to on-site support, to community preparedness. This commentary will also highlight state and nationwide preparedness events, hazard communication efforts, conferences and workshops, and research relevant to emergency management and response.

Kevin Barjenbruch (kevin.barjenbruch@noaa.gov) is the warning coordination meteorologist at National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office, Salt Lake City, UT.

Requests for weather support are always welcome!



Public information flows with EmergencyInfoUtah.com

By Joseph Dougherty

When you need to get a message out, you need to do it fast. And very importantly, you need to reach the people who can help get your message farther.

How many times have emergency responders wanted to post information to a website, but can't find the webmaster or find their site has crashed due to a high number of hits? At the same time, you may start receiving so many inquiries from the public; your inbox becomes overwhelmed with messages and requests.

Enter PIER Systems, a subsidiary of Witt-O'Briens. The Utah Division of Emergency Management has contracted with PIER to create

EmergencyInfoUtah.com, a public information website that has redundant backup systems and is capable of receiving and responding to tens of thousands of public inquiries without batting an eyelash. All you need is a public information officer to run it.

The front end of the site (what you see) allows the public to get multiple sources of emergency information. For example, DEM shares road and traffic conditions, updated earthquake information and much more. Your public visits the site and can see all of this important information with very few clicks. Several feeds automatically populate many sections of the site, keeping the information updated at all times. Your PIO simply needs to upload new alerts, news releases, situation reports and any other information you determine is appropriate to share.

Before a disaster, share the link with stakeholders and media, so they will know where to turn during emergencies. During a disaster, share the link in your news releases and on social media to remind people where to go for your updates and new information.

The public can submit inquiries about emergency situations and a team of PIOs can respond from anywhere. At DEM, this site truly becomes our virtual state JIC.

The site also provides an emergency email and texting system. You received this newsletter via email distributed through EmergencyInfoUtah.com. DEM also uses this site to send messages to the PIO Association and to our emergency management partners. EmergencyInfoUtah.com will also take over the functions of the Emergency Management Listserv as we work to port contact information into our database.

If you would like to see a demonstration of the site or would like to see how DEM can provide support to you during your incidents, contact Joe Dougherty via email: jdougherty@utah.gov or your Regional Liaison.



How and When to Brief

Credit: [Emergency Management Magazine](#)

Briefings in an activated EOC come in all shapes and sizes. In truth, there are more bad briefings than there are good ones. Briefings are not meetings, facilitated discussions or roundtables. If you hear a good briefing, you will recognize it immediately.

Most of what I share here will apply to almost every briefing scenario, but admittedly there can be exceptions to the rule. First and foremost, a briefing must provide the information that everyone needs to know to set the stage for what has happened and is happening. It allows everyone hearing the briefing to get the “world picture” of the event and then act accordingly within their role.

Personally I like to have briefings take place using a map. This provides a visual sense of space and timing to what is being said.

Start the briefing with the national situation. I’ve found this idea to be confusing to some. What else is happening in the country that might impact your event and the resources that are available? If your disaster isn’t the No. 1 priority, then knowing that and sharing it allows people to have a better expectation for what resources might be coming or being withheld. The same applies to telling everyone what is happening in your state.

Then address what is happening in adjacent jurisdictions. We live in an interconnected world, and to understand the size and scope of an event, you need to include those cities, counties and states you call neighbors. It also means that the map you are briefing from needs to extend beyond the borders of your jurisdiction.

Next, I believe in briefing the weather, no matter what type of event you are dealing with. The weather is a variable that can significantly impact your response and recovery operation.

Two more key elements must always be covered when briefing an operation: logistics and the supply of resources. Much of a disaster response is about moving people and



Colorado flooding 2013 briefing in Boulder, CO. Courtesy of Michael Rieger/FEMA

things to where they are needed, so it’s critical that the location (map) and routes (map) of logistics be covered.

The other element to always cover is communications. First of all, address the status of communications with all parties engaged in the disaster response. If everyone has good communications — great! If there are problems, point them out, and of course review what communications channels are being used for the various aspects of the operation.

For most disasters briefings might take 10 minutes at most. For more complicated and extensive ones you may need a bit more time to cover everything. To accomplish the above you need to have just one person doing the briefing. Do not do a round robin around the room for people to add in details. Frequency of briefings is another matter. Early in a disaster you might have a very quick briefing every hour as the details of what has happened become known. Once a rhythm is established, these can be cut back depending on the circumstances and how dynamic the event and circumstances dictate. Last, I believe in a “ring the bell” briefing when something significant has just happened that everyone needs to know about. These are quick announcements, e.g., “The second tower has collapsed.” And don’t forget to point to the map so people know where events are happening

Article courtesy of: <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/training/How-When-to-Brief-Column.html>

This Show's A Disaster!

"Doomsday Bunkers" (2012) - Discovery Channel

By Don Cobb

Rating: 3 MREs



The Discovery Channels' reality show "Doomsday Bunkers" offers an interesting perspective on individual and family preparedness. This show should not be confused with "Doomsday Preppers" from the National Geographic Channel, which was reviewed in this newsletter previously. Briefly, in anticipation of a likely societal collapse created by anything from asteroids to armed conflict, we should:

1. Dig a big hole
 2. Drop a dwelling in it big enough for the whole family
 3. Stockpile enough food, water, necessities and weapons to last multiple months underground
 4. "Bunker" down and ride out whatever nastiness that caused us to go subterranean
 5. Destroy or otherwise discourage any miscreants, thugs or zombies that might come calling.
- Deadly force is *de riguer*.



The show focuses on Deep Earth Bunkers, a firm that specializes in building high-end, well engineered, and pretty pricey frighty holes for driven customers with resources and the singular vision to survive at all costs. That said, the bunker life does have a certain, albeit solitary and claustrophobic appeal, and the inventiveness and care with which these structures are produced are remarkable. You will no doubt get some ideas for your own prepping, and,

yes, you can attempt this at home.

I've found "Doomsday Bunkers" on Netflix, Yidio, and clips on the Discovery Channel website. Watch it in solitude and only share your survival bars with loved ones. The rest of us are, of course, expendable.



The American Red Cross Utah Region

By Logan Sisam, Region Director & Program Officer



The American Red Cross in Utah responds to an average of 200 incidents a year.

A majority of these responses are single family fires and multifamily fires. We find that the winter months have a marked increase in response. Most of which are created from unattended heating equipment. The three below links provide some great preparedness tips to avoid a disaster or educate your community on how to prepare for winter hazards.

Regardless of the severity of a winter storm, this information will help you and your community be prepared and safe during these events.

The links are ...

http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4240231_WinterStorms.pdf

http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4340121_PowerOutage.pdf

http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4340104_Frostbite_and_Hypothermia.pdf



***E**mergency **M**anagement Mantras, Slogans, and Mottos*

By Mike Stever, Emergency Manager

Utah Department of Health, EMS/Preparedness Bureau

Here are a few of the thousands of Emergency Management one-liners floating around out there. One or two I thought of. One or two have come from somewhere in the Cosmos. One or two are attributable (See # 13).

1. If you're not living on the edge, you're taking up too much space.
2. I judge myself by my intentions. Others judge me by what I get done.
3. If you can't ride two horses at once, you don't belong in the circus.
4. Nobody's going to pay to watch you juggle one orange a time.
5. It takes every single emergency manager in the State of Utah to write an emergency plan. One to actually write the plan and all the rest to copy, paste, and tell how they could have done it better.
6. Build a bridge and get over it.
7. There's no disaster that can't become a blessing, and no blessing that can't become a disaster.
8. Good thing I am self-actualized or a mess like this could really, really upset me. (Lance Peterson)
9. Never stand too close to people who are always bandaged up.
10. Learn to fake enthusiasm.
11. None of us are as smart as all of us.
12. Build strategic alliances before you need them.
13. Care enough to steal from the very best.
14. Grant money pulls the train.
15. When you leave an organization, everything that has gone wrong for the last 5 years and will go wrong in next five years will be your fault.
16. Lose the attitude. You may think this is as bad as it is going to get, but don't count on it. (Judy Watanabe)
17. There's no such thing as a free puppy.
18. No need to rush. The last minute will be here soon enough.
19. Change is inevitable except from a vending machine.
20. Each passing day brings us 24 hours closer to the next major disaster.



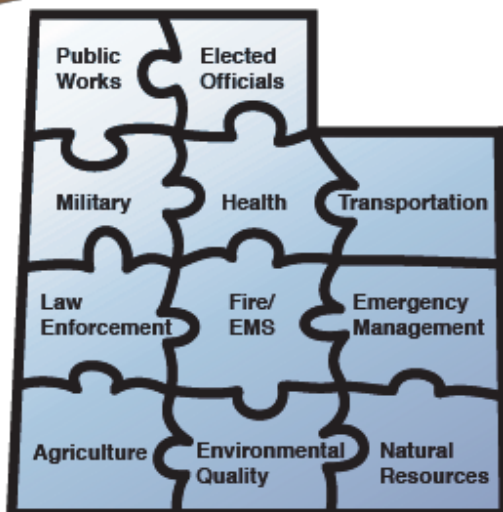


To take a course offered by the Division of Emergency Management, you must create an account on our training data system, U-TRAIN at www.utah.train.org. U-TRAIN will provide you with transcripts of courses you have completed, and you will be able to print your certificates upon course completion.

For our current calendar of training courses offered, please visit <http://publicsafety.utah.gov/emergencymanagement/trainingnew.html>. Here you will also find information regarding FEMA EMI training in Emmitsburg, MD, Professional Development Series (PDS), and Advanced Professional Series (APS).

For more training information, or for specific questions, please contact Ted Woolley at tedwoolley@utah.gov

Governor Gary R. Herbert
Lt. Governor Spencer J. Cox



Public Safety Summit

Building Safer Communities Through Teamwork

Public Safety Summit

St. George, Utah

May 20-21, 2014

Dixie Convention Center

Keynote Speakers:

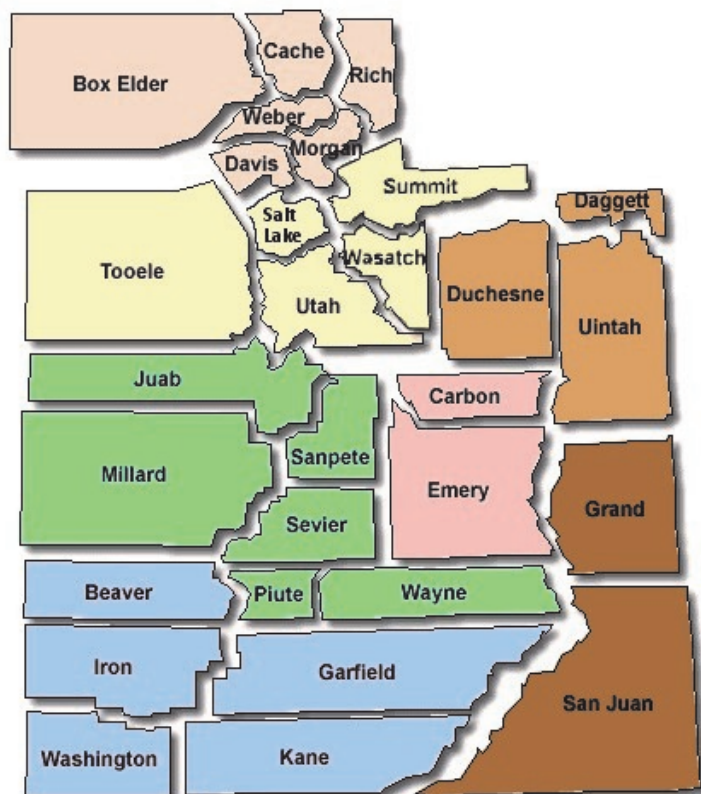
Dr. George Everly - Disaster Resilient Workforce

LAPD Officer and PIO on their ex-Officer man hunt

Register:

publicsafety.utah.gov





- Region 1
- Region 2
- Region 3
- Region 4
- Region 5
- Region 6
- Region 7

Region 1 - Kimberly Giles
kgiles@utah.gov

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jgallacher@utah.gov

Region 4 - Scott Alvord
salvord@utah.gov

Region 5 - Mechelle Miller
mmiller@utah.gov

Region 6 & 7 - Martin Wilson
martinwilson@utah.gov

Liaison Manager - Kim Hammer
khammer@utah.gov

Revised February 2012

Important links to remember

Division of Emergency Management:
<http://dem.utah.gov>

Be Ready Utah:
<http://bereadyutah.gov>

State Citizen Corps Council:
<http://citizencorps.utah.gov>

WebEOC:
<https://veocutah.webeocasp.com>

Utah Emergency Info:
<http://www.emergencyinfoutah.com>

UEMA:
www.umaonline.com



Interested in photos and stories of Utah's disasters over the years?

Visit our Flickr site and Natural Hazards & Mitigation Blog

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/utahnaturalhazards/>

<http://uthazardmitigation.wordpress.com/>



Questions regarding this newsletter or previous editions, please contact us [here](#)

Are You Ready?

