



Volume 5 — Issue 1 — Spring Edition 2015

The Journal

Utah Emergency Management



10th Anniversary of the Santa Clara Flooding



Dear Colleagues,

Well, we are well under way with 2015. We had a small outbreak of wildfires in early February, followed by winter finally showing up in mid-February. As we see another State Legislative Session end, spring has made its way here.

Because it's been relatively quiet for major disasters, this is a perfect time to put our efforts into preparing, planning and mitigating. Some of us may have already broken our New Year's resolutions. But it's not too late to make a new resolution. If so, why not resolve to be ready for disasters in 2015?

Our staff stands ready to help you. That is our mission: to support you in your planning, preparedness, mitigation and response efforts. We can provide direct assistance, review plans and projects, help connect you with others who can support you or if needed, we can just cheer you on in your efforts.



We've made a few changes recently at the Division that I want you to be aware of. After Judy Watanabe was promoted to Deputy Director and Ty Bailey departed for the sunnier climate of Monticello, we had two Bureau Chief vacancies. We recently promoted Patrick Reid as the Bureau Chief over the new Response and Recovery Bureau (formerly Operations Bureau). Jona Whitesides has been promoted as the new Bureau Chief over the Preparedness Bureau. Additionally, we have created a new Utah Public-Private Partnership (UP3) Section that will be managed by Matt Beaudry. Logan Sisam has recently joined our team to work with Matt and UP3. In addition, we have moved a couple of staff members around to fill critical openings that resulted from the internal promotions that have occurred. Ken Kraudy will now work with the Be Ready Utah Section and Tara Behunin has accepted a new role as the Region 2 Liaison. Jona and Tara will continue to work with you on grants during the transition of Denise Spillman taking over EMPG this next quarter. We are excited about the promotions and changes we have been able to make and look forward to filling our other openings in Logistics, Planning and Finance.

Finally, we want to share heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Pat Bersie, who has retired after years of dedicated service to our state. We are more prepared as a state, thanks to Pat's tenacity and expertise. We wish her happiness in her next phase of life.

Thank you for your partnerships with our agency. You all do truly amazing work and I wish you a successful and quiet 2015!

Best Regards,

Kris J. Hamlet

Director
Utah Division of Emergency Management

The 2005 Washington County Floods Changed More Than Just the River

It's been 10 years since the January 2005 severe floods in Washington County. This area received significant rainfall during the previous fall season. It provided soil moisture that would contribute to the flooding in January. High intensity storms brought precipitation January 8-12 with the largest accumulation on January 9. Numerous roads were closed and a State of Emergency was declared. Two days later, more rain caused record flow levels on the Santa Clara River in St. George and the Virgin River near Bloomington. This resulted in the collapse of several houses into the Santa Clara River. Normally the Santa Clara River is nothing more than a small trickle of water, but following these storms it swelled to almost four times its size.

The floods caused 28 homes to be destroyed or damaged resulting in an estimated \$85 million in personal property damage and an additional \$140 million in damage to local infrastructure. Following the flood, city officials met with the water district to plan a way to prevent it from happening again. They cleared out vegetation from the widened river bed, installed armaments and gave the river plenty of room to grow, creating a flood control authority to help fund the maintenance that needs to happen. The defenses were put to the test five years later when another flood hit in the winter of 2010.

The floods changed more than just the river; they changed the mindset of the community and its planners.

Local municipalities like St. George, Washington City and Santa Clara have designated an erosion hazard zone within their boundaries, forcing new development to undergo a lengthy engineering process before it can be built in areas deemed vulnerable to flooding that cuts away at riverbanks – new businesses could not have been built without the construction of a nearby rock wall to shore up the sides of the waterway and an engineering analysis that indicated it could handle more than a 100-year flood – a flood that forecasters indicated should only have a 1-in-100 chance of happening in any given year.

Although the 2010 flood was larger than 2005, there wasn't nearly as much damage because of the mitigation measures taken.

FEMA's Public Assistance grants took nearly eight years to close out all the projects from this disaster. After the 2010 flooding disaster in Washington County and Statewide flooding disaster in the spring of 2011, St. George was awarded three Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grants. These three grants continue to build resiliency along the Santa Clara and Virgin Rivers. These HMGP grants also utilized bioengineering techniques which allow the river to meander, grow and shrink within its natural boundaries instead of trying to force it to stay in a limited riverbed.



Millcreek Bioengineering Mitigation Project



Pat Bersie—Calling it a Day

By Judy Watanabe

Pat Bersie has decided to retire this February after a 22-year career in emergency management. I don't know if she can truly retire, because her heart and soul is in emergency management. She has served 11 years with the Utah Division of Emergency Management as our Energy Emergency Planner. I say served, because that is what Pat did, she provided excellent service to our office, to emergency managers throughout the state, the private sector, and the citizens of this great state.

During her time here at DEM she accomplished many great projects and moved our plans forward at a speedy pace. She significantly increased awareness within the emergency management community of the critical role that the energy sector plays in disaster response and recovery, and the interdependencies that exist between it and other critical infrastructure sectors. She also planned an energy sector disaster recovery workshop, oversaw a public information campaign that used bus wraps and radio announcements to promote preparedness for energy outages, and organized ESF 12 checklist and readiness. She also organized the Utah Energy Sector Coordinating Council, whose members represent private and public companies and organizations, and facilitated their meetings and exercises, rewrote and expanded the State's Energy Emergency Plan, developed and maintained an extensive Energy Emergency 24/7 Points-of-Contact List, and developed an energy emergency guide and checklist for the Governor to name a few. We are amazed by her tireless work. She retires with our great admiration.

Many of Pat's suggestions and her hard work will live on in plans for many years to come. We wish Pat all the best in her retirement and thank her for her dedicated service to our emergency management community and division.



Goodbye Ty

DEM was sad to see the departure of Preparedness Bureau Chief, Ty Bailey. Ty left the Division to embark on a new professional path, accepting the position of City Manager in Monticello.

Ty started his career with DEM in September 2003 as a Liaison Officer. Ty quickly climbed the ranks, assuming the positions of Community Support Section Manager, and then Preparedness Bureau Chief. He served more than 11 years at DEM.

Ty says he misses the people most. "I loved working with our local governments and emergency managers and with the people at DEM. I liked the relationships part of it. I think that's unique to what we did in government, where everything is regulatory and fiscally driven."

As Monticello City Manager, all administrative authority is delegated to Ty. He says his responsibilities include the budget, treasury, airport, golf course, planning and zoning, and welcome center.

"It's been awesome. I like the stronger connection to the residents," Ty says, "all of the employees are residents of the city. They have a passion for the services they provide because they take pride in their community. That was one of my strong suits at the State: I didn't lose sight of what it was all for."



News from the World of EMPG

by Tara Behunin

Many of you have heard of the upcoming changes in reporting for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program and WebEOC. A grants board within WebEOC has been created for the application process and all quarterly reporting. This will allow all jurisdictions to utilize the existing infrastructure of WebEOC, thereby eliminating additional costs to state, Tribal, and local governments typically incurred by creating a new platform. It will streamline the process through the use of the internet and electronic documentation, and by reducing paper usage. It will bring the State of Utah in line with federal priorities to bring all 50 states into a digital grants management platform. Lastly, utilizing WebEOC to document activities relating to grant funding will allow your DEM liaison to better support and assist the reporting process.



Starting with the 2015 application, each jurisdiction will submit all applications and reports through the grants board within WebEOC. As we work to transition into this paperless process, we welcome any advice or concerns in order to help participating jurisdictions best utilize this tool.

As we move into the 2015 EMPG cycle, our hope is the award will be announced sometime in April. You may anticipate a similar award to that of the past, unless you have had changes within your staffing pattern. Continue moving forward in your efforts to complete all performance standards outlined within the grant. First quarter 2015 EMPG will be reported through the WebEOC grants board and is due April 20.

Tara Behunin, EMPG program manager and recently appointed Region II Liaison, as well as the other respective DEM liaisons, are available to help train and answer any questions you may have as you familiarize yourself with this new system. As we work together as an emergency management team, we can create an effective and efficient tool to support our efforts.

Emergency Manager and Sheriff will be Missed



J. Lynn Yeates joined the Sheriff's Office in 1975 and was elected to the position of Sheriff for Box Elder County in 2007. Before serving as Sheriff, he was the emergency manager for ten years. Lynn loved emergency management and especially the relationship building within the county, region, and state.

In addition to running his 100-employee staff, he also taught first aid and CPR classes, oversaw the organization of Neighborhood Watch, disaster and emergency preparedness programs, and was active with the Boy Scouts.

Lynn passed away January 6, 2015. He will be greatly missed by many within Box Elder County, as well as those he worked with across the state in emergency management.

Water Supply Outlook

By Brian McInerney, Hydrologist National Weather Service

Spring is upon us and Utah's water supply picture looks bleak. We were hoping 2015 would free us of this dry warm weather pattern, only to repeat it once again. As a result, we've received another year of infrequent storm activity, anemic snowpack levels, and low spring runoff volumes.

Why are we experiencing this again?

The reason comes in the form of a persistent high-pressure ridge that's been parked over the western U.S. in the cold season since fall of 2012. This dominant weather feature is typically characterized by a lack of storms and poor air quality in the valleys. The ridge deflects storm activity to the north, sometimes as far as northern Alaska. Instead of gracing Utah, the storms are shunted northward where they arch over the clockwise spinning ridge jetting down into the central U.S. and swooping back up on the east coast. If you were to look at a precipitation and temperature map for the past 4 years of the United States, you would see the eastern U.S. being cold and wet, while the Western U.S. being warm and dry.

As a result, as of early February, 2015, northern Utah's snowpack levels at this time are averaging 74% with resultant spring snowmelt runoff forecasts averaging near 60% for the most populated areas of the state.

Will this persistent weather pattern break down any time soon? Maybe. Climatologically late winter through spring tends to be cool and wet across the western U.S., so there is hope the weather pattern will shift as we trend toward the spring months. When exactly this shift occurs, and how much this will impact the water supply across northern Utah, remains uncertain.



2015 Great Utah ShakeOut

By Joe Dougherty

When was the last time you dropped to the ground, took cover and held on?

The last play of the Super Bowl? Fair enough.

But what about when it comes to earthquake preparedness?

The Great Utah ShakeOut, the largest emergency drill of its kind in our State, will soon be upon us. Mark your calendars for

April 16, 2015 at 10:15 a.m.

This is the fourth year the Utah Division of Emergency Management (DEM) and Be Ready Utah have sponsored the ShakeOut and we need your help!

Please do all you can to promote participation in the ShakeOut in your communities. It comes down to promoting emergency preparedness before an actual emergency slaps us in the face. Here are a few things you can tell elected officials, residents and partners about how and why they can participate:

- Once a year, we ask everyone to participate by signing up at ShakeOut.org/Utah
- Signing up allows people to be counted with more than 640,000 Utahns who are already participating.
- At 10:15 a.m., pretend an earthquake is happening by practicing the earthquake actions of drop, cover and hold on for one minute.
- Then, take some time to review your emergency kit supplies, emergency plans or evacuation procedures.
- Share your experience on social media with the hashtag #ShakeOut.
- Take time to let people know you are participating by downloading and posting images on your website. Images are available [here](#).
- Planning a ShakeOut activity? If you plan an emergency preparedness event and would like the media to come cover it, let us know. We can include your event on our ShakeOut list that goes to the media, contact Joe Dougherty, jdougherty@utah.gov.

See you under a desk!




2ND ANNUAL

MOUNTAIN WEST VOAD


CONFERENCE

April 19th – 21st, 2015 | Salt Lake City, Utah




- ❖ Build relationships with disaster responders from multiple western states
 - ❖ Learn to coordinate relief efforts over state lines
- ❖ Gain exposure to new, valuable technology solutions for response
 - ❖ Learn from national agency leaders and specialists
 - ❖ Understand the threat of the Wasatch Fault
- ❖ Participate in a hands-on workshop focused on collaboration, communication, and response
 - ❖ Tour state-of-the-art LDS Central Warehouse

BECAUSE DISASTERS KNOW NO BOUNDARIES



FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER VISIT
<http://mountainwestvoad.wix.com/mwvoad>
 Or click to follow link





Upcoming Regional Citizen Corps Conferences

Region 1 Conference: Sept 19, 2015

POC: Tammy Folkman,
 tfolkman@co.weber.ut.us

Statewide MRC Summit: September 2015

POC: Amy Mikkelsen,
 amikkelsen@co.davis.ut.us

How To PDM!

The Utah Division of Emergency Management's Mitigation group is hosting a Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Workshop. This workshop will walk you through the process of applying for a PDM grant. We will share a short overview of the grant. Then, we will focus mostly on how to develop your grant, scope of work and budget. We will also go over how to comply with grant requirements if your project is chosen.

The Workshop will be held on April 22 and May 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Utah Emergency Management Joint Information Center (JIC) at the State Office Building, Level B, in Salt Lake City.

Space is limited, and the seats are filling up fast, so RSVP to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Brad Bartholomew, by sending an email to bbart@utah.gov.

Information regarding the PDM grant can be found here:

<https://www.fema.gov/pre-disaster-mitigation-grant-program>





Utah Emergency Management Professional Certification Program



Background

The Utah Emergency Management Professional Certification Program has been created with the intent to offer a meaningful opportunity for those who value the professional aspects of the emergency management discipline and seek a defined level of status for their commitment and contributions to this field of expertise. The Utah Emergency Management Professional Certification Program is strictly voluntary and is not intended to become a legislative or grant requirement.

Endorsements

The Utah Emergency Management Professional Certification Program has been recognized and endorsed by the following:

- Utah Department of Public Safety – Division of Emergency Management (DEM)
- Utah Emergency Management Association (UEMA)
- Utah Regional Coordination Council (URCC)
- Governor's Emergency Management Administrative Council
- Private Sector Emergency Management Coordinating Council

The Utah Division of Emergency Management (DEM) and the Utah Emergency Management Association (UEMA) will serve as co-sponsoring organizations for the Utah Emergency Management Professional Certification Program.

Levels of Certification

The Utah Emergency Management Professional Certification Program offers two (2) levels of certification and progressively prepares most candidates to apply for the Associate Emergency Manager (AEM) and/or Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) designations offered by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) .

For more information please visit the following link: [Certified Emergency Manager](#)





U-TRAIN

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

This Show's A Disaster! "How to Survive the End of the World" (2013)

National Geographic Channel – Six Episodes

By Don Cobb

4 MREs



Forget your wimpy magnitude XII earthquake, EF5 tornado, global nuclear conflict, Category 5 hurricane or Grade XII tsunami. Brace yourself instead for *How to Survive the End of the World (HTSTEOTW)* from the National Geographic Channel. Though it strains the viewer's credulity while portraying a half-dozen extraordinary, yet scientifically viable apocalyptic themes, eventually the show may win you over as it kills you off. Here's the six-pack of pandemonium:

Flooded Earth: Accretion Disk Orbital Decay leads to atmospheric saturation causing 300 years of rain. Flash floods and rising sea levels devastate global populations creating a need for floating cities at high altitude to save humanity.

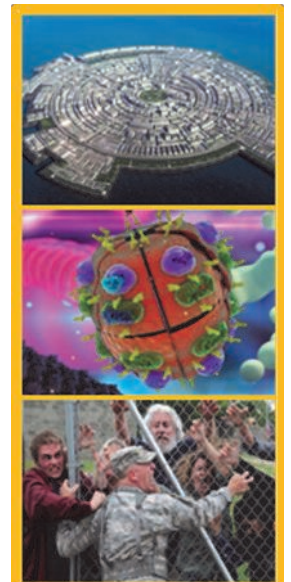
Frozen Earth: Dark matter changes our solar system's planetary alignment pulling Earth out of its orbit around the sun. Thrown out into space with temps dropping, Earth goes dark and cold. Within 30 years, 95% of the population starves or freezes to death.

Hell on Earth: A primordial black hole, a hugely dense object that can be as small as an atom, shoots right through the Earth and causes the world's volcanoes to erupt all at the same time. Volcanic ash spreads worldwide, destroying all living things. Life exists only if sheltered in place within self-contained biospheres.

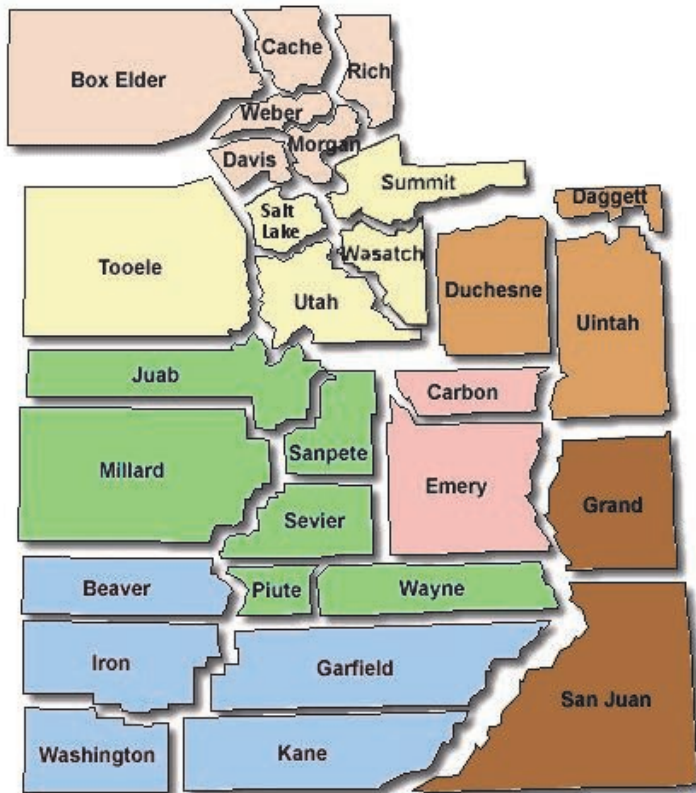
Micro Monsters: Self-replicating, flesh-eating nano robots unleashed by a brilliant, but vengeful mad scientist challenge humankind's continued existence.

Monster Storm: Global temperature spikes from greenhouse gases wreak havoc as bizarre weather phenomena like super tornadoes, gamma ray lightning, ball lightning and giant hurricanes destroy our world.

Zombie Earth: A world-wide outbreak of a mutated airborne rabies virus creates a real "zombie apocalypse." Humanity devolves into a race of hyper-aggressive, drooling, rabid monsters. Billions die horribly in the pandemic.



Purportedly reputable subject matter experts weigh in with a straight face validating all these scenarios. Suspend your sense of disbelief and you may find it thought provoking, too. Look for HTSTEOTW on <http://shop.nationalgeographic.com/>, Netflix, YouTube, Amazon.com and other favorites.



- 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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Region 3 - Jeff Gallacher
jgallacher@utah.gov

Region 4 - Scott Alvord
salvord@utah.gov

Region 5 - Mechelle Miller
mmiller@utah.gov

Region 6 & 7 - Angelia Crowther
acrowther@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>

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

UEMA:
www.uemaonline.com



Santa Clara Flooding—2005

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?

