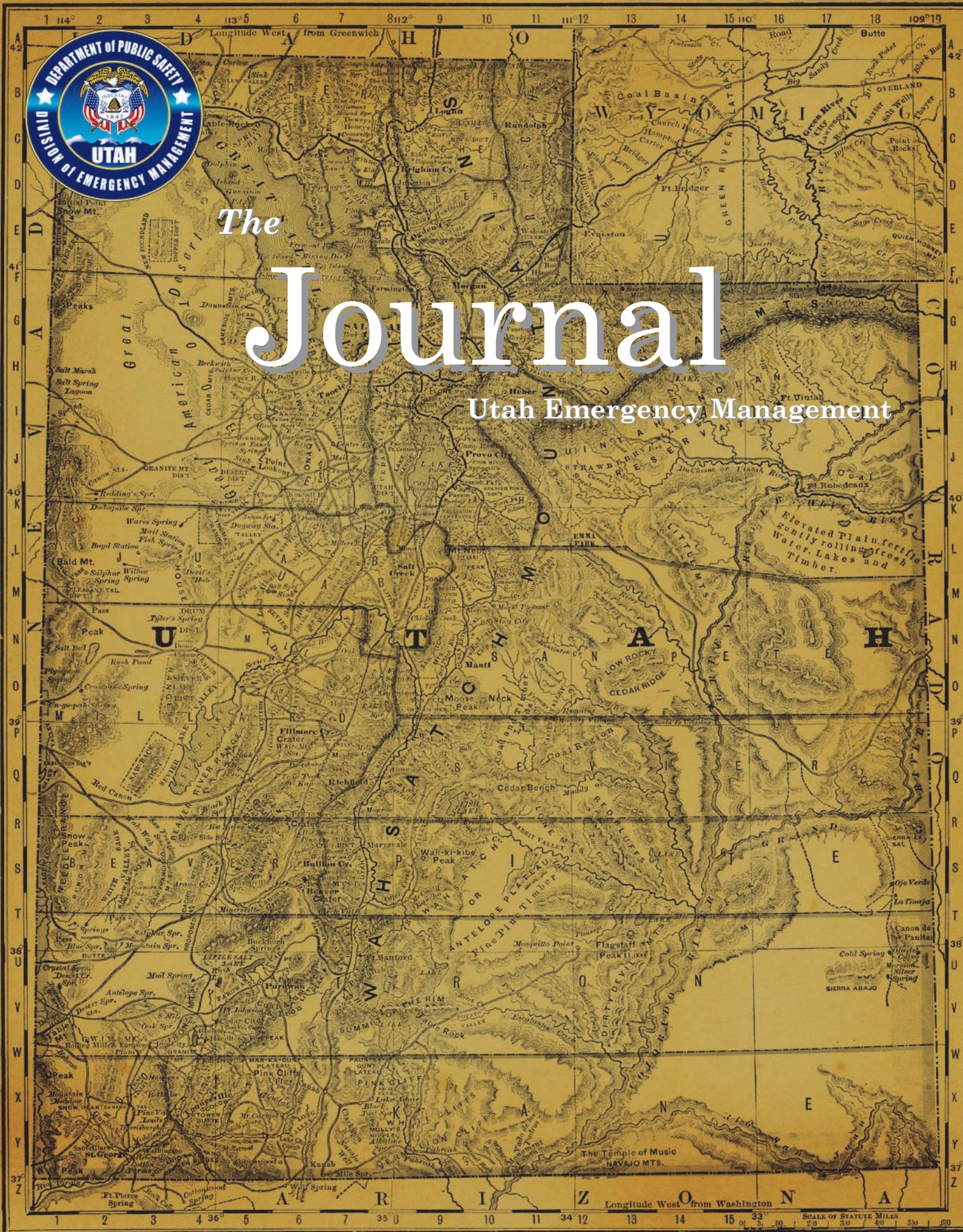




The

# Journal

Utah Emergency Management



Dear Colleagues,

As we get ready to enter into the summer months and families are preparing to go on vacation, we all recognize the fact that emergencies and disasters don't always cooperate with our plans to have some "down time". In fact, many of our emergency managers will get extremely busy during the summer months. Wildfires, flash floods, and extreme weather compounded with tourists, thrill seekers, and recreationalists who spend their time off venturing into other cities and counties, can increase the workload for emergency managers and strain our resources.



As this reality occurs, it is important for us to review and understand our plans, procedures, resources, capabilities and even our MOUs and MOAs. Summer may be a good time for your jurisdiction to review and update its line of succession, as mandated by state statute (Utah Code Title 53 Chapter 2a Part 8 Section 807) It is also an opportunity to review and update your resource inventory, which is also mandated by state statute (Utah Code Title 53 Chapter 2a Part 3 Section 306 Subsection 2 Part C) and can be important as you identify where you might have shortfalls and where the state can support you in your emergency response efforts.

Utah's unique landscape is challenging as we prepare to be ready for all types of emergencies and the work you do in keeping your citizens and visitors safe is important. As always, the Division of Emergency Management is here to support you, just let us know how we can assist. We have the greatest emergency managers in the Country and I wish you all the best for a quiet and uneventful summer, at least when it comes to emergency management!

Thank you for your partnerships with our agency.

Best Regards,

*Kris J. Hamlet*

Director

Utah Division of Emergency Management



## **Fishlake Quakie Haven Fire**

*By Cody Barton, Sevier County Emergency Manager*

On April 14, 2015 at approximately 1330 in the afternoon, Richfield Communications Center began receiving multiple reports of smoke near the south end of the Fishlake Basin in the Quakie Haven area. Not long after the reports, Deputy Gary Moulton was on his way to verify.

Upon his arrival on scene, within minutes of the initial call, Deputy Moulton advised Richfield Dispatch that there was a fire in the sage brush flats of the Mytoge area south of Hwy 25 and that there were structures involved. The area had been experiencing extremely high winds that day and Deputy Moulton reported that the fire had jumped Hwy. 25 and was headed north towards Fishlake Hightop. Deputy Moulton called for roadblocks on all roads headed into the area and advised that cabins were on fire below Hwy 25.

Richfield and Koosharem Fire Departments were initially dispatched to respond and by the end of the event, engines from Loa, Lyman, Bicknell, Monroe, Aurora, Salina and Piute had all responded to assist. Sanpete County also sent a trailer with a compressor to fill breathing air bottles. Several Sevier, Wayne, and Piute County Sheriff's Deputies and Search and Rescue along with Utah Highway Patrol units responded to assist with traffic control and roadblocks. As responders began to arrive it was determined that the main fire had passed through the "Sleepy Hollow" subdivision of cabins and had moved across the Hwy 25 and up the hill. Fire departments began combatting residual fires in

structures and brush throughout the area of the cabins while local State Fire and Forest Service engines battled the wild land portion of the fire. Officers and Posse members were sent in to evacuate some cabins in the area and the Fishlake Basin area was evacuated of all non-essential personal as a precaution.

The winds had been blowing from the south all day but at approximately 7 o'clock that evening the winds had shifted back towards the south, blowing the fire back on top of itself. Temperatures dropped into the teens and snow began to accumulate on the ground. The fire was monitored through the night and for the next few days before burning itself out after having burned just under 500 acres.

All responding units and agencies worked amazingly well together and were able to preserve all but a few cabins in the area. No injuries were reported. Had it not been for the quick response and incredible interagency teamwork, several more cabins would have been lost.



# 4

## It's Wild land Fire Season! (Again!) Have A Wild land Fire Action Plan.

Wildfires can occur anywhere in the country with the potential to destroy homes, businesses, infrastructure, natural resources, and agriculture. Last year, the United States experienced over 63,000 wildfires that burned more than three million acres.

Create a Wildfire Action Plan to protect homes and businesses. Your plan must be familiar to all members of your household well in advance of a wildfire.

Take personal responsibility and prepare long before the threat of a wild land fire so your home is ready in case of a fire. If you live near a potential wild land fire area, implement the "Ready, Set, Go!" program:



**Ready – Be Ready** - Create defensible space by clearing brush and other flammable materials within 30 feet of your home. Use fire-resistant landscaping in the first five feet around buildings and harden your home with fire-safe construction measures. Move wood piles and propane tanks at least 30 feet away from buildings. Assemble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe place. Plan escape routes and make sure all those residing within the home know the plan of action.

**Set – Situational Awareness** - Pack your emergency items. Stay aware of the latest news and information on the fire from local media, your local fire department and public safety.

**Go – Act Early** - Follow your Personal Wild land Fire Action Plan. Follow evacuation orders when received. Doing so will not only ensure your safety, but will allow firefighters to best maneuver resources to combat the fire.

## Fire Management Assistance Grant Program

The FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant Program (FMAGP) is a disaster assistance grant program authorized by the Stafford Act and amended by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The purpose of the FMAGP is to provide supplemental federal assistance to minimize immediate the adverse effects of and manage and control wild land fires that threaten to become major disasters. Grants are provided to State, Indian tribal, and local governments to fight declared fires burning on publicly (non-federal) or privately owned forest or grassland. Once a fire is awarded an FMAG, 75% of eligible firefighting costs may be reimbursed. The funds are primarily used for fire suppression services (response) but also for essential assistance (emergency protective measures), including evacuation and sheltering, police barricading, equipment and supplies, and other costs related to fire suppression operations. Costs relating to the restoration of damaged public or private facilities are not eligible under the FMAGP.

Seven fires have been awarded FMAGP grants in the State of Utah since 2012. FMAGP grants are managed by the Utah Division of Emergency Management, Mitigation and Recovery Section and the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands. If you have any questions, please contact the [DEM Mitigation and Recovery Section](#).

[List of recent FMAGP fires in Utah](#)



## DEM rolls out new website...whoomp there it is...



The Department of Public Safety has received a major facelift through a website redesign. Over the past few months, representatives from the 11 divisions within the department have worked to revamp the website.

The DEM pages will still provide the same great information and resources on the web that we always have, but we hope you will get to it more quickly.

When you get to the site ([dem.utah.gov](http://dem.utah.gov)) take a few moments to get acquainted with the new layout.

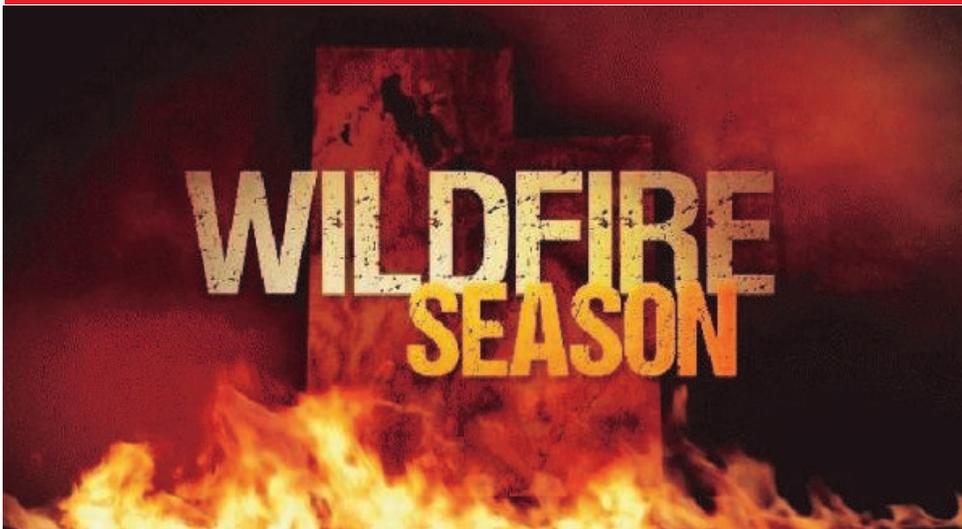
The most important information for our customers, the public, and emergency managers is now featured at the top of the page for easy navigation.

Training calendars and grants information are also easy to find.

Our new site features news and blog posts that will be updated regularly, improved search capabilities, and consistent design elements and navigation through the entire site with better access to social media.

The site will also function better on your smartphone.

Feel free to use the “Contact Us” link at the top of the page to let us know if there’s anything you need.



# IS UPON US

## Overview of 2015-16 Water Regional Resilience Assessment Program (RRAP)

By Matt Beaudry, UP3 Section Manager

**Definition:** The RRAP is a cooperative, National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) Office of Infrastructure Protection (IP) led interagency assessment of specific critical infrastructure and regional analysis of the surrounding infrastructure. The RRAP evaluates critical infrastructure on a regional level to identify vulnerabilities and potential consequences from an all-hazards perspective to identify dependencies, interdependencies, cascading impacts, resiliency characteristics, and gaps in one or several key sectors of focus.

**Focus:** The focus of the upcoming Utah RRAP is the identification of critical nodes and vulnerabilities in the rapidly expanded and interconnected water systems in the area encompassing Salt Lake, Summit, Wasatch, and Utah counties. The RRAP will identify potential impacts from climate change, to include effects on the water system's secondary purpose of serving as a flood control system during spring run-off and summer monsoons. The RRAP will

influence risk-based planning efforts and identify capability-based requirements.

**Resulting Implications:** Critical infrastructure must be adaptive to the needs of changing demographics and economic necessities. In addition to direct impacts on infrastructure, climate change will interact with these as well as other key drivers to change demands placed on critical infrastructure. As resources continue to be stretched at all levels, effective coordination and collaboration of climate change research, tracking, analysis and proactive planning is essential to both government and critical infrastructure owners and operators in order to ensure robust capacity, reserve, and resilience of critical infrastructure.

**Stakeholders:** The Primary Stakeholder is the Utah Department of Public Safety. Participation from, and information sharing with partners from Utah Division of Emergency Management, Utah Division Environment Quality (wastewater treatment plants), Utah Division of Water Resources, Salt Lake County Office of Emergency Management, Salt Lake City Office of Emergency Management, and Utah County Office of Emergency Management will benefit the product and initiatives to follow.

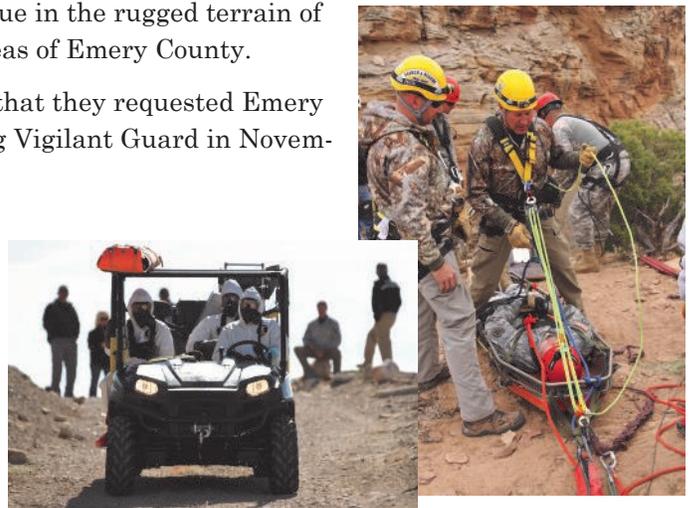
## EMERY COUNTY HOSTS ANNUAL TRAINING WITH UTAH NATIONAL GUARD 85<sup>TH</sup> CST

By Janalee Luke, Emery County Emergency Management

The Emery County Rope Rescue Team and HazMat Team are planning their third annual training with members of the Utah National Guard 85<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team (CST). Under the direction of Captain Kyle Ekker, members of the teams train in advanced wilderness-based technical rope rescue in the rugged terrain of the San Rafael Swell, as well as hazmat response in other areas of Emery County.

The annual training has been so popular with the Utah CST that they requested Emery County host five CSTs from other states during the week-long Vigilant Guard in November of 2014.

In addition to the advanced rope training and hazmat response, teams focus on rescuer safety, individual skills and response, equipment compatibility, communications between teams, and patient care in a difficult terrain environment. In addition, they also train on the integration of law enforcement, military and private sector rope technicians into a fully-functional rope rescue team with a common mission utilizing the Incident Command System (ICS).



# 7

## Getting to Know Your Emergency Manager



### **Matt Whittaker - Piute County Emergency Manager**

Matt Whittaker was born in Salt Lake City and raised in Circleville, Utah. His parents owned a dairy farm, so Matt grew up learning the value of hard work. As a country boy he learned to work hard and play hard; at the age of fifteen he could drive a dirt road fast enough to put Bo and Luke Duke to shame (if you get the reference then you have dated yourself).

After graduating high school he served an LDS mission in Dallas, Texas, and later married a Texas beauty in 1986. Matt and Jo have four children who also grew up working on the farm; they are now grown and spread throughout Utah.

Matt went to work at a school for troubled youths and spent approximately seven years there. At one point he was working as a staff supervisor. That's where he first became interested in law enforcement.

Matt joined Piute County Search and Rescue and served as the commander for a couple of years before becoming a Special Functions Officer in May of 2000. In 2001, he became a certified officer and joined the Piute County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy, where he has served ever since. While working for the county, Matt has served as a volunteer EMT as well as the EMS director. He is now the county's investigator for the Medical Examiner's Office and also assists Sevier, Garfield and Wayne Counties in that capacity. Currently he serves on the Executive Board of the Utah Narcotics Officers Association.

Matt has recently taken over as the Piute County Emergency Manager and is looking forward to serving the community again in this capacity.

### **Brent Pulver - Juab County Emergency Manager**

Brent Pulver was born in Payson, Utah in 1974 and raised with an older brother and a younger sister. His father was a Firefighter for 35 years and inspired his interest in public safety. Brent went through the police academy in 1996 and has been in law enforcement ever since. He has spent most of his career as a patrol officer for various agencies, but most recently with the Juab County Sheriff's Office. Brent has been with Juab County Sheriff's Office since 2005 where he has held several positions. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2011 and is currently the Emergency Manager for Juab County.



Brent has been married for 20 years and has two children; a boy and a girl who are both in their teens. He enjoys fishing, golf and family and especially enjoys his heritage and ancestry research. He loves many types of music but his favorites are classical and traditional Celtic.

*"I have deep roots in Irish and Scottish ancestry and am an active member of the Scottish Clan Cameron."*



## COOP TTX May 20

The Division of Emergency Management and FEMA teamed up to host a tabletop exercise for the state's Continuity of Operations (COOP) program on May 20. COOP Plans help agencies to be prepared to perform their essential functions, even after a disaster has impacted their agency.

Approximately 100 state agencies, departments and divisions, have COOP plans now. The exercise gave them an opportunity to run through an emergency sce-

nario with the help of facilitators to exercise and improve their plans. The agency COOP planners were grouped together at tables with other agencies to compare best practices and lessons learned. Governor Gary Herbert, Lt. Governor Spencer Cox and Commissioner Keith Squires attended the event. The Governor spoke to the group sharing with them his support of this program and reminding everyone of the importance to be prepared. Last year the scenario was a building fire and this year it was an earthquake. More than 100 state employees attended the event including several senior leaders from various state agencies.



## **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Utah Prepare Expo on the Horizon and Getting Bigger**

*The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Utah Prepare Conference and Expo will again be held at the South Towne Expo Center in Sandy on Saturday, September 12, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.*

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Utah Prepare Conference and Expo and National Preparedness Month are right around the corner. We know your jobs keep you busy and we appreciate your efforts as emergency managers to promote preparedness and help your citizens know what to do to survive and recover from disasters.

Once again the Utah Division of Emergency Management's Be Ready Utah program is partnering with USU Extension Service, BYU, the American Red Cross, and new this year, Salt Lake County Emergency Services to bring the Utah Prepare Expo to the public. The Prepare Expo keeps growing each year and we expect it to be even bigger and better this year. Corporate sponsors include The Larry H. Miller Group, Water Pure Technologies, Honeyville Farms and Emergency Essentials. We are still accepting vendor requests.

KSL's Lori Prichard will be the keynote speaker. She will talk about her experience living through the deadly Joplin tornado. We also have planned many great emergency preparedness classes with topics including Emergency Sanitation, Transportation Issues, Public Warning Methods and more.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Utah Prepare Conference and Expo will again be held at the South Towne Expo Center in Sandy on Saturday, September 12, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Ticket prices are \$5.00 per person with discounts for seniors and military. People can register online at [utahprepare.org](http://utahprepare.org) or at the door.





## U-TRAIN

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

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

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

## Book Review – Learning from the Octopus

**Full Title:** *Learning from the Octopus: How Secrets from Nature Can Help Us Fight Terrorist Attacks, Natural Disasters and Disease*

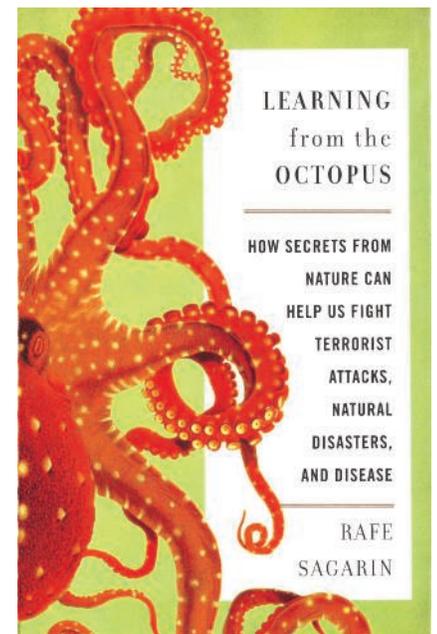
*By Dustin Lewis, Director of Administrative Services, City of South Jordan*

This is one of those books that really has the power to reach out, grab you, and pull you into an unfamiliar world that seems all too familiar. At its heart, it is a message about adaptability in an ever changing and shifting environment. Rafe Sagarin is passionate about marine biology and uses his passion to share the lessons he has observed of organisms in nature that have learned to adapt to change. He provides ideas on how we can adapt these observations into our everyday lives to help us be more prepared for disastrous events, both natural and man-made. It's an enchanting book about "natural security".

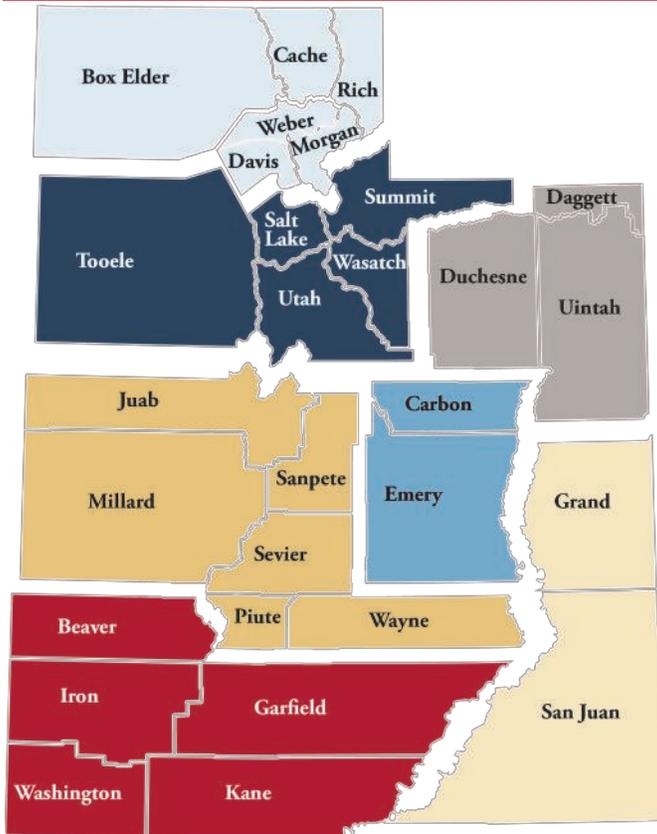
What I liked most about this book is how Sagarin weaves his knowledge and experience in a story like fashion that draws you into the world of some sea creature. Then Sagarin identifies what makes that creature's survival possible and most successful and then draws out how we might consider similar actions to prepare for the next event that disrupts our world. His ideas include; identifying patterns of consistency, concepts of redundancy, using information to mitigate uncertainty, and how these concepts all work together to help us make successful adaptations to the environment around us.

I'll be honest, the book drags in a just few places and I found myself skipping a page here and there until something else would catch my interest and keep me reading for several more pages before skipping over a paragraph or two again. There are definitely nuggets of wisdom to be mined with a little effort.

After reading his book last summer, I had a chance to listen to Sagarin lecture and then had opportunity to chat with him about some of the ideas in his book. He is a fascinating individual with keen insights about how we can all benefit from being more observant to the environment around us. Reading his book is an opportunity to explore his ideas further and to learn some interesting information from the sea that you probably didn't know before. The book is a little out of the ordinary, but it's one I heartily recommend adding to your bookshelf.



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



**REGION KEY**

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**Wasatch Front**

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**Northeastern**

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**Central Utah**

Southwest Utah - Scott Alvord  
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**Castle Country**

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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://bereadyutah.gov>

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

WebEOC:  
<https://veocutah.webeocasp.com>

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

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



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?**

