



# The Journal

Utah Emergency Management

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'Twas the night before disaster and things still looked pretty, all were asleep through the county and city.

Water heaters were strapped in the basement with care, in hopes that disaster would never come there.

Emergency managers were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of PPEs danced in their heads.

With the director away and the deputy in flight, please don't let anything happen, we prayed that night.

We've planned and we've trained, exercised and met, knowing that nature never warns what we'll get.

Within the house I heard a shimmy and shake, lamps fell down and windows started to break.

With chagrin I noted the shaking's meaning was clear, the quake we never wanted now was here.

As I dropped to the ground and stubbed my toe, I took cover as the quake measured six-point-o.

"We'll get through this," I shouted, up to the ceiling, "We're ready for this!" Then my dishes went reeling.

The damage was great through the city and town, St. Nick couldn't fix the buildings that went down.

But with SOPs and EOCs ready to work, we got on the problems that were threatening to lurk.

I knew help was near and was a welcome guest, when the state put through my EMAC request.

It was a mess and disaster, the Pres. declared, and FEMA joined in with the cleanup now shared.

It's a really long haul for a state to recover, but the plans are being written to share with each other.

Could this really happen? The answer's not never, and when it does, we'll be in it together.

DEM is your friend and you are ours, too, and working out problems is how we'll get through.

Here's how to get ready for what happens after, for it could be tonight's the night before disaster.

In 2015, we'll wait for the sounds, of fires and floods you know will be found.

Take all your training, whether dull or sublime, you must do it now, while we still have time.

'Cause the best we can do is ready ourselves, so prepare your people you preparedness elves.

--- From your friends and partners at the Division of Emergency Management

Happy holidays to all of our emergency management partners throughout the state. We appreciate your expertise, your commitment and your passion.

Happy holidays,

*Kris J. Hamlet*

Director  
Utah Division of Emergency Management



## There's a New Deputy in Town

Judy Watanabe is the new Deputy Director of the Utah Division of Emergency Management. She has worked for the division for more than 22 years. Starting in the Training and Exercise section, she soon moved to the Natural Hazards section as a Planner. She was the Utah National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator for 14 years before becoming the Natural Hazards Mitigation and Recovery Section Manager. Judy's latest position was the Operations Bureau Chief.



## Sharpening our Skills

During this last year, we have moved forward with some tools to help us during disasters and recovery. Our situation report template is new this year and allows us to share incident information with our emergency management community on a regular basis. We are also developing our IAP, a new Safety Assessment Program for building assessments, tools to help locals with their damage assessments and recovery, Operational SOPs, and tools to help us have a Common Operating Picture during a disaster. These are products that are important during a disaster, and by working on them during non-disaster times, we improve our ability to do them during those busy times. Timely, accurate, and helpful information are important items to Judy and to the teams that help develop these products.



## Shakeout and Catastrophic Planning = Lots of Meetings

Judy has recently been involved with two big projects at the state. The Catastrophic Plan and the [Great Utah Shakeout](#). Both projects involved many meetings working with great teams of people who worked hard for successful outcomes. Not only did we have a great exercise and build a better plan, but both projects brought together all levels of governments, private sector partners and non-governmental agencies to work together for the common goal of being ready for the disaster in this state. While we haven't solved all our concerns, we have moved forward and continue to better understand the risk and our role.

## Bottom Line

Judy loves emergency management, working at DEM, and learning how to do our jobs better and more productively. She enjoys working with stakeholders who share the love of the mission. And if there is a meeting somewhere, Judy is likely there with her teammates, taking notes and asking questions, trying to discover a better way to respond and recover from disasters in Utah.

## Congratulations, Judy!



## Recent Flooding in Utah

by Brad Bartholomew

On Sept. 27, 2014, a storm system swept through Utah. This storm caused significant flooding damage and threat to loss of life in many areas of the State. In Zion National Park, a hiker was swept away and drowned by the flood waters. In Kane County, a car fell through a washed out section of road and was carried downstream, fortunately, the car occupants were rescued unharmed. In Carbon County, which received most of the damage, an individual was injured in the flooding event.

Some areas of Utah received up to 3 inches of rain. Roads throughout the State were closed due to flooding and debris flows. The major roads closed include state Routes ("SR") SR-95, SR-31, and SR-29. A dozen homes in Washington County were evacuated after being flooded while other parts of the county received flooding damage. Washington County opened their Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and responded to flooding throughout the county.

In Tooele County, the Skull Valley Band of the Goshute Tribe Reservation received heavy amounts of rain. They are still recovering from several debris flows due to the Patch Spring Fire burn scar that continue to devastate their reservation. The September 27 storm brought another debris flow, washing out the recovery efforts of rebuilding roads to restore their water and fire suppression lines.



Residents attempting to sandbag areas to lessen the damage

Photo: [Utah Natural Hazards Flickr Site](#)

## Carbon County - September Flooding

Carbon County received 1.85" of rain in an hour, according to the Carbon County Emergency Management, this is roughly a 200-year event. The Pilling's Trailer Court in Price sustained the greatest amount of damage. The flood waters submerged parts of the neighborhood under five feet of water. The flood washed out a sewage pump next to the trailer court and sewage contaminated the floodwaters, causing the county health department to issue an alert to not use the water supply there. Emergency personnel evacuated more than 150 people from the trailer park and 17 people stayed in the shelter overnight. The Price Water Improvement District was forced to shut down the Wellington Plant after being covered in four feet of floodwater, leaking untreated water into the Price River. Additionally, nearly 20 homes were damaged in Wellington City. Additionally, a number of farms were affected by the flooding, washing out fields and killing 30 sheep.

A Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) was conducted on Oct. 15, 2014, by Utah DEM, FEMA Individual Assistance (IA) officials and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). SBA Officials found 41 homes and 6 businesses sustained Major Damage. FEMA, which uses a different criteria than SBA to verify damage amounts, determined 22 homes were Destroyed, 16 sustained Major Damage, 13 sustained Minor Damage and 2 homes were classified as Affected.

For IA, if a Major Disaster is declared, assistance from FEMA would be made available to affected homeowners. If SBA assistance is approved, it comes in the form of low-interest disaster loans to affected homeowners and business owners.

This storm caused approximately \$70,000 in public infrastructure damage which is near the county's Public Assistance (PA) threshold of \$74,910.50. Flooding in Carbon County and throughout the state caused public infrastructure damage, and required local and state emergency response but did not elevate to the level of damage to request federal Public Assistance.

Cont. on next page



## Recent Flooding in Utah (cont.)

### Carbon County - October Flooding

When the September storm hit, Carbon County was still working to recover from heavy flooding that occurred August 4-5, 2014. Utah DEM conducted a Joint PDA with FEMA PA and IA officials and the SBA on August 14 and 15. Of the 164 homes, FEMA assessed 11 homes as major damage, 49 minor damage, and 104 being affected. SBA found at least 25 homes suffered uninsured loss of 40 percent or more and Carbon County received SBA assistance for this disaster.

The Public Assistance PDA found over \$500,000 in damages to public infrastructure. The State threshold is \$3.8 million and Carbon County's is \$74,910.50. Based on the per capita damage indicator, Carbon County had \$23.36 of damage per capita. Although this event was not declared a

disaster it was well beyond the capabilities of Carbon County and the communities, from which they are still recovering.



Destruction across the county. County, State DEM Public Assistance Team conducting site visits.

Photos: [Utah Natural Hazards Flickr Site](#)

## ESF-8 Wants to Know: What's in Your Emergency Medical Kit?

By Mike Stever, Department of Health

Since the early days of home emergency kits, it's always been a good idea to make sure medical needs were addressed. Much has been said about medical treatment but pharmacy has, at best, only received cursory attention --- UNTIL NOW!

This article is intended to address emergency pharmacy supplies that will likely be necessary in the event of a major disaster that are **NOT** generally provided for in commercial emergency kits, disaster kits, first-aid kits, or other emergency planning documents. These recommendations are intended to complement rather than replace other emergency preparedness recommendations. These personal items and medications may be essential to survival and reasonable comfort during a disaster. All items that are discussed in this article need to be kept in a location that is quickly accessible with other emergency kit supplies.

**Prescription Medications:** Individuals should plan on having a back-up, 10-day (one month is better) supply of their essential prescription medications available. You and your physician can determine which prescriptions are considered essential. Recognizing that your insurance (if you have it) will not pay for a back-up supply of a medication, you should consider asking your physician to provide a separate, one-month prescription for each essential medication. **Note:** This is **not** allowed under federal and state laws for controlled substances such as narcotics. You will need to purchase this "extra" prescription at your own expense. You should rotate the "extra" prescription in with your regular prescriptions so that it does not get outdated, yet you will always have at least one month's worth of extra medication available.

**Over-the-Counter Medications and Personal Hygiene Supplies:** Always read and follow the manufacturer's recommendations for proper amounts to take and to be aware of any side effects or restrictions on use. Remember the importance of having medications that children (ages 2 years – 12 years) and infants (age 0 – 2 years) can use, both in dosing strength and by delivery system (e.g., liquids, chewable tablets).

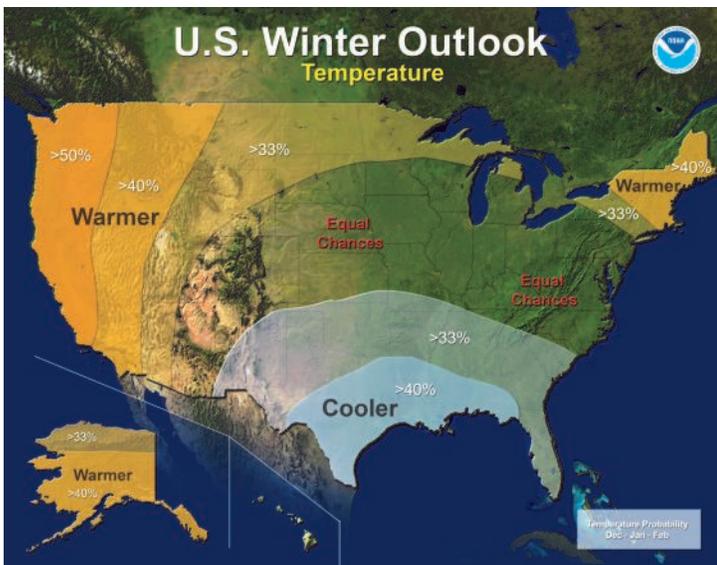
[Click here to view the full list of medications to consider.](#)



## Are You Ready for Some Winter?

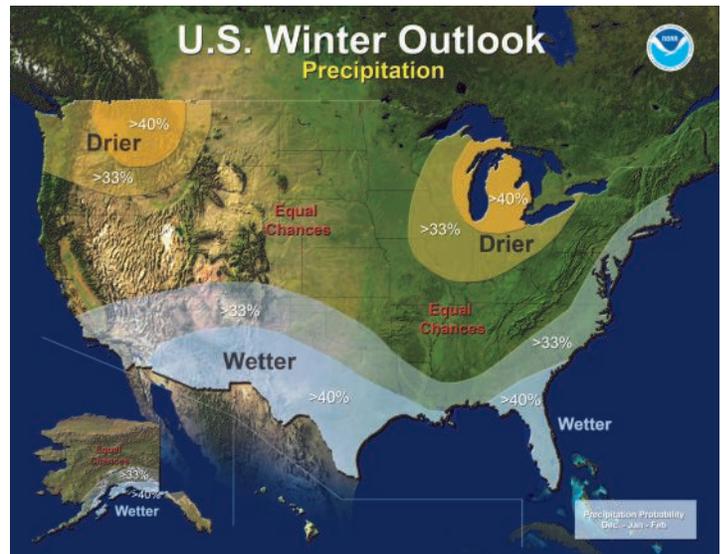
By Kevin Barjenbruch, NOAA

Recently, the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center released the Winter Outlook for 2014-15. First and foremost on most peoples' minds is whether Utah will finally experience a good winter with respect to snowpack. Unfortunately, the answer is not clear. The Precipitation Outlook favors above-average precipitation from the southern half of California across the Southwest to the Gulf Coast states, with southern Utah being on the northern fringe of this area. El Niño, an ocean-atmospheric phenomenon in the Tropical Pacific that affects global weather patterns, is likely to develop this winter. While strong El Niño episodes often pull more moisture into the southern U.S. over the winter months, this El Niño is expected to be weak, offering little help. The rest of Utah falls into the "equal chance" category, meaning that there is not a strong enough climate signal to make a prediction. The Temperature Outlook favors warmer-than-average temperatures across the Western U.S.



Please recognize the **uncertainly** that exists in these seasonal forecasts. If you buy a season pass to your favorite mountain resort, and you don't get enough powder days, please don't come after me, though a bit of good-natured ribbing would be expected. Remember, a mediocre snow year in Utah still provides more quality skiing than a good snow year in many other states.

If you have an interest in water supply, monitor reports from the National Weather Service and the water supply



community as the winter unfolds.

Whether or not we have a big snow year, winter storms in Utah are inevitable. With this in mind, check out the winter safety information below.

### Preparedness tips for before the storm hits

- Winterize your home, office and vehicle and make sure you have an emergency kit in each
- Monitor NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, your favorite news source, NWS websites, and/or social media feeds for vital weather information

### Extreme cold

- Know the symptoms of hypothermia and frostbite, and how to treat them
- Know the expected wind chill conditions for the day, and plan outdoor activities accordingly

### Travel preparedness tips

- Monitor road conditions before departing
- Use the Utah Department of Transportation [Road Weather page](#) or the UDOT Traffic app
- Drive for the conditions: Slow down, allow extra braking distance, do not tailgate
- Allow snowplow operators to do their job: Maintain a safe distance, avoid passing snowplows

### Contact

Kevin Barjenbruch - [kevin.barjenbruch@noaa.gov](mailto:kevin.barjenbruch@noaa.gov)

Warning Coordination Meteorologist at NOAA's National Weather Service, Weather Forecast Office in Salt Lake City, UT.

**Requests for weather support always welcome!**



*Does your community have a CERT program established?  
Check with your local emergency manager and become involved!*



**American  
Red Cross**

**UTAH PREPAREDNESS  
& RESPONSE CORPS**

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

### JOIN THE UPRC

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Conduct education and outreach to Utah's vulnerable populations to ensure community members are prepared for emergencies
- Establish ongoing relationships with community partners
- Provide services to Active Military members and Veterans
- Build more resilient communities

#### WHAT YOU GET:

- Living Allowance during service
  - 4, 6, or 12 month terms
  - Positions start Jan. 5, 2015
- Segal Education Award upon successful completion of service
- Invaluable experience from a nationally and internationally respected organization



## APPLY NOW!

For more information regarding our AmeriCorps Program please contact our Program Director, Kristy Denlein at [kristy.denlein@redcross.org](mailto:kristy.denlein@redcross.org) or 801-323-7023.

#### About AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps engages more than 75,000 Americans in intensive service each year at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country.

Since the program's founding in 1994, more than 900,000 AmeriCorps members have contributed more than 1.2 billion hours in service across America while tackling pressing problems and mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve.



## One Mission, One Team: UEMA Annual Conference Fast Approaching

The annual Utah Emergency Management Association (UEMA) Conference is scheduled for January 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The theme of the upcoming conference is “One Mission, One Team,” recognizing that emergency managers, professional responders, the private sector, and the public must all work together to ensure a speedy and successful response and recovery in times of emergency and disaster.



Keeping with that theme, this year’s keynote address is provided by the President of the Utah Jazz, Randy Rigby. We are excited to have Mr. Rigby on the agenda and look forward to hearing of his experience and expertise in the area of uniting, motivating, and leading a team.

As always, there will be awards, vendors and workshops. Some examples of the workshop topics are “Training Your Elected Officials” and “Planned Events Using ICS,” among others.

The conference will be at The Viridian in West Jordan. Yes, the location has changed in order to accommodate more parking and easier access for attendees. The address is 8030 South 1825 West. You can register by going online to [https://www.regonline.com/uema\\_2015](https://www.regonline.com/uema_2015). The cost is \$89.00, which includes your annual UEMA Membership dues of \$25.00; the professional workshops and reception Wednesday afternoon; the meeting, and breakfast and lunch on Thursday; and breaks on both days.

## Utah State Citizen Corps Council Receives FEMA Recognition

By Wade Mathews

The Citizen Corps Display Boxes project that was completed earlier this year garnered national recognition recently. As you may recall, we mentioned the project back in our Summer Newsletter. If you would like to read about the Citizen Corps Display Boxes, please visit our archived issue: [Summer Newsletter](#)

The display boxes project received Honorable Mention in the category of Outstanding State Citizen Corps Council Initiatives. “Strong emergency management requires teamwork, community engagement, innovation and strong relationships at all levels before disasters occur,” said FEMA Administrator, Craig Fugate, in a press release about the awards. “This year we recognize individuals and organizations that exemplify this approach, and I congratulate them on their dedication to make our nation stronger and safer.”

Emergency managers needing more information regarding the Citizen Corps Display Boxes should contact James Ray, State Citizen Corps Coordinator, at 801-538-3400.

Congratulations to the State Citizen Corps Council on their distinguished Honorable Mention!



## The Utah Disaster Recovery Website

The DEM Mitigation & Recovery Section is pleased to introduce a new tool that will help your jurisdiction navigate through its next disaster: [The Utah Disaster Recovery Website](#). This website abounds with valuable tools that are just a few clicks away; for example, have you ever wondered about the Disaster Process? Have you been kept up nights wondering how to complete a post-disaster Damage Assessment? Need a Declaration Template? Want a stack of useful Fact Sheets that you can distribute to the masses in your communities?

Find all of the above and more online at <https://www.sites.google.com/site/utahdisasterrecovery/>. While you're there, don't forget to take advantage of the convenient Search Tool at the top of the page. You will quickly notice that most of the documents are in [Google Docs](#) format. You can read most documents without leaving the website. You can also click the link below any document to open it in a new window, and from there you can share that document, print it, download it as a PDF, or download it as a Word document so you can personalize it as you see fit. For more information on how to use Google Docs, click [here](#). One major benefit of using Google Docs is that our website will immediately reflect any changes made to the documents, so you can know the website is always the best place to find the most up-to-date information. Please send questions, comments or suggestions about this new Disaster Recovery Website to the [DEM Mitigation & Recovery Section](#).

The screenshot displays the Utah Disaster Recovery Website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Search this site". Below the search bar is a large image of a yellow building with a brown roof, partially obscured by a circular logo for the "DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UTAH". Below the image, there are navigation links: "UTAH DISASTER RECOVERY", "Fact Sheets", "Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA)", and "Declaration Examples". A "Recent Utah Disasters" section is also visible. On the left side, there is a "Navigation" menu with links for "UTAH DISASTER RECOVERY", "Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA)", "[Untitled]", "Recent Utah Disasters", and "Contact". The main content area is titled "Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA)" and features a sub-heading "The Do's & Don'ts of Damage Assessment". Below this, there is a logo for the "State of Utah Division of Emergency Management" and a section titled "The following are things that assessment teams and officials should and should not do during the damage assessment process:". The word "DO" is prominently displayed, followed by the instruction: "Prepare Maps Detailing Areas of Damage — Separate maps showing private and public damages should be".

## R704-2 Statewide Mutual Aid Act Rule Amendment

Changes made and Effective as of Sept. 29, 2014:

- Clarified the purpose is providing procedures for activation of the Act
- Definitions were better defined with the various forms for use
- Requests for disaster assistance 2-4, emphasis following Sections 53-2a-206 or 53-2a-208 in Utah Code for a jurisdiction requesting disaster assistance
- In 2-5, Agent of the State better defines an employee being deployed whether intrastate or interstate
- 2-7, Pre-Mobilization of Resources clarifies the information requested on forms
- 2-8, Mobilization of Resources clarifies the deployment of personnel and resources
- 2-9, Demobilization of Resources terminology is better defined
- 2-12, Reimbursable Expenses emphasis that jurisdictions should follow their own employment policies

For more information regarding the code, please visit: <http://www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r704/r704-002.htm>

### This Show's A Disaster! "Air Disasters" – Smithsonian Channel (2011- to date)

By Don Cobb

Rating: 2 MREs



The Smithsonian Channel's "Air Disasters" is a very worthy effort, now in its fourth season. It is well researched and presented, and wholly engages the viewer. It's hard to figure that the so-called safest form of transportation could generate enough fodder for a four-year run. Don't worry though, there'll probably be plenty of material for many more shows, and certainly that's the pity of it.

"Air Disasters" official promo states, "Harrowing stories of tragedy and triumph are brought to life through official reports, transcripts and interviews with the pilots, air traffic controllers and lucky survivors of history's most terrifying crashes... From the cockpit to the cabin, from the control room to the crash scene, we uncover just what went wrong." Yup, that's exactly what you'll get, with all the intrigue, angst, pain and horror you may expect. Nope, there are not a lot of success stories here, but those few offerings that are positive are simply inspiring (like one about a commercial pilot who brought a 767 down from 26,000 feet without engines).

There are numerous episodes of "Air Disasters" currently available. I won't call them entertainment, but EMs will find them pertinent and productive viewing. Fasten your seat belts, turn on your electronic devices, choose which shows interest you, watch and learn.

Look for "Air Disasters" on the Smithsonian Channel, Netflix, Amazon, Yidio, or other similar destinations.



Have you signed up on [EmergencyInfoUtah.com](http://EmergencyInfoUtah.com) to receive Emergency Management updates? If not, please visit the site and join the mailing list!



## 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](http://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.

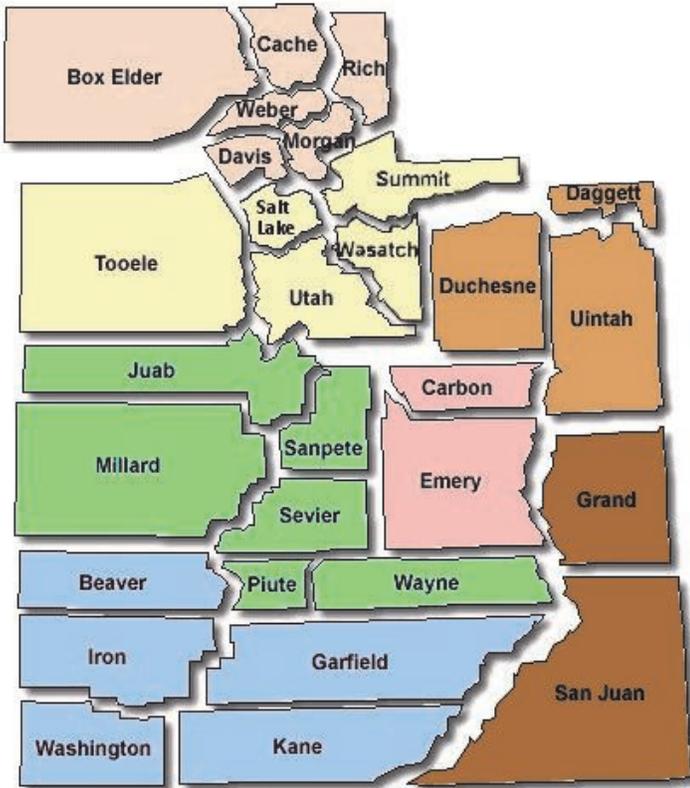
For our current calendar of training courses offered, please visit <http://publicsafety.utah.gov/emergencymanagement/trainingnew.html>. Here you will also find information regarding FEMA EMI training in Emmitsburg, MD, Professional Development Series (PDS), and Advanced Professional Series (APS).

For more training information, or for specific questions, please contact Ted Woolley at [tedwoolley@utah.gov](mailto:tedwoolley@utah.gov)



Are you prepared for winter?  
[dem.utah.gov](http://dem.utah.gov)





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

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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](http://www.uemaonline.com)



Carbon County Flooding - 2014

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?**

