



# The Journal

Utah Emergency Management

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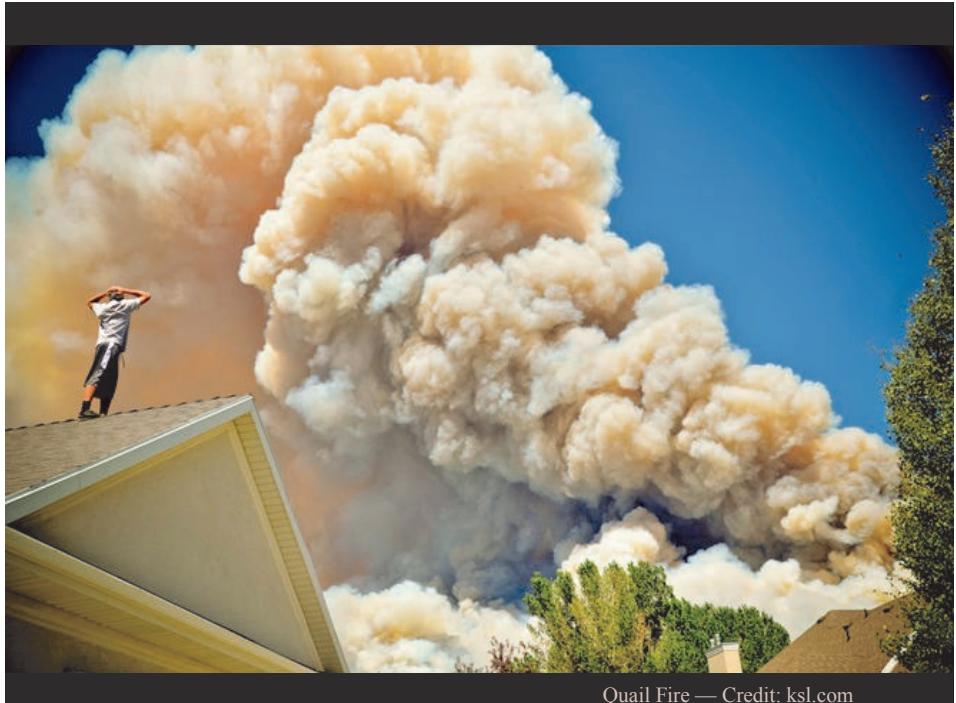
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# U T A H W I L D F I R E S



Since June 1, 30 large fires have burned more than 300,000 acres throughout the state. We have five Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG) in Utah. The following fire costs are a breakdown of the FMAG totals:

Dump Fire in Utah County- **\$2,105,570**

Wood Hollow Fire in Sanpete County - **\$5,772,094**

Clay Springs Fire in Millard County - **\$6.6 million**

Rose Crest Fire in Salt Lake County- **\$529,000**

Shingle Fire in Kane County- **\$7.1 million**



Seeley Fire  
Credit: Emery County Sheriff's Office

### What is an FMAG?

The Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) is available to state, local and tribal government, for the mitigation, management, and control of fires on publicly or privately owned forests or grasslands, which threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster.

The Fire Management Assistance declaration process is initiated when a State submits a request for assistance to the FEMA Regional Director at the time a "threat of major disaster" exists. The entire process is accomplished on an expedited basis and a FEMA decision is rendered in a matter of hours. FMAG declarations operate on a 24-hour real-time basis and are frequently conducted over the telephone with written follow-up.

The Governor of a State or the Governor's Authorized Representative (who in Utah is with Forestry Fire & State Lands and Division of Emergency Management) submits a request for a fire management assistance declaration to the Regional Administrator (RA) while the fire is burning uncontrolled and threatening lives or property. The RA gathers the State's information, and calls upon a Principal Advisor for a technical assessment of the fire. Using all available data and information, the RA develops a Regional summary and recommendation, and makes a decision to approve or deny the declaration request.

The request is approved or denied based on:

- The conditions that existed at the time of the request
- Whether or not the fire or fire complex threatens such destruction as would constitute a major disaster

Four criteria are used to evaluate the threat posed by a fire or fire complex:

- Threat to lives and improved property, including threats to critical facilities/infrastructure, and critical watershed areas. Eligible personal property includes primary residences only. Secondary homes or vacation homes are not eligible for an FMAG.
- Availability of state and local firefighting resources
- High fire danger conditions, as indicated by nationally accepted indices such as the National Fire Danger Ratings System
- Potential major economic impact

The FMAG Program provides a 75 percent Federal cost share and the state, local or tribal government pays the remaining 25 percent of eligible costs.

**Follow the steps listed at Ready.gov to protect your family, home, and property before, during, and after a wildfire: <http://www.ready.gov/wildfires>**



## Working Hard and Working Together

*A Look at VOAD's Emergency Efforts— by Susan Thomas*

This summer's wildfires were demanding, yet rewarding for our non-governmental partners. Several Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD's) supported efforts to help people affected by the fires and evacuations.

During the seven-day period from June 22-29, for example, the American Red Cross Utah Region provided services to more than 1,000 Utahns forced from their homes at a moment's notice.

Those services included operating four emergency shelters and serving more than 2,400 meals and snacks. During a wide variety of disasters, large or small, the Red Cross helps evacuees with shelter, food, water, comfort and mental health needs. The Medical Reserve Corps also supported efforts for mental health during these trying times for homeowners in evacuated areas.

The local Southern Baptists and the Salvation Army were on standby, always ready to help as needed. These two organizations

have teams trained in preparing and serving meals. The Southern Baptists also have special ash-out, clean up teams that are available to help homeowners. The LDS Church offered assistance as needed as well. In fact, several of the evacuation centers and shelters were located at LDS facilities.

Animal sheltering efforts were coordinated by the Utah Emergency Animal Response Coalition (UEARC) in addition to several local animal shelters and pet centers. Finally, a big thank you goes out to private sector partners who made timely donations of valuable, needed items to these organizations.

These organizations worked well together, supporting each other's efforts to help Utah families and individuals displaced during the disasters. If wildfires continue to cause problems this summer, as predicted, these groups will be working hard, and working together, to meet each community's needs. Thank you to these organizations and their golden-hearted volunteers!

## The Dump Fire Joint Information Center (JIC) - *by Susan Thomas*

The Dump Fire forced evacuations from Saratoga Springs and Eagle Mountain in late June. Public information regarding evacuations was a high priority. The state offered the Mobile Command Vehicle to support PIO efforts during the fire. This high-tech command vehicle was a huge help. Instead of trying to run PIO functions from the back of a truck in the heat and wind, the Mobile Command Vehicle gave the PIO team shade from the sun, rest from the wind and plenty of phones, outlets and internet access to be able to perform their important jobs during the emergency

situation. Jason Curry of the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands served as the Lead PIO during the Dump Fire and managed a team of PIOs from the BLM, Forest Service and a few helpers from the Utah PIO Association as well.

I was able to help man the phone bank hotlines for evacuees and media on Saturday, June 23. I was impressed with Jason and his crew. They were gathering credible information as quickly as possible and sharing information as well with media and evacuees. The team also monitored and used social media, which proved to be a great way to share current and accurate information with the public. Using social media also helped the team to stop rumors and correct misinformation.



PIOs: Kim Osborn, Jason Curry and Cami Lee



## The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a system for disseminating national, state or local emergency warnings to the public. An EAS warning may be for a few blocks, larger parts of a city, sections of specified areas (such as a county or parts of adjoining counties) or a part or all of a region, several states or the entire nation.

The EAS provides a means of distributing emergency information quickly by radio stations, television stations and cable entities to the general public. The EAS is made up of radio, television and cable entities cooperating on a voluntary and organized basis for local, state, and national warnings.

In a national emergency, the White House directs activation of the EAS to provide the President with a means of addressing the public on very short notice. The activation is accomplished by disseminating an Emergency Action Notification (EAN) message via dedicated network relaying information to control points of the national Primary Entry Point (PEP) network. Stations originating emergency communications shall be deemed to have rebroadcast authority.

Upon receipt of a state-level activation request, all broadcast stations and cable systems may, at the discretion of management, conduct operations in accordance with the provisions of the state-level EAS Plan.

Day-to-day emergencies posing a threat to the safety of life and property which may cause activation of the state-level EAS include, but are not limited to, earthquakes, floods, heavy snow, high winds, icing conditions, widespread fires, discharge of toxic gases, hazardous materials, tornadoes, widespread power failures, industrial explosions, and civil disorders. Child abduction notifications are added through the AMBER Alert Program which is a part of the Emergency Alert System.

In some instances the state-level EAS activation will be released from the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to the State PRIMARY (SP) Station (KSL-AM/TV). Common Carrier or Remote Pickup Units (RPU) can be used to provide communications from the EOC to the primary relay control point at KSL. Since the State EOC is equipped with EAS equipment, the release could come via digital radio links.

Another source of statewide activation may come from the National Weather Service. A severe weather situation may be announced and EAS requested via NOAA Weather Radio or the

NOAA weather wire or relayed by the AP news wire. EAS Alert codes will be sent over NOAA Weather Radio. If released by these sources, no verification is required.

All stations (except Class D FM and Low Power television) must send, once a week, at random days and times, a Required Weekly Test (RWT) consisting of EAS Header Codes and End of Message (EOM) codes.

In January 2010, the first live code testing of the EAS was conducted in Alaska. The first ever nation-wide test of the system was on November 9, 2011.

The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System is a planned multi-agency emergency population warning system in the United States. It is designed to provide rapid, reliable and effective communication to the public in case of major emergencies such as natural disasters and terrorist attacks.

In June 2006, Executive Order 13407 established a new program to integrate and modernize the nation's existing population warning systems. These systems include the:



- Emergency Alert System (EAS)
- National Warning System (NAWAS)
- Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS)
- NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards

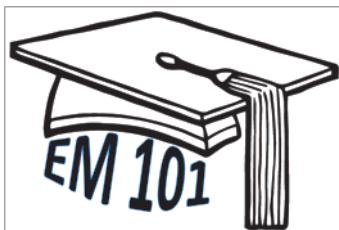
The new network, subsequently termed the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) is designed to integrate these various systems into one modern network, and also update them to take into account newer forms of communication such as cellular telephony and SMS, satellite and cable television, electronic billboards and the internet.

The program is organized and funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The system allows for alerts to be originated by federal, state, local and tribal officials, and subsequently disseminated to the public using a range of national and local alerting systems including EAS, CMAS and NWR.

Any jurisdiction that wants or needs to send a (CAP Common Alerting Protocol compliant) message through IPAWS, must have a hardware and software package that can produce a CAP message. Remember, IPAWS is not the standard or a piece of equipment or a software package. It is more the framework of a large, capable and diverse collecting, aggregating and disseminating process.

If you have any questions, please contact Bob Craven at:  
[rcraven@utah.gov](mailto:rcraven@utah.gov)





## EM 101 – July 2012

Welcome to EM 101! So you're new to Emergency Management? Well, you've signed on at a great time. There are abundant training resources presently available to help you acclimate to the challenging EM environment, to learn the many elements necessary to become proficient at the craft, and to hone the varied management skills required to be effective EM practitioner.

There are many websites dedicated to emergency management and homeland security matters, both public and private sector. Trust that you will find no shortage of EM educational materials and training opportunities on-line, in print, or available through traditional hands-on classroom instruction. However, processing the incredible volume of data available may require some patience, dedication, and flexibility. Remember that *change* is one of the few constants in emergency management as it continues to evolve. You'll never be bored in EM, but you may become a little perplexed.

One way to stay grounded is to master the Four Phases of Comprehensive Emergency Management and the Integrated Emergency Management System which have remained rock-solid for three decades. Old-school or not, commit them to memory and you will not go wrong:

Mitigation

Preparedness

Response

Recovery



The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Independent Study Course, *IS-1 Emergency Manager: An Orientation to the Position*, focuses on the “four phases” and is a great place to begin your quest for knowledge. Here’s the link: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is1.asp>

Another EMI Independent Study offering, *IS-230.b - Fundamentals of Emergency Management*, is the first introductory course in the EMI Independent Study Professional Development Series (PDS). Its goal is to introduce you to the fundamentals of emergency management as an integrated system, and how its resources and capabilities can be networked together for all hazards. Here’s the link: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is230b.asp>

Other PDS courses available on-line through EMI include:

- S-139      Exercise Design
- IS-235.a    Emergency Planning
- IS-240.a    Leadership and Influence
- IS-241.a    Decision Making and Problem Solving
- IS-242.a    Effective Communication
- IS- 244.a    Developing and Managing Volunteers

The link to FEMA’s Training website is <http://www.training.fema.gov/> Many other interesting Independent Study courses are offered, as well as EMI on-campus classes in Emmitsburg, MD.

The Utah Division of Emergency Management Training and Exercise Section provides a variety of excellent courses for emergency managers at locations throughout the State. A current course list and registration instructions may be found at <http://publicsafety.utah.gov/emergencymanagement/training.html>

Note that the *Foundations of Emergency Management* class is coming up in September in Sandy – a great choice for new EMs. The Utah DEM Training website also lists some other helpful links to other EM agency sites. Contact Utah DEM State Training Officer Ted Woolley at [tedwoolley@utah.gov](mailto:tedwoolley@utah.gov) or (801) 538-3758 for more emergency management training information.

Finally, a pop quiz! Fill in the blanks... What are the Four Phases of Emergency Management?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_

Bet you did just fine!



# WebEOC®

## WebEOC update – By Rey Thompson

In any disaster, a good Critical Incident Information Management System (CIIMS) is very useful whether it involves paper and radio transmissions or includes a computer system. An automated system like WebEOC makes sharing information that much easier. Instead of making many phone calls about situation status, Life/Safety, Incident Stabilization and Property Conservation to neighboring cities, counties, the State and FEMA, an emergency manager can enter the information at the web site and make the few calls needed to follow-up on resource requests, missions and assignments.

The Utah Division of Emergency Management would like to thank all of you for your continued patience and support as we work to determine how to improve the performance of WebEOC. A working group made up of local and state partners was created to assist in our efforts. And, with your help in exercises and testing, we have found a number of issues that need to be resolved. Many have been fixed through improved programming at DEM, but others need more aggressive solutions.

We have not been able to point to our current hosting and support contractor as

the sole problem. However, we have determined that based on the successes of other WebEOC customers, we need a different arrangement. We believe we need assistance that previously has not been available to us. So, we will continue using WebEOC to provide integrity with our neighboring states and our FEMA Region, but under a new contract for technical support and hosting.

We are currently trying to change the host vendors of WebEOC. We are encouraged with the performance of the hosting environment that the new vendor (ESI) provides. We will have assistance in reviewing our database and modifications to ensure that they will work as intended at reasonable speeds and with fewer errors.

Unfortunately, the contract with our current vendor is expiring. Despite huge efforts to move quickly, the new contract has taken time to meet legislated purchasing requirements. We believe that we will not be without access to WebEOC for long or at all because of the common courtesy of emergency management vendors. It is possible that during the transition we may be without WebEOC for a few days or weeks. When this occurs, we will notify everyone immediately. And once it's restored, we will send the appropriate information.

We recognize this is not an optimal time for a technology outage with fire potential and response alerts so high. All EOCs in the State are encouraged to be prepared to

work without this technology. We should all have word processing or other software and/or paper systems that can generate the documentation and information sharing you may need to coordinate activities and to request reimbursement if we experience a disaster during our potential WebEOC outage. Utah DEM will support you in any way we can with ideas and suggestions if you have any questions.

When we have transitioned to the new environment, you will immediately notice changes to WebEOC. Some of these are due to upgrades in the product (the system will remember your contact information from the last time you logged in). Some changes to displays and inputs will be made here at the State. One of the biggest changes will be an increase in the number of Status Boards available. Along with Shelter Status, Activation and Declaration Status you will see displays for Hospitals, Roads, Damage Assessment and more. The intent is to provide you with places to report specific information that we all need. These status boards will free up the Significant Events displays for items related to Life/Safety, Incident Stabilization and Property Conservation. Many more displays will closely resemble Incident Command System forms as appropriate and be named to match ICS.

For more information, please contact your regional liaison, or Rey Thompson at [reythompson@utah.gov](mailto:reythompson@utah.gov).

## Continuity of Operations Work Group (COOP) Update - By Susan Thomas

The State of Utah now hosts regular COOP Working Group meetings and trainings. More than 20 points of contact for COOP from State departments and key divisions are attending regularly. FEMA came to town in March to offer the COOP 550 course and in June, two special trainings were offered to help COOP planners learn how to use the States continuity software. The Working Group is seeing some steady progress toward building and updating continuity plans at the State. There is a lot of work to do and it is nice to see the progress.

If you would like to join the COOP Working Group, please contact Susan Thomas with the Division of Emergency Management at [susanmthomas@utah.gov](mailto:susanmthomas@utah.gov).

## What is COOP?

Ensuring that your Essential Functions continue to be performed during a wide range of emergencies, including localized acts of nature, accidents and technological or attack-related emergencies. Source: National Security Presidential Directive-51





*Uniting communities....Preparing the nation!*

The State of Utah Division of Emergency Management (DEM) Citizen Corps Program wants to make you aware of what tools and resources we have and how you can use them to benefit your local Citizen Corps and Pillar Programs

### **Social Media**

Utah Citizen Corps is using Facebook and Twitter to capture information, events, and activities statewide. Social media is proving to be a great way to stay connected as well as a great info sharing medium between national, state, and local programs. The more we are informed, the better we can support each other. Communication is everything and social media is a great way to communicate. Search us out on Facebook and Twitter by the following key words below.

#### ***Get Connected- Get Involved***

- Citizen Corps Facebook- [Utah Citizen Corps](#)
- CERT Facebook- [Utah CERT](#)
- Citizen Corps Twitter- [@UTCitizenCorps](#)
- CERT Twitter- [@UTAHCERT](#)

***Like us, follow us, tell others***

For questions regarding the Citizen Corps Program or CERT in the community, please contact:

*Jeff Johnson*, Utah Citizen Corps Coordinator-  
[jeffjohnson@utah.gov](mailto:jeffjohnson@utah.gov)

*James Ray*, Utah Citizen Corps Intern-  
[jray@utah.gov](mailto:jray@utah.gov)

### **Great Training Opportunities**

This year's calendar has many classes never offered before in Utah, provided by members of the FEMA Training Consortium

Here are the classes and providers:

August 11 - MGT-381 Business Continuity and Emergency Management - Rural Domestic Preparedness

August 14 - MGT-366 Legal Issues and Disasters: Things You Should Know - National Legal Preparedness Training Program

August 20-21 - MGT-365 Creating Your Risk Management Program - National Preparedness Directorate

September 6 - MGT-407 Advanced Crisis Communications Strategies for Public Information Officers - Ball State University

October 1-2 - MGT-335 Event Security Planning for Public Safety Professionals - Rural Domestic Preparedness

We also have a Cyber Security Series being offered by TEEX:

October 22 - AWR-136 Essentials of Community Cyber Security (four hour prerequisite for either one of the following two classes)

October 23-24 - MGT-384 The EOC's Role in Community Cyber Security (12 hours)

October 24-25 - MGT-385 Community Cyber Security Exercise Planning (12 hours)

October 31-November 1 - MGT-315 Enhanced Threat and Risk Assessment - TEEX

Also, this years Training and Exercise Planning Workshop (TEPW) will be October 15, 2012. Location TBD



## Statewide Training, Conferences, Workshops and Exercises

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(APS): Required (+) Elective (\*)

<b>Training</b>			<b>Location</b>	<b>Course ID</b>
<b>August</b>				
10	MGT-381	Business Continuity and Emergency Management	Salt Lake City	1034107
14	MGT-366	Legal Issues and Disasters: Things You Should Know	Salt Lake City	1033110
14-18	L-984	All-Hazards IMT Task Force/Strike Team Leader Pilot Course	Denver, CO	<a href="#">Register</a>
17-18	AUXCOMM	Auxiliary Communication	Provo	1031331
20-21	MGT-365	Creating Your Risk Management Program	Brigham City	1033467
21-22	+G-318	Mitigation Planning Workshop for Local Govt.	Salt Lake City	1013133
28-29	+G-775	EOC Management and Operations	Salt Lake City	1011065
28-29	G-300	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents	Salt Lake City	1011051
<b>September</b>				
6	MGT-407	Advanced Crisis Communications Strategies for PIOs	Salt Lake City	1034534
10-21	L-101	Foundations of Emergency Management	Sandy	1033122
11-12	*G-288	Local Volunteer and Donations Management	Salt Lake City	1026948
18-20	MGT-346	EOC Operations and Planning for All-Hazards Event	Hurricane	1031265
25-26	*G-408	Homeland Security Planning for Local Governments	Salt Lake City	1015677
<b>October</b>				
1-2	MGT-335	Event Security Planning for Public Safety Professionals	Provo	1034141
2-3	G-400	ICS-400 Advanced ICS– Command & General Staff	Salt Lake City	1011057
10-11	G-265	Instructional Delivery Skills	Salt Lake City	1030765
22	AWR-136	Essentials of Community Cyber Security*	Sandy	1033754
23-24	MGT-384	The EOC's Role in Community Cyber Security*	Sandy	1033755
24-25	MGT-385	Community Cyber Security Exercise Planning*	Sandy	1033756
31–Nov 1	MGT-315	Enhanced Threat and Risk Assessment		

\*Cyber Security Series– Prerequisite Essentials of Community Cyber Security

<b>Conferences and Workshops</b>		<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>August</b>			
9	UEMA Professional Development Workshop	Moab	1033519
<b>September</b>			
25-26	PIO Conference	St. George	<a href="#">Click here</a>
<b>October</b>			
4	City and County Directors Conference	TBA	
15	Training and Exercise Planning Workshop	Salt Lake City	1023945

**For information on our upcoming exercises statewide, please visit the exercise page on our [website](#)**

Register using the course ID on U-TRAIN at: <https://www.utah.train.org> For more training information, please visit our website at: <http://emergencymanagement.utah.gov> or contact Ted Woolley at [tedwoolley@utah.gov](mailto:tedwoolley@utah.gov)



## This Show's a Disaster: Contagion (2011)



Directed by Steven Soderbergh

Starring: Marion Cotillard, Matt Damon, Laurence Fishburne, Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow, and Kate Winslet



Utah DEM Rating: 4 out of 5 MREs

Considered by many reviewers to be a supremely accurate representation of a world-wide pandemic and its comprehensive physical and societal effects on the human species, *Contagion* is one scary film – and not necessarily in the Saturday date-night, horror film, toss-the-popcorn sense. There aren't many screams, cries and gasps; just an escalating, inescapable foreboding that a global health disaster could indeed be possible, or even probable in our future. Bottom-line: if this critically acclaimed movie doesn't intrigue and chill you to the bone, you're probably already dead.

*Contagion* offers up a stellar Oscar-winning/nominated cast, excellent direction and cinematography, and a complex but understandable plot, in which, once the dots are connected, the plausible, haunting premise of the bio-disaster theme is well reinforced. This type of bug could indeed kill any and/or all of us – everyone, everywhere is vulnerable.

We see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Homeland Security, World Health Organization, and all levels of government effectively hamstrung in futile bureaucratic attempts to understand and respond to a very desperate situation. We watch helplessly as society collapses and the human condition degenerates into hysteria and anarchy while millions of infected persons attempt to survive amid mass quarantines, ineffective



Courtesy: IMDB.com

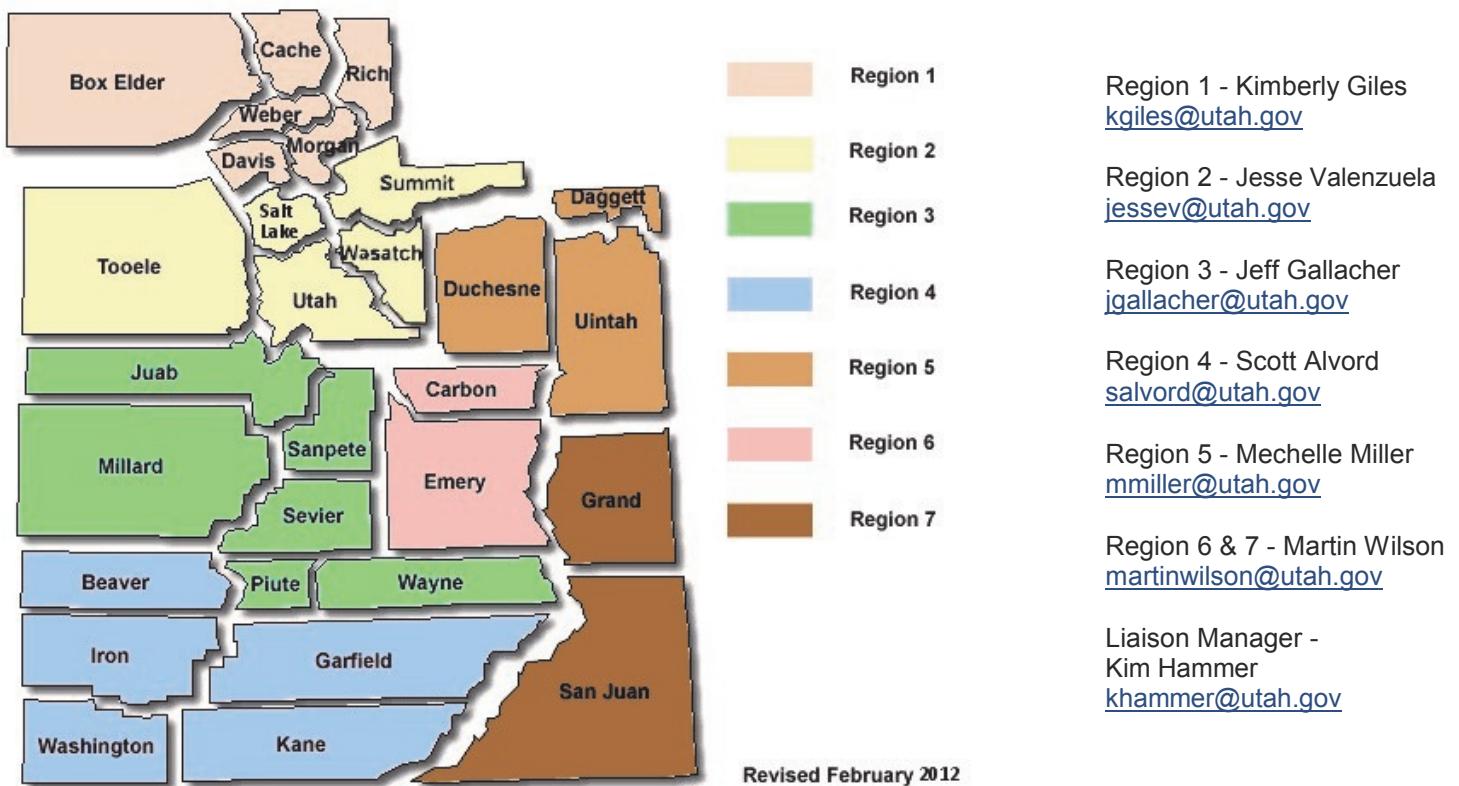


cures and vaccines, widespread civil disturbances, military intervention and general chaos. This angst could have been easily overdone in a cinematic sense, but the taut writing and direction make *Contagion* all the more believable and frightening. Don't look for a Hollywood-feel-good ending - you'll probably be disappointed - but you may be glad you've survived... for the moment.

We'll soon be going into flu season, so it's a good time for emergency managers to "suit up" and watch *Contagion*. Foreswear the pop and theater-sized candy this time for a family-sized bottle of hand-sanitizer and big box of surgical face masks. You'll be glad you did. Be safe and good luck!

You can prepare for a pandemic now: <http://www.ready.gov/pandemic>





*Important links to remember*

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

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

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

Incident Manager Powered by WebEOC:  
<https://veocutah.sungard.com>

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

UEMA:  
[www.uemaonline.com](http://www.uemaonline.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/>

## Be Ready Utah - Utah State Fair

### September 6 - 10, 2012

### Pledge to Prepare

[Community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM](http://Community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM)

Are You Ready?



Division of  
Emergency Management  
1110 State Office Building  
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<http://emergencymanagement.utah.gov>

