



The
Journal

Utah Emergency Management



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Director's Message



Greetings!

Welcome to the final DEM newsletter of the year. As this year comes to a close, we look back and reflect on our efforts to become a more prepared state and provide quality coordination to our partners in many different agencies. We have had a great year fostering partnerships and strengthening relationships that will be all too important when a disaster occurs. The trainings and conferences we have attended have provided the foundations to make our programs better and be successful in our goals. Our EOC activations and exercises have enhanced our capabilities and taught us lessons to improve our response, coordination, and information sharing. Each incident teaches us something new. Each meeting allows us to make a new connection that may help us in our hour of need.

Our staff has had some changes this year as well. We are lucky to promote some staff into new positions and hire some very qualified and talented people. Matt Ferguson is our new Finance Section Manager, replacing Jona Whitesides who was promoted to Preparedness Bureau Chief. Kathy Holder is our new State Floodplain Manager, replacing John Crofts who accepted a position in our Operations Section. Jamie Huff is our new Risk Map Coordinator. She joined the team after Amisha Lester accepted a position managing our special projects such as THIRA and EMAP. We welcomed three new planners to our team: Janna Wilkinson-Mayo is a new Mitigation/Recovery Planner, Lorry Herrera is our new Logistics Planner and Mark Coon is a new Planner in our Planning Section. We are excited to have these new members on our team and hope you get to know them soon.

We bade farewell to two great DEM team members in October: Kevin Holman, our Exercise Training Officer, and Patrick Reid, our Response and Recovery Bureau Chief. Kevin is now working in Eugene, Oregon as their Emergency Management Director and Patrick is working at Fort Irwin, near Barstow California in the fire service. We will miss them but wish them well and much success!

Three team members retired this year: Pat Bersie, Jerrienne Kolby and Bob Craven. Bob Craven is still helping us out with our Communications until we can get that position covered.

Change in the office reminds us of the change in the seasons. As winter begins to make its presence known, we are reminded to be ready for the cold and snow. Our cars need a little attention with some extra thought in making sure we have fuel in our cars, water, a blanket, a flashlight and other items to make travel safer in winter conditions. Our Be Ready team will be sharing winter preparedness items on social media and in this newsletter, easy ideas that you can share with your communities.

We wish you luck in your winter weather preparations and know that DEM stands ready to assist you. From our team to yours, Happy Holidays and thank you for all you do to keep our citizens safe.

Sincerely,

Kris Hamlet

Kris J. Hamlet

Director

Utah Division of Emergency Management



This issue: Will This Be the Winter of Our Discontent – Or Content?

With all the talk of the strong El Niño in play for this winter, many are questioning if this will be the year when Utah's current four-year streak of subpar precipitation is broken.

The current U.S. Winter Outlook, issued by NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, favors cooler and wetter weather across the Southern Tier states, with above-average temperatures most likely in the West and across the Northern Tier. This year's El Niño, among the strongest on record, is expected to influence weather and climate patterns this winter by impacting the position of the Pacific jet stream.

"For Utah, there is a signal for above normal precipitation across southern Utah in a typical El Niño winter, and this is reflected in the Outlook. The rest of Utah falls into the "equal chance" category for precipitation, meaning that there is not a strong enough climate signal to make a prediction."

- Kevin Barjenbruch

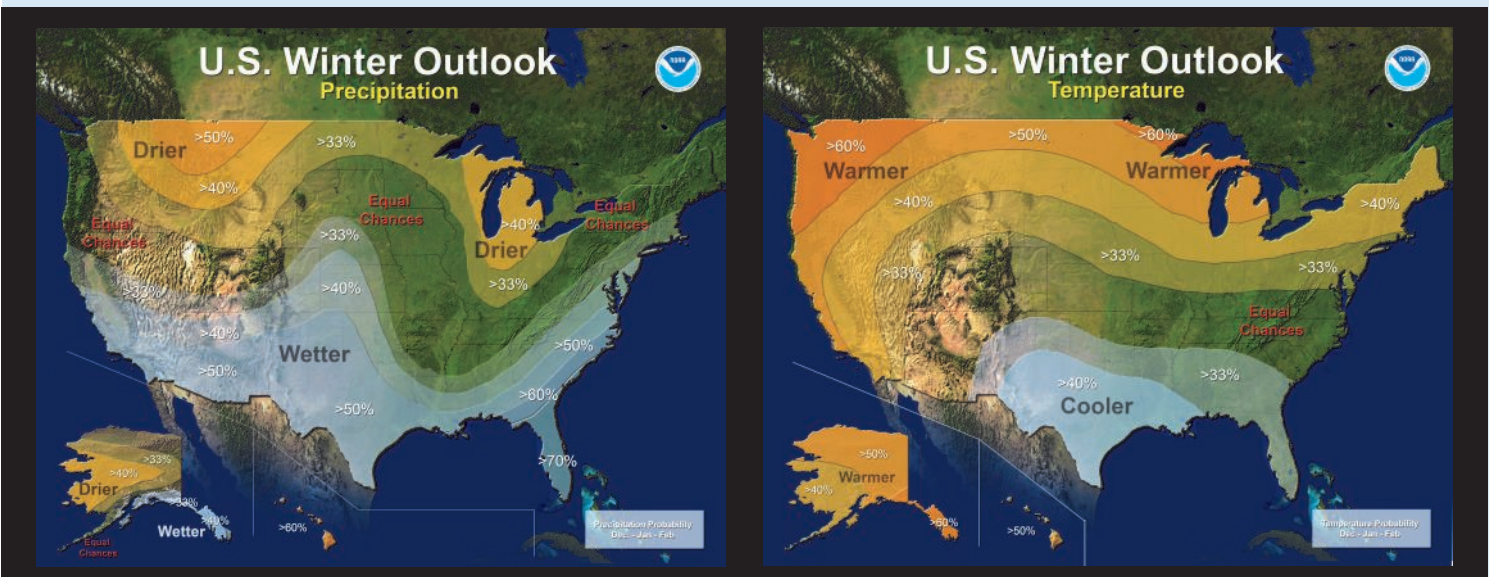
In spite of this equal chance, during some strong El Niño winters, central and northern Utah fared well with respect to precipitation. There is a signal for warmer than normal temperatures for much of Utah.

Please recognize the uncertainty that exists in seasonal forecasts, as even with an El Niño, there is variability. So, 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. If you have an interest in water supply, monitor the National Weather Service reports as the winter unfolds.

Whether or not we have a big snow year, winter storms in Utah are inevitable. With this in mind, please visit Be Ready Utah at <http://bereadyutah.gov>, FEMA's Ready at <http://www.ready.gov> and/or National Weather Service Winter Safety page at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/outreach.shtml> for preparedness information.

Kevin Barjenbruch (kevin.barjenbruch@noaa.gov) is the warning coordination meteorologist at NOAA's National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office, Salt Lake City, UT.

Requests for weather and water support always welcome!



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Hildale Utah Flash Flood Response



On September 14 at approximately 5:00 p.m. heavy rains caused flash flooding in the Hildale area. The flooding caused damage to roadways and homes, and several vehicles were washed downstream. Most of the floodwaters came from the Maxwell Canyon area. Total rainfall over the area included radar rainfall estimates of 2.0 -2.5" total, with 1.5" falling in 30 minutes. This is a recurrence interval of 100 year event or a 1% chance of this event occurring in any day at this location.

Two occupied vehicles were hit by a large wall of water and debris at the Canyon Street Maxwell Crossing and were carried into the flood. A total of 16 people were in the two vehicles - three women and 13 children. Three children survived and were rescued, leaving 13 deceased, one child has not been recovered.

The same storm system also caused severe flash flooding in Zion National Park, where seven adult hikers - four men and three women - were trapped and died in floodwaters in Keyhole Canyon. The bodies of all seven hikers have been recovered.

Another individual was reported missing after traveling on back roads between Washington and Hurricane during the time of the flood. The vehicle was located in a floodplain on the Arizona side and the body was later located and recovered on 9/17/2015.

Utah DEM was honored to support the coordination of many resources for this event.

The Salt Lake Regional IMT 2 Team deployed to Hildale to support the locals and help them organize and document the response. The IMT developed a "Scope of Work" with the mayors of the two affected towns to specify tasks and assignments they could provide to support the response. DEM sent a team from their own staff to Hildale to support efforts on the ground and within the Incident Command Post. The team was made of a planner, a public information officer, two liaisons, and two mitigation specialists. Simulta-



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Hildale Utah Flash Flood Response

Continued

neously, a partial activation of the State EOC brought State Emergency Response Team members together to support resource requests remotely from the state Capitol.

The DEM Regional Liaisons Scott Alvord and Angelia Crowther, were deployed to assist and support coordination of resources and recovery efforts with Hildale, Utah, Colorado City, Arizona, and Washington County, Utah as well as other responding agencies and volunteers. Resource requests began almost immediately through the DEM Liaison and the State EOC for Search and Rescue personnel, logistical needs, and HR Search K-9's with handlers to assist in victim recovery and responder support.

Utah Task Force One deployed for Search and Rescue efforts and provided significant support to the response. They deployed their swift water trained personnel and search dogs to assist in the recovery of deceased victims.

The National Guard sent 25 local responders from the 222nd Field Artillery out of St. George and Cedar City to assist UT-TF1 with search and rescue efforts.

The incident was severe and complex causing Hildale to declare a Disaster Declaration. This declaration allows the State to reimburse costs to State agencies for emergency disaster services using the State Disaster Recovery Restricted Account. Not long after the declarations were made State resources were made available and deployed to assist in recovery efforts.

LNO, Scott Alvord continued for weeks to work side by side with the local jurisdiction and agencies, EOC Command Staff, Utah Division of Emergency Management, and Utah State Agencies in coordination efforts, resource needs, recovery and mitigation efforts.

DEM Planning Section Manager, Susan Thomas served as support to produce incident objectives, situation reports, briefings and the daily incident action plan.

DEM Public Information Officer, Joe Dougherty, responded with Washington County PIOs and a PIO from the incident management team to alleviate the media pressure on the affected cities. PIOs managed media inquiries from around the globe, conducted news conferences, pre-scripted news releases and maintained a flow of information on social media. Until the PIO team arrived, all media relations were being handled by an overwhelmed city staff. This type of PIO response is something we hope can be a model for how PIOs can support any community with media relations, social media, monitoring, audio/visual products and document creation.



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DEM Grants Corner

FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program: Designed to implement a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program to reduce overall risk to the population and structures from future hazard events, while also reducing reliance on Federal funding in future disasters.

FY2015 Application Period: 5/29/15-8/28/15 – Several applications were recently identified for further review by FEMA, meaning FEMA will work with DEM to complete required pre-award activities and to hopefully award funding by early 2016:

1. Update Emery County Mitigation Plan
2. Update Carbon County Mitigation Plan
3. Update Four Corners Region Mitigation Plan (Grand County, San Juan County)
4. Saratoga Springs Multihazard Mitigation Plan
5. Murray School District, Horizon Elementary and Viewmont Elementary Schools Seismic Retrofit project– requesting approximately \$1 million in federal funds to complete the \$2 million project to construct structural seismic retrofit measures to mitigate structural collapse and protect the 700 students and staff at the Horizon Elementary School and 472 students and staff at the Viewmont Elementary School.
6. Santa Clara Truman Drive Landslide Acquisition – Purchase homes and properties, demolish those homes and convert the land into undevelopable permanent open space zoning. Additional activities taking place to mitigate and stabilize the landslide to protect other homes in the area – Requesting approximately \$1.2 million in federal funds to complete the \$1.6 million project.



To learn about other mitigation efforts happening around the State, visit <https://uthazardmitigation.wordpress.com/>.

National Disaster Resilience Competition: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in collaboration with the Rockefeller Foundation (Rockefeller), is providing significant resources and support to communities to implement innovative resilience projects to better prepare communities for storms and other extreme events. The National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) will competitively award nearly \$1 billion in HUD Disaster Recovery funds to eligible communities. DEM has been actively working with other local and State agencies on the NDRC application, which was submitted on October 26th. Utah is requesting approximately \$41 million for a \$50 million resiliency project in the Weber County area. For more information about this application, visit <http://weberstrong.com/>. HUD will announce the grant recipients by January 2016.

State Homeland Security Program (SHSP): The 2015 State Homeland Security Program grant was recently awarded by FEMA as a part of the larger Homeland Security Grant Program package. The SHSP grant makes approximately \$3.7 million available to the State of Utah and its jurisdictions. Every year, 80% of the available funding is passed through to local entities. The SHSP grant funding is used to supplement initiatives around the State to better prepare for, prevent, mitigate, respond, and recover to acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events. Grant funding also supports state resources that are critical to keeping Utah safe and secure, including the Bomb Squad Task Force and Fusion Center.

Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Planning Grant (HMEP): The HMEP planning grant was recently awarded to the State of Utah by the Department of Transportation. The 2016 Planning package includes approximately \$88,000 in federal funds, all of which will be distributed throughout the state to Local Emergency Planning Committees, and must be met with a local match of just over \$22,000. The funding from the HMEP planning grant will be used to address preparedness planning initiatives in regards to the transportation of Hazardous Materials.



Upcoming Grants:

- **December 1, 2015** - HMEP Applications have been sent out
- **December 31, 2015** - EMPG End of Quarter - submit report and AAR/IPs by January 20th in WebEOC
- **December 31, 2016** - HMEP Applications are due - submit to LNO. Questions send to Samantha Falde sfalde@utah.gov
- **January 15, 2016** - HMEP Grant Awards will be sent out
- **January 20, 2016** - EMPG Quarterly Progress Report last day to submit in WebEOC

**Due to more stringent guidelines from our Federal Awarding Agencies, late submissions for HMEP cannot be accepted. Late reporting on EMPG may result in a reduction of funding for the 2016 grant cycle.*

Upcoming Statewide Events

**Public Safety Summit**

May 17-18, 2016

St. George, Utah

Dixie Convention Center

The Great Utah ShakeOut

April 21, 2016



January 13 & 14, 2016

Viridian Center in West Jordan.

Conference registration is now live at

http://www.regonline.com/uema_2016





Since 1998, county search and rescue teams have benefitted from the Utah Search and Rescue Financial Reimbursement Program, which provides financial support for their search and rescue operations, beneficial training and needed equipment. The funding sources that sustain the reimbursement program have included fees designated from OHV (Off Highway Vehicles) registrations, and hunting and fishing licenses. In the history of the Financial Reimbursement Program, 100% of approved searches and training have been reimbursed, leaving a limited balance of funding to cover a small percentage of equipment costs. Beginning in 2016, there will be a new funding stream available to the program with the goal of reimbursing more money back to the county sheriffs' search and rescue teams.

During the 2015 legislative session, H.B. 324 was passed, creating the Utah Search and Rescue Assistance Card (USARAC) program. The program, sponsored by Rep. Sophia DiCaro, allows backcountry enthusiasts to purchase the card and not be billed for rescue expenses (unless their actions are deemed to be reckless or negligent) by the responding county. Membership rates have been established as follows:

- Individuals: \$25/year or \$100 for five years.
- Family: \$35/year or \$140 for five years.
- Group rates begin at \$50 for a group of 25 and increase as the group size increases.

County leadership will be responsible for advertising the card program within their jurisdiction. The card will be available to purchase in January 2016 at rescue.utah.gov.

Please contact Tara Behunin (801.538.3436) if you have additional questions.



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Be Ready Utah Winter Not Always a Wonderland

The first snow storm and cold snap have brought with them the bitter realization that winter is upon us and it's time to prepare for the risks that the cold season brings with it. As responders and educators, we need to know and practice the following winter preparedness tips in order to respond in times of disaster and help lessen the impacts of the coming storms.

As always, anytime is a good time to review and update your disaster plans. Make sure your family communication plan is current. Also locate, update and refill your disaster supply kits. Consider exchanging warm clothing if you have cooler or summer clothing in your kits. Keep extra food and water stored in your home.

Winter weather means furnaces and wood stoves or fireplaces will be used. Install or check batteries in existing smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Check the pressure gauge and the date stamp on your fire extinguishers. If necessary, replace or recharge the extinguishers.

It's a good idea to have an alternative heat source or extra blankets to prepare for winter power outages. Make sure your outside electric generator is at least 20 feet from any door, window or vent. Never use a generator inside your home. If using any other alternate heating source inside, follow safety guidelines and make sure it is well ventilated to prevent CO poisoning. Frequently check on elderly relatives and neighbors.



Keep emergency tools and supply kits in your cars. Include food and water, a blanket, snow boots and gloves. For extra weight on slick roads or for added traction keep a bag of sand, salt or cat litter in the trunk. Check engine fluids, heating system, windshield wipers and tires before traveling long distances. Check road conditions and allow extra time for bad weather.

If stranded, stay calm, raise your hood to signal the need for help and stay in your vehicle for shelter. Use your cell phone to call for help. Use engine and heater sparingly to conserve fuel and avoid CO contamination.

Finally, be aware of existing weather conditions and weather forecasts before venturing outdoors. Avoid long exposures to extremely cold temperatures. Stay dry. Avoid alcoholic beverages.

If we have the plans, supplies and knowledge in place then we can let it snow, let it snow, let it snow and it really will be a winter wonderland.



10 Knowing your Floodplain Partners

A new National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Manager and Risk MAP Program Manger have arrived at the Division of Emergency Management. Many of you may have coordinated with John Crofts and Amisha Lester in the past, but both have moved on to new and exciting positions within the Division, which opened the door for new team members. Meet Kathy Holder, *Utah Floodplain Manager* and Jamie Huff, *Utah Risk MAP Program Manager*!



NFIP

The NFIP “is aimed at reducing the impact of flooding on private and public structures. This is achieved by providing affordable insurance for property owners and by encouraging communities to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations. These efforts help mitigate the effects of flooding on new and improved structures.” Kathy coordinates these efforts on a State level.

Get to know Kathy:

Kathy is a Certified Floodplain Manager. She has a Master’s Degree in Business Administration, and a Bachelor’s Degree in Public Administration with a Minor in Human Resource Management. She has been working in Academia for the past nine years teaching at a University level. Before teaching, Kathy was employed with the Department of Public Safety and the Utah Department of Corrections.



Risk MAP

The Risk MAP Program, standing for Risk Mapping Assessment and Planning, delivers quality data that increases public awareness and leads to action that reduces risk to life and property. Through more precise flood mapping products, risk assessment tools, and planning and outreach support, Risk MAP strengthens local ability to make informed decisions about reducing risk. As the Utah Risk MAP Program Manager, Jamie Huff will coordinate with local, state, tribal and federal partners to provide information and data, training, education and resources in order to identify risk, assess risk, communicate risk and mitigate natural hazard risks within Utah.

Get to know Jamie:

Jamie has come to us from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 10 Office, where she spent almost 13 years of her career holding several positions such as the Region’s Program Analyst, Floodplain Management Specialist, and Acting Mitigation Planning Manager. Jamie received her Bachelor of Science degree in Geography from the University of Utah in 2002.





To take a course offered by the Division of Emergency Management, you must create an account on our training data system, U-TRAIN at www.utah.train.org. U-TRAIN will provide you with transcripts of courses you have completed, and you will be able to print your certificates upon course completion.

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

For more training information, or for specific questions, please contact Ted Woolley at tedwoolley@utah.gov

This Book's a Disaster!

“Lights Out: A Cyber attack, A Nation Unprepared, Surviving the Aftermath ” (2015)

By Don Cobb

Author: Ted Koppel

Rating: 5 MREs



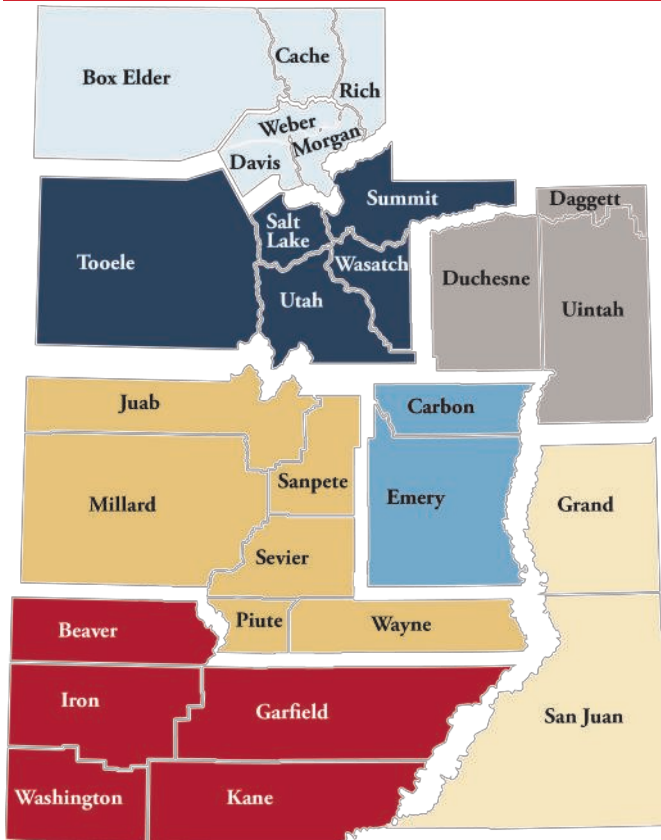
Currently a New York Times bestseller, “Lights Out” by Ted Koppel should be required reading for all emergency managers. As the title states, Koppel convincingly reports that the United States’ power grid is vulnerable to cyber attacks by hostile nations. These attacks (perhaps by major world powers) could deliberately plunge America into darkness for weeks or even months. According to Koppel, the extensive collateral damage to our critical infrastructure caused by such attacks is predictable, and societal breakdown is inevitable. Can we, as a nation, in fact survive a disaster of this predicted scale?

Please note that this is not a fictional work. Rather, it is a well-researched investigative report that presents government’s efforts to deal with cyber threat as inadequate at best. During the course of his investigation, renowned Emmy and Peabody award-winning newsman Koppel apparently irked some of our close emergency management partners by questioning their inexplicable lack of planning for the consequences of a major cyber attack. (See <http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/lights-out-ted-koppel-on-electric-grid-cyber-threats/>). Although not initially inclined in that direction, the poor answers Koppel received from government officials ultimately prompted him to become a “prepper” of sorts himself. He accordingly devoted a fair amount of his text to the insights of the prepper culture and the LDS Church’s extensive disaster preparedness capabilities. Indeed, Koppel was recently in Salt Lake City for a book signing.

Whether or not you agree with Koppel’s take on the issue of cyber attack, the popularity of “Lights Out” demonstrates widespread public concern about the ability of government to meet the challenges of a war where a laptop can become THE weapon of mass destruction. Emergency managers need to be aware of these concerns and acknowledge cyber threat as a real “not if, but when” phenomenon of the 21st century for which we all must be prepared.

“Lights Out: A Cyber attack, A Nation Unprepared, Surviving the Aftermath” is available just about everywhere. Look for discount pricing and you’ll find it... hopefully without needing a flashlight.





REGION KEY

Northern Utah

Northern Utah - Kimberly Giles
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Wasatch Front

Wasatch Front- Tara Behunin
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Northeastern

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Central Utah

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Southwest Utah

Castle Country & Four Corners
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Four Corners

Liaison Manager - Kim Hammer
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Important links to remember

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

Be Ready Utah:
<http://beredyutah.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



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?

