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Strength in the Community



Saratoga Springs Community: photo courtesy Jesse Valenzuela (DEM)

Utah Mutual Aid

“It was incredible to see the community come together to respond to help one of our neighbors.”

- Warren James, Salt Lake County Emergency Manager

“This cooperative effort between Utah County and Salt Lake County mutual aid represents a monumental step in the establishment of community-based response across county lines.”

- Peter Quittner, Utah County Emergency Manager

Dump Fire Flooding - Saratoga Springs

From the Perspective of Five Agencies

Saratoga Springs

Mark Christensen, Saratoga Springs City Manager

The summer of 2012 brought two natural disasters to the City of Saratoga Springs. The first, a fire on BLM land that threatened homes and businesses in July. The second, a mud slide in early September, caused by the burn scar on this same BLM land that directly affected twelve residential properties. Volunteers from residents, local businesses, neighboring communities and the state responded immediately and helped to lessen the impact of these two unforeseeable occurrences, and provided resources and manpower necessary to react quickly to the needs of our city. The willingness of these volunteers to do whatever was needed and necessary was a great asset to our ability to respond as quickly as possible.

Despite the efforts of these volunteers, there were additional challenges to deal with beyond the effects of these disasters. Coordinating efforts between various governmental agencies presented their own obstacles. Because both the fire and mud slide occurred on land not owned by Saratoga Springs, it required local, state and federal agency involvement. Each came with their own processes and requirements which slowed our ability to respond quickly and efficiently. Additionally, the city was placed in a position to provide mitigation responses to disasters that occurred on land outside of our city limits that directly impacted our residents and businesses. Management of the debris was an additional complication. The city and numerous volunteer organizations removed dirt along with fire and residential debris. Coordinating this removal and disposal proved to be a far greater challenge

than we anticipated.

As we look back at these two incidents it is clear that there are things that can be learned. A better understanding of the resources that can be provided by the state and neighboring cities would have helped us to respond more efficiently with the correct resources. The ability to access these resources quickly through an emergency response phone tree would also be of great help in the future. Finding the right individual and resource, especially after hours, can be a challenge. Additionally, understanding the services and expertise outside agencies can provide would also help deploy volunteers more effectively. Residents were quick to respond and were put into action by their local church or neighborhood affiliation. However, their efforts would have likely been best coordinated by the local Red Cross. And finally, continued efforts to strengthen relationships with local, state and federal agencies will go a long way in helping us all understand how we can best support one another in emergency situations.



Utah County

*Peter Quittner, Utah County
Emergency Manager*

At approximately 1945 hrs on Saturday September 1, 2012, I received a call from the National Weather Service issuing flood and debris flow warnings over the Dump Fire burn scar in Eagle Mountain and Saratoga Springs. I contacted dispatch to have local emergency responders notified of the warning. The flooding occurred within minutes of these initial warnings. Utah County Emergency Management re-

sponded to Saratoga Springs to establish a command post and managed the emergency through the holiday weekend with Saratoga Springs resources.

Resources were brought in from Utah County and other cities in the county as emergency mutual aid. During the course of the incident, local resources were taxed, and Utah County Emergency Management reached out to Salt Lake County Emergency Management and the State of Utah to establish a mutual aid response plan to supply the incident with emergency mitigation resources. These resources included heavy equipment, manpower and fuel, as

well as other resources donated by local businesses.

This cooperative effort between Utah County and Salt Lake County mutual aid represents a monumental step in the establishment of community-based response across county lines. The relationships that had been established prior to the incident made it possible to successfully request and receive resources from other jurisdictions. These relationships we have with our communities now will equate to the success or failure of these kinds of incidents in the future.



Salt Lake County

Warren James,

Salt Lake County Emergency Manger

Just like many of you, I have spent this summer watching as first fire and then flood damaged homes and property around the state. When I received a phone call from Peter Quittner on Sept. 4 the last thing I thought he was calling for was to request assistance from Salt Lake County in dealing with some of the damage caused by those fires and floods. Peter and I work together on our Regional Executive Board and I assumed he was calling to talk about grants or meetings. His call was to request mutual aid assistance in Saratoga Springs dealing with the mudflow that damaged homes and infrastructure in that community. We visited for a minute and I collected some initial information to get the “ball rolling” in our county.

Utah County’s request was for one Type 1 Water Truck, two Type 2 Dozers, two Type 3 Tracked Excavators, one Type 1 Front End Loader, and at least two Type 1 or 2 Dump Trucks. After I got out my

trusty FEMA typing documents to translate the request into English, I pulled out our Salt Lake Valley “Toy Book” that lists all of the resources available in the Valley by manufacturer and model number, I determined that we did indeed have the resources that were being requested. I assured Peter that I’d do everything that I could to fill his request and began making notifications.

My first call was to Jeff Gravier, the Director of Salt Lake County Emergency Services to start the process of requesting the resources owned by Salt Lake County. I then sent out an alert to all of the emergency managers in the Salt Lake Valley via text message and e-mail with the details of the request. Over the next couple of hours, the phone rang consistently with offers of assistance from all of the municipalities in the Valley offering resources varying from a single dump truck to a D6 Caterpillar or a water truck. We built a schedule, met with Saratoga

Springs concerning details of the response, and started moving equipment to the affected area.

We have worked hard to build a network in our county of emergency managers so that we can mobilize and move resources for response in our own county or after a mutual aid request. It was incredible to see the community come together to respond to help one of our neighbors. Credit has to be given to all of the cities in our county, whether they mobilized resources to help with this request or not, for their hard work in organizing the system that we have and in being so immediately ready to respond.

Did You Know...

The Statewide Mutual Aid Act can be found in [53-2-501](#) of the Utah State Code.

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) can be found in [53-2-201](#) of the Utah State Code.

Salt Lake County Emergency Services

Jeff Gravier, *Salt Lake County Emergency Services Director*

All of us watched in amazement as the community of Saratoga Springs began the process of digging out from mud and debris left behind by the monsoon rains during the Labor Day weekend. The recent wildland fires had destroyed much of the landscape that provided the protection from these types of events leaving city officials, home owners, and volunteers with the overwhelming task of cleaning up what the storm had left behind. Hundreds of volunteers manned bucket brigades to empty the water and mud from basements while city officials began planning for a second storm scheduled to arrive within the 10-day forecast.

It was obvious by the end of the weekend that the City of Saratoga Springs had been overwhelmed by the flooding event and was in need of immediate resources to remove debris and repair flood control systems. On the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012, Utah County requested mutual aid from Salt Lake County for dump trucks and heavy equipment on behalf of Saratoga Springs. Warren James, the Salt Lake County Emergency Manager, immediately began planning and coordinating the mutual aid response by meeting with Mark Christensen, the City Manager and Incident Commander for Saratoga Springs, to identify operational periods, staging locations, and specific capabilities for the response. By

day’s end, nearly every city within Salt Lake County had contributed man-power and heavy equipment for an 8-day mutual aid response to assist Saratoga Springs.

Salt Lake County Flood Control sent engineers on Sept. 5 to provide subject matter expertise for flood mitigation and worked with city officials to develop a work plan to remove debris and improve flood control measures. Heavy equipment began arriving on Sept. 6 and was staged near the Saratoga Springs Public Works building. Twelve-hour operational periods were established for daylight operations and a demobilization schedule created for the following Thursday, Sept. 13. Salt Lake County Fleet Services provided fuel and lube on site for heavy equipment and Saratoga Springs Police Department provided security for the staging location.

As the work began, the landscape immediately changed. Debris basins were being dredged, storm drain systems were being cleared, and flood control measures were being installed. This was a daunting task for city officials and responders. It was successful because of good planning, coordination, and hard-working responders dedicated to a mission of service.

A special thanks to those communities that provided mutual aid; Bluffdale City, Herriman City, Riverton City, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Sandy City, South Jordan City, West Jordan City, and the Unified Fire Authority.



Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management

Jesse Valenzuela, Wasatch Region Liaison

During Labor Day weekend 2012, a devastating wall of water mixed with black mud, silt and ash came out of Israel Canyon, bypassing the storm channel that was specifically designed to mitigate such a problem, slamming into dozens of homes, filling the basements with a liquid mess of debris and ash left over from an earlier wildland fire.

Israel Canyon is located just west of Saratoga Springs, and the Jacob's Ranch subdivision. Two months earlier this mountainous area suffered a fast-moving wildland fire that burned thousands of acres and left the hillsides looking like moonscape.

To complicate the situation the fire burned so hot that it glazed the soil to a hardened burn scar no longer able to absorb large amounts of water rapidly. As the storm approached, the National Weather Service had also issued a flood and debris warning late Saturday evening to the Saratoga Springs and Eagle Mountain burn scar area. Inches of precipitation fell in just minutes creating a tsunami of debris and mud.

I received a text and a phone call from Sgt. Peter Quittner, Emergency Manager of Utah County. He briefed me with the details and informed me that Saratoga Springs had exhausted their resources and were drafting a declaration for assistance. Peter and his staff responded to Saratoga Springs with their mobile command vehicle to assist the Incident Commander and the Saratoga Springs Emergency Manager, Mark Christensen.

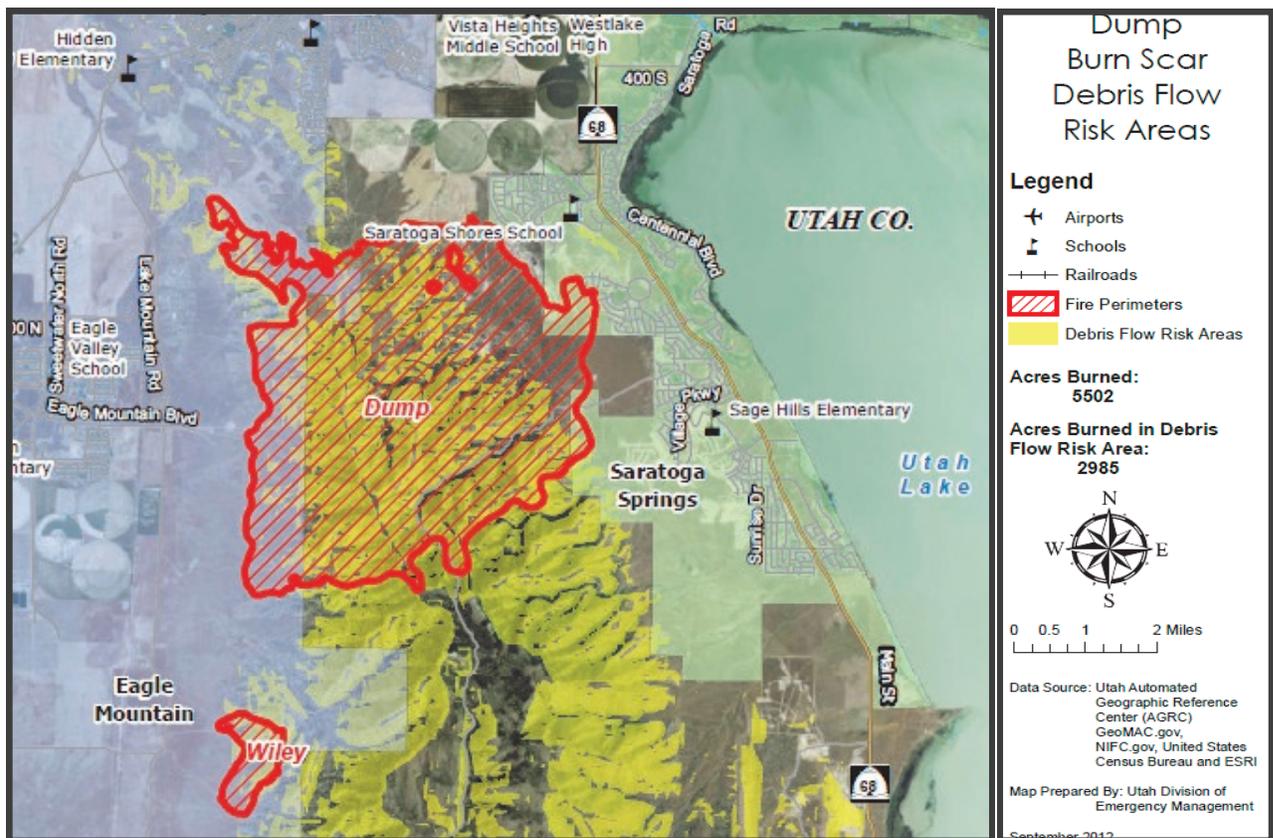
After their arrival, he advised me of the situation there and of the status of their very limited resources. He asked me to begin researching the State's resources inventory list for assistance. After researching all available resources that the State could offer I met with Sgt. Quittner and ultimately it was decided to reach out to Salt Lake County's EM for some immediate assistance. The National Guard was requested as well.

The request for the Guard was made by Peter to the State of Utah's Division of Emergency Management and the Guard received their official activation and assist orders from Governor Herbert's office.

As the Wasatch Region liaison for DEM, my observation was that the responding EMs from two counties, including local city and elected officials, worked very professionally together with great detail to never losing sight of the common goal of resident recovery. I can't emphasize enough the ambassadorship and support that I witnessed from assisting counties towards Utah County and Saratoga Springs.

Although this incident did not meet FEMA's minimum reimbursement threshold, over 10,000 volunteers rallied to aid in the recovery process, speaking to the magnitude and scope of the damage from this disaster.

The lessons learned on many fronts from this incident provided a huge value towards prevention and mitigation for the future.



Maps courtesy of Josh Groeneveld (DEM)



Your Fires Are Out, But Disaster May Still Be Lurking

By Judy Watanabe

Thankfully, our fire season is coming to a close. Huge burn scars are the evidence of our active fire season. This summer, five fires were declared under the Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG), a new record for the state of Utah. Now what is lurking above our communities are large areas of burned forest that with a simple rain storm can devastate communities with debris and mud.

Debris flows are one of the most dangerous post-fire natural hazards because they are life-threatening, move rapidly, and strike with little warning. Debris flows can cause damage by erosion, sediment deposits, and associated water flooding. They can fill in basements, waste water systems, and storm drains. With the vegetation burned off, nothing is there to hold the water or allow it to filter into the soil. It

simply runs downhill and takes everything in its path.

It's difficult to prepare your residents for debris flows because you never know when they may occur, or what path the debris will flow. There are a couple things you can do to promote readiness in your community. One is to encourage residents to watch the weather. Most debris flows are caused by thunderstorms, and sometimes if an area has been burned, it doesn't take a lot of rain to produce a debris flow. These flows are capable of destroying homes, washing out roads and bridges, sweeping away vehicles, knocking down trees, and obstructing streams and roadways with thick deposits of mud and rocks. Watching the weather and knowing that a storm in your area is coming will help the residents prepare and possibly evacuate. Another item to share with your community, and most important, is moving kids upstairs during rain events. During debris flows, basements fill up fast and shut doors tight,

not giving kids time to get out. Moving the kids upstairs for the night and having a camp-out in the living room is one way to be safe. Residents may consider leaving their house for the night, and staying with family or friends or in a hotel. Not being in the house is a good way to avoid being in a dangerous situation.

The potential for debris flow after an area has been burned can last up to three years. Your residents need to know what threats exist in the community. Keeping them informed of storms and the potential for debris flow is important. Hold community meetings, invite experts from the weather service, Utah Geological Survey, Division of Emergency Management and other agencies to empower your residents to be knowledgeable and know what to do if the debris flow happens in your community. If there is anything the DEM can do to help you keep your community informed and safe from debris flows, please don't hesitate to ask.



Today, 208 Utah communities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Every year more Utah communities voluntarily join the NFIP because of the multiple benefits to residents, business, and local government. Because of wild fires, participation in the NFIP is more important than ever. Based on consultation with FEMA, the U.S. Forest Service, and NOAA, residents in Utah are affected by fires on Federal land, and may be subject to an elevated risk of flood for the next five years.

Flood insurance is available to anyone in an NFIP participating community--regardless if you are in the FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area.

The Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, signed into law July 6, 2012, by President Obama, may make residents in Utah NFIP communities subjected to an elevated risk of flood, and you may be eligible for an exception from the 30-day waiting period. Please see your insurance agent for details.

FEMA is making this preliminary determination to provide notice to the Write Your Own (WYO) insurance companies and other stakeholders that the recently enacted exception to the 30-

day waiting period may be in effect. Individuals and businesses purchasing new insurance policies from the NFIP are typically required to wait 30 days for their flood insurance coverage to become effective. The actual determination on the applicability of the exception must be made on a property-by-property basis. The reform provision in this bill created an exception to that requirement for property that:

- **Is affected by flooding on federal land**
- **Is flooded as a result of post-wildfire conditions, and where**
- **Flood insurance was purchased not later than 60 days after the fire containment date. (Please see your agent for details.)**

If your community does not participate in the NFIP, please contact John Crofts at 801.538.3332 to enroll. There is no application fee or charge to join the NFIP. Training resources and specialized assistance are available to all Utah NFIP communities. For learn more please visit www.floodsmart.gov.



Mapping Summer 2012 Wildfires

During the spring, summer and fall of 2012, Utah experienced a large number of wildfires affecting thousands of people statewide. As the wildfires grew in number, size and proximity to residential areas, we saw an increased need for quickly mapping the fires and the communities affected by them. Our goals for the maps were to make them accessible to both GIS professionals and the general public by providing information regarding the size and location of the fire, as well as road closures, shelter locations and evacuation areas.

We chose to produce maps using the Google Maps “My Places” feature. This allows all of the maps to be seen in an interface that is very familiar to many people, and it allows news organizations and others to embed the map in a story related to the fire. One of the most useful features of Google Maps “My Places” is to virtually “draw” data onto the map without having to import data from a GIS. This allowed us to easily mark closed roads and draw evacuation boundaries. There are several inter-agency wildfire websites, one of which, (www.geomac.gov) provided data for fire perimeters that we were able to include in the maps.

As important as it was for us to make the maps, they were only useful because we were able to get people to use them. Toward this end, we posted about each map on Twitter to increase the map’s visibility. Several other organizations re-tweeted these posts and brought the maps to an even broader audience than what we could have reached on our own. Some news organizations picked up our maps and helped disseminate them as well. The map for the Dump Fire near Saratoga Springs was viewed more than 750,000 times, and the Wood Hollow Fire / Seeley Fire map was viewed more than 400,000 times. While many maps weren’t quite as popular, the number of views for the maps from the larger fires showed us that there is a demand for this type of information during an emergency situation.

If you’re interested in checking out some of the fire maps, click on the links below. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact Josh Groeneveld at jgroeneveld@utah.gov.

Quail Fire, near Alpine: <http://goo.gl/maps/6kNf>

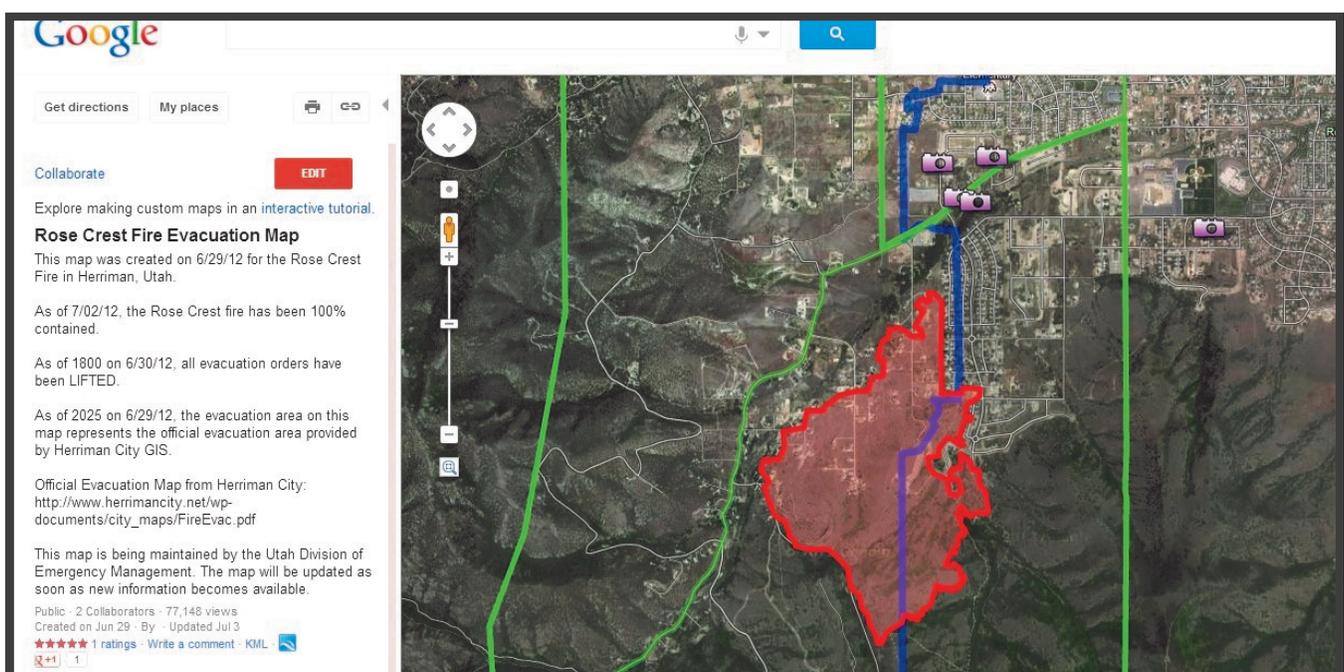
Rosecrest Fire, near Herriman: <http://goo.gl/maps/ODU5>

Clay Springs Fire, near Oak City: <http://goo.gl/maps/KMt2>

Dump Fire, near Saratoga Springs: <http://goo.gl/maps/1rzN>

Church Camp Fire, in Southern Duchesne County: <http://goo.gl/maps/JSCIK>

Wood Hollow Fire and Seeley Fire, near Mount Pleasant: <http://goo.gl/maps/Nvy7>





EM 101 – The Happy Prepper

One of the great joys in staffing booths and exhibits at emergency preparedness events like the 2012 Utah State Fair is the opportunity to interact with folks who are hungry for state-of-the-art EM information, or, who frequently have an abundance of information to share themselves. Conversations can cover the gamut from how to best store drinking water to what firm makes the best MREs/survival foods. Extreme perspectives on what will the government do or not do in an emergency to what weapons should be stockpiled for personal and family defense are not uncommon.

The varied personalities EMs encounter in their public dealings can be as broad as the subject matter itself: practical, well-grounded, responsible citizens; anxious new parents with young kids; frightened older individuals with a sense of disenfranchisement; or even downright paranoid types with personal agendas that seem to welcome disaster – all are in the mix of persons interested in emergency preparedness. And then there are those persons who really just don't care and wonder what all the fuss is about....



One size clearly does not fit all in emergency preparedness, nor should it. The preparedness guidelines we generally offer our customers are not meant to be absolutes, but rather serve as suggestions when individuals and families consider their personal approach on what it means to “Be Ready.” Some folks may well determine that a basic 72-Hour Kit is more than satisfactory; others may opt for a far more elaborate preparedness mode. While “bigger and better” may indeed be better in the preparedness game, not all people have the will or resources to maximize their efforts. Still, as EMs, we can help. At the risk of restating the obvious, consider these suggestions:

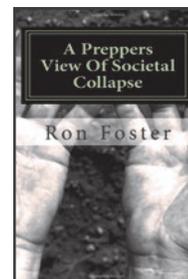
Walk the talk. To achieve and maintain credibility it's vital to believe in your own preparedness message and practice what you are preaching. Prepare yourself and your loved ones and share the experience.

Know your subject matter. You probably know a great deal about EM already, but you likely don't know everything about emergency preparedness. A fortune cookie stated it well, “An expert is someone who knows a lot about very little.” Listen to, and learn to lead from others, especially those you may be counseling to prepare.

Know your audience. The people you serve come from all walks of life, with varied socio-economic backgrounds, faiths, levels of education, personal histories, you name it. The levels of personal preparedness will vary by necessity. Tailor your messages to meet the specific needs and capabilities of the individuals and groups with whom you are communicating.

Take the high road. Know that passions and perceptions about emergency preparedness run pretty deep, and fears and emotions also can run high depending on circumstances. Emergency preparedness is, at best, a proactive, positive endeavor, not a reactive, last ditch effort.

Be aware of trends and media exposure. The spate of emergency preparedness and survival shows in recent years like “Doomsday Preppers,” and “The Colony,” hearken back many years to the Civil Defense fear-based culture of the 1950s and 60s. This is bleak entertainment, and while interesting, you have to wonder whether the producers of such shows are poking fun at, or promoting emergency preparedness and survival skills for the general populace. Take a look and make your own decision.



Meanwhile, back at the DEM booths at the Utah State Fair, a young woman approached me with several preparedness questions, and after a brief conversation about canning and emergency supplies, the subject turned to motivation. “Why do you prepare?” I asked. “Oh, I'm a Happy Prepper!” she responded. “It makes me feel good, that I've done something to be ready. I'm not worried about disaster or any of that stuff because if it comes, I've done all I can. I can relax.”

Now those are words to live by!



When your community, agency or organization faces a public relations nightmare, who can help? When you need someone who can craft an urgent message quickly, disseminate it immediately and gain successful media and public action, you need a qualified, hard working Public Information Officer (PIO). These important communicators play a crucial role in bridging the gap between community leaders and the public.

About 130 PIOs from around the state came together in St. George in late September for an important two-day conference. The PIO Association is made up of 439 PIOs from around the state representing cities, counties, police departments, health departments, and organizations like the American Red Cross. The association membership is free and the conference fees cover the event expenses and presenters.

This year, the trainings included the following: Spokesperson Training, Maximizing Social Media, Google Applications, Organizing your Joint Information System/Center, Legal Issues in Government Crisis Communications, the Media Panel, and Photography/Video Training. Presentations were also made by PIOs who have been hit with major breaking news during the past year. These speakers share their lessons learned and best practices with the group. Lessons learned were shared from incidents such as the Ogden Police Fatal Shooting, the Centerville Wind Storm, and the Logan Motorcycle Rescue that went viral worldwide in the blink of an eye.

One of the favorite speakers was Sheriff Matt Lutz, from Muskingum County, Ohio, who worked diligently with the media to save lives when lions, tigers and bears were on the loose in his community. Lutz worked well with the media and in the end, no human lives were lost. Lutz did not have a PIO, but he was very thankful for the PIO training he had taken.

Another favorite presentation included PIO Stress Debrief by Sgt Shawn Josephson of the Salt Lake City Police Department. Serving as PIO can be very stressful. Attaining and writing accurate



Chris Kramer, former DPS/DEM PIO practicing on camera with a local hospital PIO

lifelines, and getting it out fast, is no easy task. The pressure is high. Stress causes actual changes in brain chemistry and function. Many people disregard, or ignore, stress and that can cause problems in their work performance and personal lives. Sgt. Josephson encouraged participants to understand stress, watch for the triggers and signs and address their symp-

oms. Addressing stress, not ignoring it, can help you to maintain function and happiness on the job and at home.

The association officers plan the annual conference and quarterly meetings. They also offer PIO tips and tools via email throughout the year. Former Association President Tammy Kikuchi, Communications Director for the Utah Department of Natural Resources, served two terms as an officer. Kikuchi shared, "It has been really gratifying to see so many new faces at the annual conference and the quarterly meetings. Hopefully, that means that people are finding value in the sessions that are offered. Our profession is changing rapidly and we have tried to help each other stay on top of the trends."



Shawn Josephson, SLC Police Dept.

The new 2012/2013 elected officers are:

President: Joe Dougherty, PIO, Utah Division of Emergency Management, Department of Public Safety PIO Team Member
Vice President: Susan Thomas, Emergency Planner, Utah Division of Emergency Management, Department of Public Safety PIO Team Member

Secretary: ReNae Rezac, PIO and Community Affairs Associate, Park City Municipal

Treasurer: Mike Powell, PIO, Sergeant, West Valley Police Department

Special Thanks

Patrice Thomas of the Division of Emergency Management serves as the annual conference coordinator. She helps with the many important details in event planning and ensures the conference goes well.

How to Join

If you, or someone you know, would like to join this association simply sign up online to receive the emails and invitations to group events. Go to www.utahemergencyinfo.com and click "Join Mailing List." Here you will see, "I belong to the following group," use the drop down list to select Public Information Officers.

Where to Train

Basic PIO Training is offered at the state on an ongoing basis. Please [visit U-train](#) to sign up for these great classes for new PIOs.

Advanced PIO Training is offered by FEMA in Emmitsburg, Maryland and can be found at training.fema.gov.





Citizen Corps

Preparedness and building community resilience is something we can all promote year round. Here are two Citizen Corps highlights from National Preparedness Month:

The State Fair: Each of the Citizen Corps pillar programs were represented. And each pillar was given a 10X10 booth space where we had approximately 100 volunteers on hand to share information and talk to hundreds of people from all over the state. We look forward to doing this again next year.

The Multi City CERT Mock Disaster: The Lehi City CERT Program successfully carried out a mock disaster drill involving CERT teams from multiple cities throughout Salt Lake County and Utah County. This was done in an effort to get CERT programs to get to know their neighbors and to build working relationships between programs. This effort followed the national view of building sustainable and deployable CERT teams.

Citizen Corps urges you to continue to find ways and plan events and activities that can build our pillar programs and more importantly our communities.



CERT Corner

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

Jeff Johnson, Utah Citizen Corps Coordinator-
jeffjohnson@utah.gov

James Ray, Utah Citizen Corps Intern-
jray@utah.gov

All the new add-on CERT modules are here:
http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/training_mat.shtm

Use the add-on training modules to engage your local CERT Teams, give them additional tools, and to fire them up in the spirit of CERT.

**The Weather Outside Is Frightful –
Be Ready for Utah Winter!**

The organizations shown below have created a joint winter storm preparedness message. Visit the link for this important information and feel free to share the link.

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sl/wxsafety/winterweatherpreparedness.html>

Visit [Be Ready Utah](#) for more preparedness information



Training		Location	Course ID
<i>(APS): Required (+) Elective (*)</i>			
November			
8	G-291 JIC/JIS Planning Course	Salt Lake City	1020466
13-14	G-300 ICS-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents	Salt Lake City	1011051
14-15	G-202* Debris Management Planning for State/Tribal/Local	Salt Lake City	1015557
15-16	G-400 ICS-400 Advanced ICS– Command & General Staff	Blanding	1011057
16-17, 30/Dec 1	G-428 Community Emergency Response Team– Train the Trainer	Richfield & Scipio	1030334
December			
4-6	G-393+ Mitigation for Emergency Managers	Salt Lake City	1034348

Conferences and Workshops		Location	Contact
December			
4-6	AH-IMT Association Conference	Indianapolis, IN	Ted Woolley
January			
7-13	AH-IMT CO. Wild land Fire and Incident Mgmt. Academy	Colorado Springs, CO	Ted Woolley
15-16	UEMA Annual Conference	Salt Lake City	More to Follow

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



This Show's a Disaster: The Twilight Zone: "The Shelter" (1961)

Screenwriter: Rod Serling

Starring: Larry Gates, Joseph Bernard, Jack Alberston



Utah DEM Rating: 5 out of 5 MREs

The first TV show to be reviewed in this column is "The Shelter," a somewhat disturbing black-and-white classic from 50-plus years ago. Written by host Rod Serling, "The Shelter" first aired during the third season of "The Twilight Zone." Though a bit "old school" in production by today's CGI standards, it remains relevant viewing today for folks associated with emergency management and classic chiller lovers.



The Plot: During a birthday party for their friend and neighbor, Dr. Stockton, a group of friends and neighbors are thunderstruck to hear a Civil Defense announcement on the radio (do you remember CONELRAD?) that states that America is under attack by UFOs. The President has declared a national emergency and all residents are urged to seek shelter immediately.

As it turns out, Dr. Stockton is the only member of his local neighborhood who has had the presence of mind to embrace the importance of family and individual disaster preparedness. While his neighbors have been enjoying a semi-hedonistic, middle-class, suburban lifestyle, Stockton has built a bomb shelter in the basement of his home and has amassed a limited supply of disaster essentials

for his family's use.

The Stocktons, while relatively ready for the impending nuclear attack, are soon confronted by their now-desperate neighbors who demand to be allowed to take refuge in the tiny shelter. As tensions reach critical mass, the fallout from the ensuing hysteria and panic is the uncontained release of pent-up hostilities and prejudices that result in the destruction of the friends' relationships and sense of community.

(Please pardon the extended nuke metaphor... I couldn't resist).

All told, "The Shelter" is a very well-done, albeit stark drama with a thought-provoking plot and excellent character development. It's an historically accurate, well-scripted, graphic representation



of the escalating Cold War tensions of the day, and is certainly applicable to today's volatile global situation. Emergency managers may learn much about human behavior in the face of impending disaster from "The Shelter."

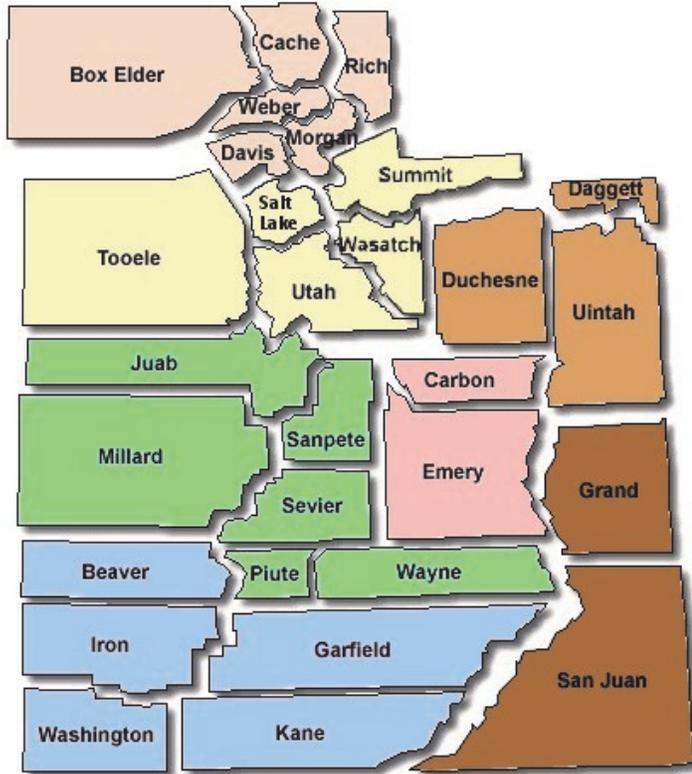
Perhaps the greatest endorsement, however, of the on-going validity and critical appreciation of this show was its recent selection by the UCLA Film and Television Archive for public screening in September 2012 – around its 50th anniversary. That's staying power!



You can find "The Shelter" at numerous sources including NetFlix, Walmart.com, and perhaps a couple of dozen others revealed a recent Google search. It has played recently on a Utah oldies TV station, too. Dig into your 72-hour kit for suitable supply of high-sucrose survival snacks, relax, and watch 25 minutes of someone else's Armageddon unfold.

Enjoy!





- 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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Important links to remember

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

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

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

WebEOC **NEW WEB ADDRESS:**
<https://veocutah.webeocasp.com>

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

UEMA:
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/>



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Are You Ready?

