The

Journal

Utah Emergency Management

Utah Task Force 1 as they leave "Nugget Hill", Left Hand Canyon, Boulder
County Co. Photo courtesy of Boulder County Sheriff's Office

In This Issue...

Questions or concerns regarding this newsletter, please contact us here

Division of Emergency Management
Director's Message

The historic flooding in neighboring Colorado has been the very picture of devastation and should be a sobering reminder to Utah emergency managers about the realities of long-term recovery.

Take a look at these statistics from Colorado:

Lives lost: 8
Missing: 1
People injured: 218
People forced from their homes: Approx. 18,000
Homes destroyed: 1,882
Households affected by flooding: 26,000+
Counties included in state emergency declaration: 24

Director Kris Hamlet with Governor Gary Herbert

Friends and colleagues, Utah has been lucky to avoid this kind of destruction, but we all know that we have the potential for a similar event that could produce equally devastating types of statistics in the Beehive State.

Here is a question you've heard before and will hear again because it's our business to think of these things. What if it happened here?

Where are the greatest risks of debris flows in your communities? Where are the places with the greatest potential for flooding? What would the impacts be to your communities? These types of incidents should help emergency managers everywhere rededicate themselves to doing the pencil work of threat and hazard risk assessments, establishing objectives, identifying capabilities, planning, training and exercising.

This means we need to be good at selling our programs to develop the trust and understanding of our elected officials. We just finished a great National Preparedness Month. I invite you to use the momentum from that campaign to invite your elected officials for a tour. Help them see the capabilities you have and the partnerships you have built. Perhaps, more importantly, you can make sure they are aware of the gaps in your program.

We can't prevent Mother Nature from throwing everything she has at us, but we can prepare and we can help our communities prepare. The Division of Emergency Management stands as a ready partner and resource to support your efforts. Don't hesitate to contact any of our excellent staff.

We hope to never have to respond to monumental flooding or any other major disaster, but when it's our turn, let's be as prepared as we possibly can for it.

Thank you for your service,

Director Kris Hamlet

Utah Task Force 1 Deploys to Colorado Flooding
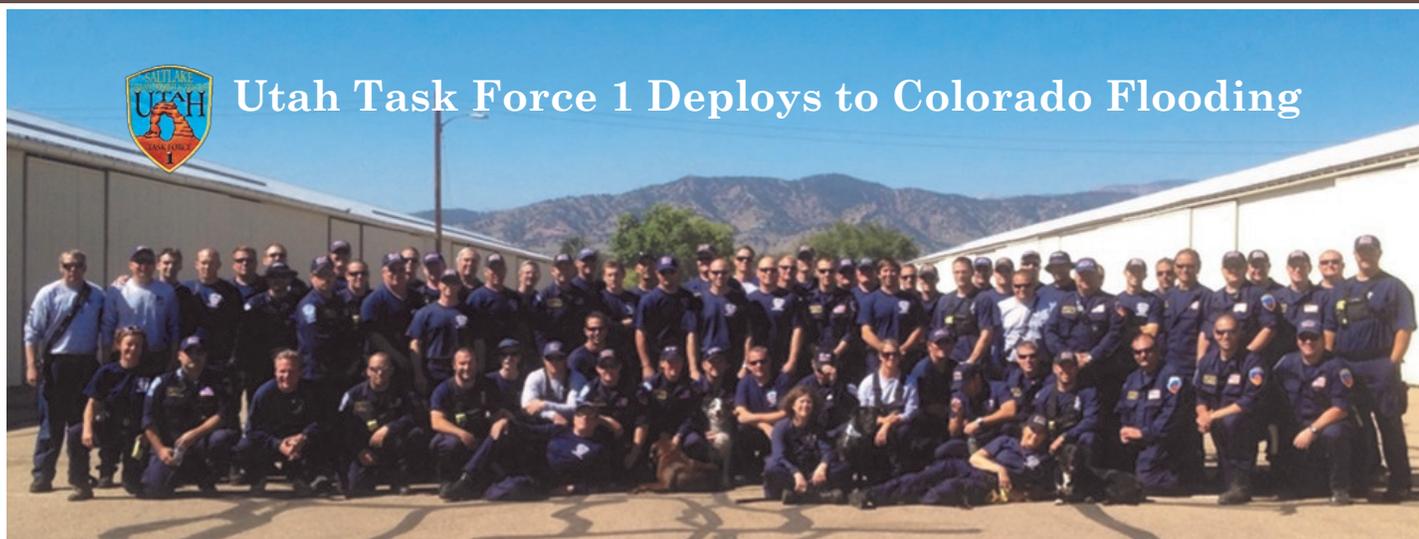
By Keith Bevan, UT-TF1

Utah Task Force 1 (UT-TF1) was deployed to Boulder, Colo., on Sept. 12 to support search and rescue operations after severe flooding had occurred in the foothills from the Denver Metro area north to Larimer County. UT-TF1 was activated as a Type I US&R Task Force taking 75 highly trained members at the request of FEMA. Colorado Task Force 1 was already activated and working in Lyons County. UT-TF1 completed its mission and returned home on Sept. 20.

The National Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) Response System organizes federal, state and local partner emergency response teams as 28 integrated federal SAR task forces. Each task force, including Utah Task Force 1 has the necessary tools, equipment, skills and techniques, to be deployed by FEMA to assist state and local governments in rescuing victims of structural collapse incidents or to assist in other search and rescue missions. They may be prepositioned when a major disaster threatens a community.

The 28 task forces are located throughout the continental United States and must be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours. All task force personnel and equipment must arrive their point of departure within four hours of activation so they can be dispatched and en route to their destination in a matter of hours.

Utah Task Force 1 traveled by ground to Boulder, Colo., in the early morning hours of Sept. 13 and had many delays due to extensive road closures throughout the northern Colorado area. The team's final destination was the Boulder Municipal Airport, Nebraska Task Force 1 and the FEMA Incident Support Team would establish a base of operations for the next seven days with UT-TF1.

Due to the vast area affected by the storm (17" of rain over seven days) and the overall mountainous terrain, initial operations for preliminary damage assessment and search & rescue were by air. This level of support would come from the US Army air wing out of Ft Carson, Colorado. UT-TF1 had prepared and trained its members on military air operations and search definitions specific to these types of operations prior to starting their work. Chinook and Blackhawk helicopters were already actively engaged in the evacuation of thousands of individuals trapped in canyon areas due to road, bridge and other infrastructure damage.

- continued

UT-TF1 personnel started active search operations in Boulder County by both helicopter and military troop movers.

The task force also provided planning support for the city of Boulder and the task force veterinarian provided immediate care to evacuated animals.

Utah Task Force 1 had not been federally activated since 2007 and had not responded as a Type I US&R team since the World Trade Center. The team performed in its normal Utah fashion as a well-trained, very professional federal resource to the State of Colorado.

The use of many new tools and FEMA's reporting requirements proved to be very beneficial for the residents of Colorado. The new FEMA Disaster Reporter app and US&R GPS tracking and waypoint policies allowed for real-time observations of search and rescue operations. UT-TF1's search objectives were all met and received with high praise from the State of Colorado and the federal government.

Search and rescue results for UT-TF1 in Colorado

Structure Search No Damage	851
Structure Search Damaged	108
Structure Search Failed	12
Structure Search Destroyed	10
Assisted Survivor	6
Evacuations	102
Rescued	2
Survivor Detected	44
Confirmed Victim	0
Human Remains	0
Confirmed Victim Removed	0
Shelter in Place	441
Animal Issue	36
Emergency Shelter	21
Emergency Food Distribution Center	3
Fire Incident	0
Hazardous Material Incident	41
Targeted Search	27
Flood/Water Level	0
Helicopter Landing Site	3
Route Blocked	75

Public Assistance Funds for Utah? Not This Time

By Jake Unguren

Public Assistance Preliminary Damage Assessment Results

Utah will not receive any Public Assistance funding from FEMA following this year's floods.

County Name	FY 2014 Damage Threshold 10/1/13 to 9/30/14	Total Estimated FEMA Eligible Damage
Emery	$38,416	$200,896
Garfield	$18,102	$338,871
Grand	$32,288	$245,372
Kane	$24,938	$186,333
Millard	$43,761	$46,053
San Juan	$51,611	$116,905
Utah	$1,807,974	$1,346,311
Wayne	$9,723	$156,960
Skull Valley	$81	$169,040
Statewide	**$3,841,800**	**$2,806,741**

How it all works

After an event, state and local governments can invite FEMA to conduct a joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) to evaluate damages to public infrastructure and determine the impact of the damage. The results of the PDA, along with several other factors, are used to determine if the incident is beyond the combined capabilities of the state and local response and verify the need for supplemental federal Public Assistance.

The process this year

The Utah Division of Emergency Management (DEM) and FEMA completed a PDA in the aftermath of flooding that occurred across the state during Aug. and Sept. Four PDA teams conducted the assessment Sept. 25 to Oct. 3 and assessed damages in eight counties and on two reservations. Flooding damages consisted mostly of damage to roads and culverts, along with the costs to remove debris and to supply emergency protective measures. This PDA did not include an assessment for the Individuals and Households Program (IHP), which is a separate FEMA program that provides Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance.

The Indicators

FEMA uses a statewide per capita impact indicator of $1.39 (FFY14) per person as an indicator that the disaster incident is of such size that it might warrant federal assistance under the FEMA Public Assistance Program. The indicator increased midway through our assessment. Each year on Oct. 1, FEMA adjusts the statewide per capita impact indicator to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Department of Labor. On Oct. 1, the indicator increased from $1.37 per person to $1.39 per person, increasing Utah's threshold by over $55,000 to $3,841,800. This threshold would apply to any disaster which is declared from Oct. 1, 2013, to Sept. 30, 2014. The threshold is not based on when the disaster actually occurred, which is why Utah's August/September floods would be subject to the higher threshold. In addition, each county must meet its own per capita impact indicator, which also increased on Oct. 1 from $3.45 to $3.50 per person.

(Click here to view all County thresholds for FFY14)

While most of the counties involved in the PDA met their damage threshold, those amounts together did not meet the State threshold. The FEMA teams estimated that Utah had $2,806,741 in eligible damages.

Yes, it could happen again.

Pandemic

By Mike Stever, Department of Health– ESF 8

Our 5th floor conference room was recently turned into a POD (Point of Dispensing) for flu shots. We properly set up with a patient waiting section, administrative processing spot, screening division and treatment area. The place even smelled like a clinic complete with rubbing alcohol-permeated air. What a perfect place for Health Department employees to gather and talk about emergency preparedness while waiting for their annual flu shot.

When talk turned to the movie "Contagion," one of the visiting flu shot nurses asked me if events portrayed in the film could really occur. "Absolutely," I replied. Then I just couldn't help myself and the emergency manager inside me took over. "It may already be occurring." We just don't know it yet." I faked a cough….

Really?

Yep. Stop and think about it. If Mother Nature sends us earthlings three or four infectious disease global pandemics every century or so, there is no reason to believe that all of the sudden she's going to stop. If anything, pandemics may be more severe, more encompassing and faster moving. In the Chicken Little world of emergency management, pandemic is as real as anything.

It's happened before. Google "1918 flu in Utah" to read the plethora of information about conditions that, to a degree, may mirror a modern pandemic and help us understand how we might prepare to deliver the service we are sworn to. No Utah community was untouched. Surge hospitals were created; filled with Army surplus cots, donated sheets and blankets, and staffed with volunteer nurses and residents. The American Red Cross asked business leaders to give employees a day off if they volunteered to serve in hospitals during the night. Mass gatherings were banned. Even funerals were limited to immediate families

and were permitted only to last half an hour, later reduced to 15 minutes. Social distancing rules were enforced by police. Many towns quarantined themselves. Railroads were warned to not accept passengers who did not have a written doctor's note stating they didn't have the flu. In the end, tens of thousands of people suffered and 2,343 died.

So what does it all mean to us in emergency management? Accept public health and pandemic preparedness as a standard, constant and consistent part of your program. Build strategic alliances and partnerships with all stakeholders before you need them. Direct flagship importance to liaisons with your local health department and regional coalitions.

Create a corporate culture of a healthy workplace and healthy employees. Encourage 100% vaccinations. Provide for and encourage the use of hygiene precautions and policies; provide plenty of hand sanitizer, disposable tissues, disinfectant, etc. Post up-to-date flu and public health information. Champion individual, family, and workplace preparedness.

Absenteeism could be as high as 40%, so plan for staffing shortages. Pandemic means traditional mutual aid may not be a viable resource. Brush up on COOP plans and annexes. Look to reprioritizing, repurposing, and reassigning employees to mission essential tasks.

Utah Floodplain and Stormwater Management Annual Conference

By Remmet deGroot, UFSMA Chair

The 17th annual conference of the Utah Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association (UFSMA) was held in at the Riverwoods Conference Center in Logan, Utah, Sept. 18-20, 2013. UFSMA is the Utah Chapter of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and the premier association for Utah floodplain and stormwater professionals with members representing federal, state, and local government, industry and consultants. Additionally UFSMA has gained continued interest and support from people in the emergency management and natural hazard mitigation fields as well.

This year's conference was again a huge success with close to 100 registered attendees and a wide variety of excellent presentations and activities. Some highlights included:

- Presentation and tour of the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) NRCS project on the Blacksmith Fork River in Cache County – a project initiated after the 2011 flood events.
- Post-fire flooding hazards and risk mitigation in Alpine, Utah and Boulder, Colo.
- Presentation and guided tour of the world renowned Water Lab at Utah State University.
- Canal rehabilitation projects in Logan.
- Using mobile applications in emergency preparedness and response.
- Paleo-hydrology of Machu Picchu, Peru.

Plans for the 2014 conference are underway and dates will be communicated as they are confirmed. This should again present a valuable opportunity to learn and network with Utah professionals on flood and stormwater management issues, natural hazards, and associated emergency management and hazard mitigation.

Making Environmental Spill Information More Accessible to the Public

DEQ News Release - September 12, 2013

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR) has launched a new web-based database that allows the public to access information about environmental incidents in their communities.

The public portion of the Environmental Incidents Database, http://eqspillsps.deq.utah.gov/, is designed to share incident information with the general public through a search on the web page. DEQ tracks environmental incidents through a 24-hour call-in number (801-536-4123) and distributes an initial notification report to the appropriate agency for review and incident response. Information contained in the database includes the details of the incident, the agency providing oversight, the material spilled and what has been impacted, as well as response actions and closure details.

"Access to this information helps other agencies to better respond to environmental incidents in their jurisdictions," said Brent Everett, director of DERR. "Now the general public will also have the ability to track cleanup progress and pinpoint more recent incident locations and information."

In addition to providing online access as incidents are reported, the database also allows regulatory agencies to update site cleanup progress and incident closure where they provided the primary oversight. The database was developed by DEQ to increase efficiency as information is collected and shared with appropriate agencies. For more information on reporting routine and more significant environmental incidents, visit http://www.superfund.utah.gov/spills.htm.

Utah Guard Helicopters Mobilized for Utah Fires

by Lt. Col. Hank McIntire
Ileen Kennedy contributed to this story

DRAPER, Utah — Gov. Gary Herbert activated members of the Utah Army National Guard August 11-20, 2013, to assist with the response to a number of fires in Northern Utah.

In true Minuteman fashion, Blackhawk pilots, crews and support personnel from the Utah Guard's 2-211th Aviation answered the call on short notice, getting three UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters (each with two pilots and one crew chief) airborne within two hours.

"It is gratifying to help protect threatened homes and property. I can only hope that someone else would do the same for me if our roles were reversed," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Eric Riedel, one of the pilots working on the State Fire. "In such a dire situation, a little help goes a long way."

Two aircraft responded August 11 to the State Fire, near Portage, while the other went to the Millville Fire, south of Logan. Between the two fires, Blackhawk crews dumped 88 bucketfuls of water that first day. The bright-orange buckets, suspended underneath the Blackhawks, each hold approximately 600 gallons of water. "You can feel the extra weight. Sitting in the cockpit feels like being on the top of a large pendulum," said Riedel. "It's also a lot of fun. It's just about the closest you can get to being a bomber pilot in the Army."

Blackhawks and crews were again on the scene at both fires the second day. At the State Fire, two Blackhawks dropped a total of 76 bucketfuls, and one Blackhawk dropped 18 on the Millville Fire, for a total of 94 water drops that day. To accommodate refueling near the fires, the Utah Guard established a fuel point at the airport in Malad, Idaho. "We were refueled at the Malad City Airport by fuelers from our facility in West Jordan," said Riedel. "We dipped out of Samaria Lake, just a stone's throw from the small community of Samaria, which was closest to the fire."

For ten straight days, Utah Guard Blackhawks dropped a total of 865 Bambi bucketfuls of water on Northern Utah fires, continuing with the State and Millville Fires. Later the Blackhawks answered the call to respond to the Rockport Fire in Summit County and the Patch Springs Fire in Tooele County.

"The fires were quite patchy, covering large areas," said Riedel. "You could put out one hot spot, only to see another flare up only a few dozen meters away. Even though the fuel was mostly small vegetation, with the hot and dry conditions, the fire could move very fast. Any wind acted as a multiplier."

Members of the Utah Army National Guard 2-211th Aviation Battalion assist in fighting fires in northern Utah Aug. 12, 2013. The National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk dropped more than 8,500 gallons of water in one day on two separate fires in northern Utah.
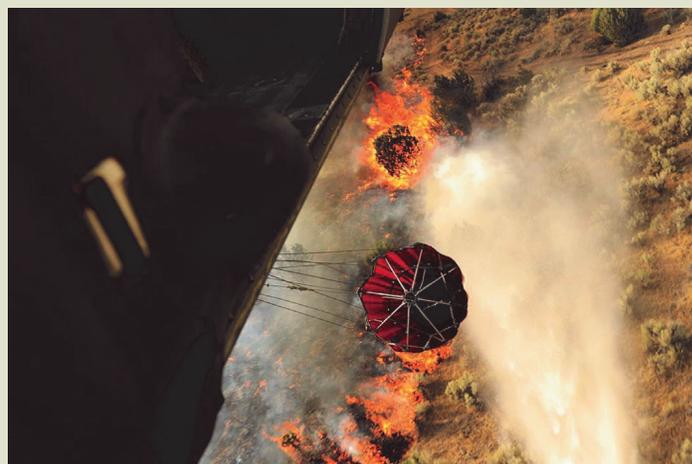
Photos by Staff Sgt. Tim Chacon and Ileen Kennedy

PIO Conference Recap

2013 Utah PIO Conference… Not to be missed!

By Joe Dougherty

Frank Fania, Aurora Colo., PIO

Two lessons emerged from the 2013 Utah PIO Conference in St. George: Use social media in your emergency messaging and build relationships with the news media.

More than 170 public information officers from around the State gathered in sunny St. George to hear from PIOs who handled some of the most prominent public safety incidents during the past year. Just a look at the list makes one sigh with relief that none of these incidents happened in the Beehive State:

- Hunting One of Your Own – Los Angeles Police were on heightened alert after former officer Christopher Dorner issued a manifesto and then began hunting down those named in the manifesto. The ensuing manhunt across Southern California ended at a burning cabin in the mountains. Dual presentation by LAPD's Lt. Andy Neiman and KFI radio reporter Steve Gregory
- The Boston Bombing – The shock of two explosions near the venerable Boston Marathon finish line prompted swift response from Boston PD. Public Information Chief Cheryl Fiandaca explained how social media cemented Boston PD's credibility when information was so critical. In fact, cell phone usage overwhelmed the system, so social media was the only way to communicate with the media during the early and most crucial hours of the unfolding crisis.

- Aurora Theater Shooting – Frank Fania from Aurora PD demonstrated the sheer stress and chaos that can overwhelm local responders and public information officers.

And that's just a sample. We learned about mass fatality incidents, what the news media expects from first responders when it comes to social media. Participants were able to learn about mapping, crisis advertising, open records rules and much, much more.

Though this was one of our best-attended conferences, we still had space for you and your PIO there. Don't miss out on this great training and networking opportunity next year. The PIO conference planning committee is already making plans for next year's conference, set for Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 2014.

Also, please congratulate the PIO Association's new leadership team:

Susan Thomas, DEM, President
ReNae Rezac, Park City, Vice President
Mike Powell, West Valley City PD, member-at-large
Steve Sautter, Salt Lake County Emergency Management, member-at-large
Marissa Villasenor, U of U Health Care, member-at-large
Joe Dougherty, DEM, past president

L-R: Mike Powell, ReNae Rezac and Susan Thomas

Heads-Up on Vigilant Guard 2014

By Don Cobb

Vigilant Guard (VG) is an exercise program sponsored by USNORTHCOM in conjunction with National Guard Bureau (NGB). It provides the Utah National Guard and other National Guards across the nation with an opportunity to improve cooperation and relationships with regional civilian, military and federal partners in preparation for emergencies and catastrophic events. VG focuses on Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) coordination with the Utah Division of Emergency Management and Joint Task Force (JTF) State in a regional response to a catastrophic event. VG's general characteristics include:

- The VG team helps exercise regional interagency participants while accomplishing The Adjutant General (TAG)-approved Joint Mission Essential Task (JMET)-based objectives.
- The VG planning team uses Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) friendly formats for exercise related materials.
- VG enables joint National Guard and Interagency operations at local, state, and regional levels, and provides a means of including federal agency participation.
- Funding for VG through the State of Utah is <u>not</u> available unless prior arrangements are made.

Utah DEM is actively involved with the 2014 Vigilant Guard exercise to be conducted here and with other states in early November 2014. The primary objective for this Vigilant Guard effort is to exercise the "Red Phone" connection between the Governor's Office, the State EOC and the Utah National Guard. Non-military participating partners are encouraged to plan events that will not specifically include the Utah National Guard, but instead will <u>internally</u> exercise their respective jurisdiction's or organization's emergency response capabilities.

Look for more Vigilant Guard information in upcoming DEM *Journal* articles throughout 2014.

It's Time to Prepare for…

April 17, 2014

Register online NOW!

ShakeOut.org/Utah

The Great Utah ShakeOut

2014

EM 101

Dangerous Liaisons? Hardly....
10 Ways A DEM Liaison Can Really Help <u>You!</u>
By Don Cobb and Jesse Valenzuela

Utah Division of Emergency Management (DEM) Regional Liaisons (LNOs) perform a number of important roles to help local emergency managers and the communities they serve. Here's a comprehensive list of 10 capabilities with which your LNO can assist you… just some of the many valuable assets these talented professionals bring to your jurisdiction:

#1 – 24/7 readiness to respond to all disasters or catastrophic events within the state of Utah

#2 – Knowledge of all FEMA grant guidance for funding managed by Utah DEM

#3 – Familiarity with the State's Emergency Declaration process

#4 – Knowledge of Emergency Operations Plans, Incident Action Plans, Mutual Aid agreements, Memoranda of Understanding/Agreement, and related documents

#5 – Experience with available state training and exercise offerings important for emergency managers, elected and appointed officials, private sector organizations, and others involved with emergency management activities

#6 – Knowledge of various emergency management software systems including WebEOC and NEXS

#7 – Assistance with, and training support to the Utah National Guard (UTNG), Civil Support Team (CST), Homeland Response Force (HRF), and various community outreach programs overseen by UTNG

#8 – Support county and city Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) and providing Utah DEM updates to LEPC membership

#9 – Support with Be Ready Utah, Ready Your Business, and Citizen Corps activities, programs, and events

#10 – Building excellent working relationships with local emergency managers, as well as, local, state and federal agencies; private sector entities, and other customers to promote effective communication, coordination and cooperation throughout the emergency management community.

Feel free to contact your DEM LNO for advice, assistance or emergency response support. Each individual is dedicated to serving you before, during and after events.

Keep Your Emergency Management Program in Top Shape with Regular Exercise
By Don Cobb

Just as regular exercise is good for physical well-being, regularly exercising of an emergency management program makes a lot of sense, especially if the exercises are tailored to meet specific organizational requirements. Frankly, exercise is an unsurpassed way to train individuals and agencies that may be very important to your program's success. Of course, exercise can also be used as an evaluation tool to determine the effectiveness of your plans, resource capabilities, and participants' knowledge. Regardless of whether you personally view exercise as a training activity, a test, or some combination thereof, conducting exercises to strengthen skills and practice performance before a real-world emergency event makes a whole lot of sense.

Utah DEM stands ready to help your EM program become its best through exercise. Training and Exercise Manager Kris Repp, and exercise training officers combine nearly half a century of emergency exercise experience at local, state, and national levels with a passion to assist your agency or jurisdiction develop or refine its core strengths. The recent Training and Exercise Planning Workshop (TEPW) in Midway on Oct. 2 clearly demonstrated that Utah emergency management agencies have many exercise activities slated over the next three years. This is great, and we are available to help, as needed.

Recent exercises in which Utah DEM has participated by request include:

- The Utah Department of Agriculture's Foreign Animal Disease Veterinary Field Exercise in Duchesne County (Vernal);
- A table-top exercise for the Fruit Heights City Council on media and public information roles, critical decision making, training, and integration with response community (what to do and not to do); and,
- A drill/tabletop developed for Wasatch County to refine its EOC management and operations within the actual EOC environment.

While Utah DEM's Exercise and Training Section is well known for high-profile exercises like *The Great Utah Shakeout* and the civilian components of the Utah National Guard's *Vigilant Guard* series, we are pleased to consider any exercise need at any level: drill, orientation, tabletop, functional or full-scale. Please contact Kris Repp at (801) 538-3400 to discuss your exercise needs in detail, or work through your DEM Regional Liaison. We look forward to your call!

EMPG Grant Update, Plan Now for 2014
By Tara Behunin

As many of you may know, the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) supports the funding of many Emergency Managers and support staff throughout Utah. These funds allow various jurisdictions to support and improve vital emergency management programs. Housed within the EMPG program is the EMPG project or competitive grant. This grant is available when there is rollover from the EMPG Program grant. The project grant is competitive and requires an application. Applications require proposal of a project that will benefit, sustain or maintain an emergency management function within the jurisdiction. Once applications are received, a committee reviews the applications to determine which proposed project will be awarded.

The project has been assisting local jurisdictions for six years. One recent success story from the 2012 EMPG Project comes from Uintah County. Under the direction of county emergency manager, Tal Ehlers, a decommissioned ambulance was purchased. The used vehicle was found in New Jersey and with the grant assistance, transported back to Utah. The vehicle will function as a communications/mobile command that will support Citizen Corps volunteers as well as regular emergency management operations and events.

The project grant has also provided vital support to the CERT programs within various jurisdictions. Since the stand alone funding for Citizen Corps has gone away, there has been need for additional support and funding. Through the EMPG project, jurisdictions are able to maintain their CERT program and the benefits of the CERT program can continue to educate and prepare communities throughout the state.

The EMPG competitive/project grant creates great opportunities for jurisdictions to sustain, maintain and improve various emergency management functions. Unfortunately for 2013, appropriations from Congress did not allow DEM to fund projects. It is our hope and goal that funding for 2014 will allow us to do so. We encourage you to plan now for your projects for 2014. If you have any questions regarding EMPG, please feel free to contact your liaison or Tara Behunin at (801) 538-3436 or tarabehunin@utah.gov.

## PIO Conference 2013 - Maps You Can Use
By Josh Groeneveld

At this year's Utah Public Information Office Conference, Josh Groeneveld and Joe Dougherty presented tips and tricks for getting maps that you can use. The focus of the presentation was two-fold: First, if you have a Geographic Information System (GIS) person in your agency, he or she can be a huge asset during an emergency incident. Maps are essential to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and they can also add useful context information to a press release.

Increased communication with your GIS person is the key to getting the maps you need during an activation. Second, if you do not have a GIS person in your agency, there are a number of useful platforms online you can use to build a map directly on the web and share it easily. Some of these platforms are Google Maps My Places (http://maps.google.com), ArcGIS Online (http://www.arcgis.com), and MapBox (https://tiles.mapbox.com/newmap).

If you do have a GIS person in your agency, one of the best ways to communicate during an emergency is through the use of a Map Request Form. We developed *this form* for use in the state EOC, and it has been quite effective in many ways. First, it has allowed map requesters a way to provide the GIS person with a clear picture of the map that is needed. The primary goal of the Map Request Form is to reduce confusion for the GIS person when someone in the EOC comes to him or her and says, "I need a map."

As a function of using GIS effectively, people who use GIS generally think of maps and the information they provide in different ways than the casual map user. In order to bridge the gap in thinking about maps, the Map Request Form contains a series of checkbox questions that a requester can answer quickly regarding the appearance of the map.
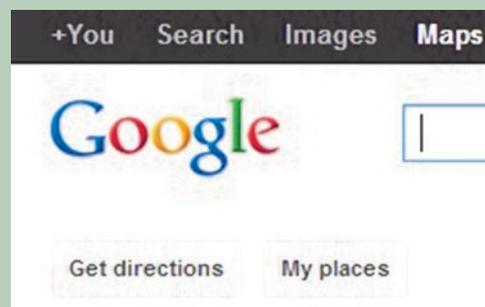
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These questions include the types of data on the map, such as roads, city and county boundaries, terrain and others. Additionally, the requester can ask for hazard-specific data, such as an earthquake epicenter, floodplain or a wildfire perimeter.

Another positive effect of the Map Request Form is that maps in the EOC have become more accessible to all of the Emergency Support Functions (ESFs). During the ShakeOut 2013 exercise in April, more ESFs requested maps from the GIS group over the course of a six-hour exercise than during the ShakeOut 2012 exercise that lasted for two and a half days. The GIS element in the state EOC has become more visible over the past two years, and the Map Request Form has empowered more ESFs to make use of the maps available to them.

The best way to improve the relationship you have with your GIS person is increased communication predisaster and during disasters. Best practices show the Map Request Form is one successful way to communicate, especially during activations. Another way you can communicate more effectively is through understanding some of the terminology GIS people use. Here are some of the most common terms GIS people use that you might find useful when talking with your GIS person (this list is far from exhaustive):

- *Basemap*: a basemap is the starting point for most of the maps GIS users create. It usually has reference data on it such as streets, place names and bodies of water. These reference data are common enough that using a basemap allows the GIS user to avoid re-creating the same map over and over again. Examples of basemaps include: Google Streets, Google Satellite, Google Hybrid and Google Terrain, although GIS users generally do not use Google basemaps due to licensing restrictions.
- *Shapefile*: one of the most common GIS data formats, with the file on the computer ending in *.shp. The shapefile is ubiquitous in the GIS world, in some ways similar to the way the Microsoft Word *.doc is ubiquitous in word processing applications.
- *Geodatabase*: a GIS data format that is newer than the shapefile and provides more robust ways for managing data.
- *Geoprocessing*: a GIS provides tools to analyze data in it, and geoprocessing usually refers to one of these tools, such as creating a circle with a 10-mile radius around a point (called a buffer).
- *Data layer*: data are organized in a GIS using the concept of layers. Similar to the way that Google Earth has "Roads", "3D Buildings", "Borders and Labels" and other items the user can turn on and off, a GIS allows the user to turn layers on and off, as well as re-order them so that some layers are drawn on top of others.

The above list will, by no means, make you fluent with the inner workings of a GIS; however, if you can understand these terms, you will likely be able to communicate with your GIS person more effectively. Ask your GIS person about his or her favorite basemap—it's a great way to start a conversation!

If you do not have a GIS person in your office, and would like a tutorial on how you can make a very basic map on your own, please visit this link to the Utah Hazard Mitigation blog for a step-by-step tutorial.

If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail Josh Groeneveld at: jgroeneveld@utah.gov or Joe Dougherty at: jdougherty@utah.gov
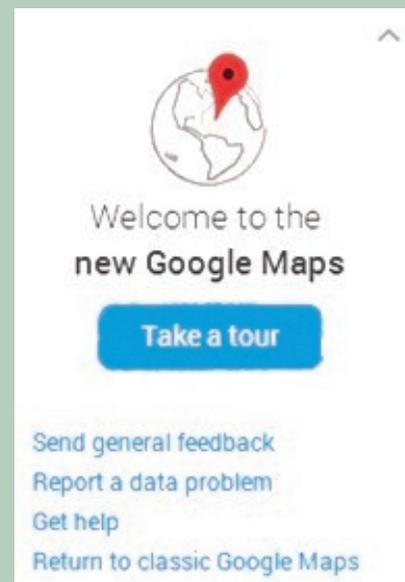
Help Your Communities Plan for Cold Weather

By Joe Dougherty

You'd like to think that really cold weather will be a long way off. After all, we just barely finished our fire season full of Red Flag Warnings and 100-degree days.

But as we know, autumn lasts for about two minutes in Utah, and we've already seen the first signs of winter in the higher elevations.

So now is the time to start your residents on a path to preparing for winter weather.

Some simple tips will help them get ready.

FOR TRAVEL

- Fully check and winterize your vehicle.
- Carry a winter storm survival kit: blankets/sleeping bags, flashlight, first-aid kit, knife, non-perishable food, extra clothing, a large empty can and plastic cover with tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes, a smaller can and water-proof matches to melt snow for drinking water, sand, shovel, windshield scraper, tool kit, tow rope, booster cables, water container, and road maps.
- Keep your gas tank near full and carry a cell phone.
- Let someone know your itinerary.
- Stay in your vehicle if trapped in a storm and run the motor about 10 minutes each hour for heat.

AT HOME, HAVE THE FOLLOWING

- Flashlight and extra batteries, Battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio
- Extra food, water, first-aid, medicine and baby items
- Emergency heating source
- Fire extinguisher
- Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors.

More information is always available at BeReadyUtah.gov

Stay safe!

Be Ready Utah

BeReadyUtah.gov

This Show's A Disaster: *Sharknado* (2013)

By Don Cobb

Director: Anthony C. Ferrante
Cast: Tara Reid, Ian Ziering, John Heard, Cassie Scerbo, Jaason Simmons
Rating: 2 MREs

Against my better judgment, I succumbed to peer pressure at DEM and agreed to review the recent, sort-of highly touted, SyFy Channel made-for-TV-movie *Sharknado* for this issue of the *Journal*. Just like it sounds, a "sharknado" is conceived as a tornado/waterspout generated by a massive storm over the ocean that sucks up a huge bunch of killer sharks and transports them willy-nilly over an unsuspecting population, in this case Los Angeles. These denizens of the deep are plenty ticked off to have been displaced from their happy underwater home, and make landfall very well spun, hungry and ill-humored. Even as they drop out of the sky when the storm hits the LA metro area, the sharks glide in close enough to chomp the local residents, which they do with wild abandon.

Why this implausible, campy blood fest is even worthy of our attention is pretty much unfathomable, but probably has some underlying sociological significance. Clearly, the film's creators sunk to new depths in terms of combining a pitiable premise, pathetic plot, abominable acting, and not-too-special effects into a cohesive work. Think *Twister, The Texas Chainsaw Massacre,* and *Jaws* combined, and you'll come pretty close to this red-tinged romp. No, even substituting a toothy Great White for *Twister's* flying cow, it's not even that good. Commenting in the New York Daily News, critic David Hinckley

Photo: Jas Joyner, www. lyvbh.com

said, "*Sharknado'* is an hour and a half of your life that you'll never get back. And you won't want to." He is quite correct.

Something sure is fishy, though, because a lot of folks, including DEMers, seem to really like *Sharknado*. In the end, the film just may be a movie for these absurd times. It's been described as a "classic B movie" and "the best of the worst" (Yidio). Despite the fact *Sharknado* is not really a flick you can get your teeth into, and has no pretense thereof, it is mindless phobic fun that should make you laugh as it scares the krill out of you.

Even considering its numerous foibles, the film has received several positive national reviews and a ridiculously high score by Rotten Tomatoes, even higher than *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*! It's not for kids or sensitive adults, or anyone who values cinematic excellence. But if you can suspend disbelief or contempt for the ridiculous, and have a strong stomach, *Sharknado* may be your meat.

If you missed *Sharknado* a few weeks ago on SyFy, be advised that you may have to wait a bit before it re-airs on TV, gets a screening at your local theater, or the DVD ends up on Amazon or Netflix. Never mind, though, it will be here before we know it. Late word, too, is that *Sharknado 2* is currently in production. So seek cover in your safe room, fire up that big flat-screen TV, pass the shark repellent, and wait for the inevitable. Looks like *Sharknado* is a'comin once or twice again!

Training		Location	Course ID

APS: Required (+) Elective (~)

November

5-6	G-290~	Basic Public Information Officer	Salt Lake	1011053
6-7	G-400	ICS*-400 Advanced ICS - Command & General Staff	Ogden	1011057
6-7	G-300	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents	Manti	1011051
7	G-291	JIS/JIC* Planning Course	Salt Lake	1020466
12-14	G-400	ICS-400 Advanced ICS - Command & General Staff (evening)	Vernal	1011057
13-14	G-300	ICS-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents	Salt Lake	1011051
13-14	L-339	Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Core Concepts Course	Green River	1046240
20-21	G-575	Communication Interoperability Course	Salt Lake	1020173
21-23	G-400	ICS-400 Advanced ICS - Command & General Staff (evening)	St. George	1011057

December

2-3	G-400	ICS-400 Advanced ICS - Command & General Staff	Salt Lake	1011057
3-4	G-290~	Basic Public Information Officer	Logan	1011053
5	G-291	JIS/JIC* Planning Course	Logan	1020466

*ICS - Incident Command System

*JIS/JIC - Joint Information System/Joint Information Center

Visit our website at emergencymanagement.utah.gov for classes starting in 2014

Conferences, Exercises and Workshops	Location	Contact

November

9	Amateur Radio Emergency Services/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services		
	ARES/RACES Conference	Davis Conference Center	1011069

December

| 4	Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) Workshop	Salt Lake	1044055

January 2014

8-9	Utah Emergency Management Agency (UEMA) Conference	Salt Lake	TBA

May 2014

20-21	Governor's Public Safety Summit	St. George	TBA

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
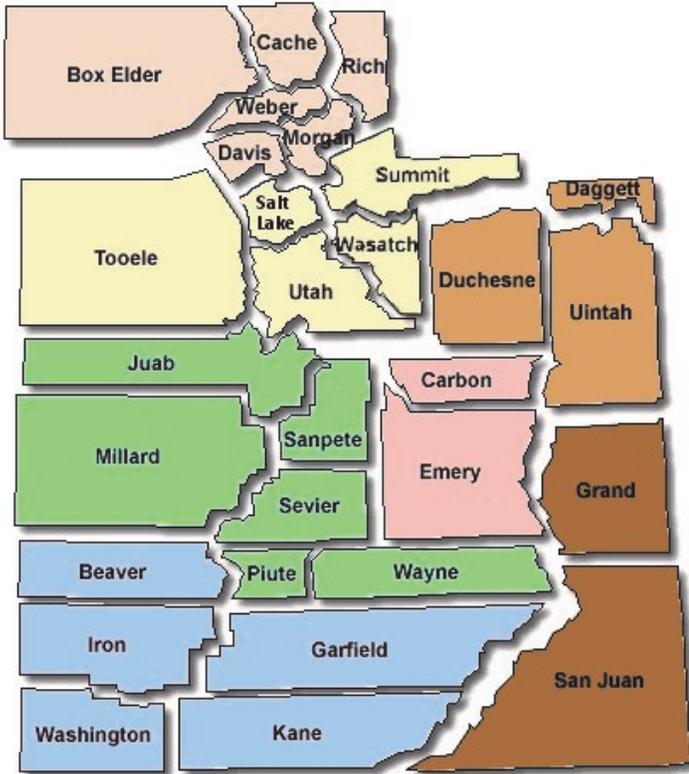
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Region 3 - Jeff Gallacher
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Region 4 - Scott Alvord
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Region 5 - Mechelle Miller
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Region 6 & 7 - Martin Wilson
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Liaison Manager - Kim Hammer
khammer@utah.gov

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 **NEW WEB ADDRESS:**

https://veocutah.webeocasp.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/

Division of Emergency Management

1110 State Office Building

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-1710

Phone: 801.538.3400
Fax: 801.538.3770
http://emergencymanagement.utah.gov

Are You Ready?

Be Ready Utah
BeReadyUtah.gov