

## **Emergency Management Administration Council**

Draft Meeting Minutes  
Electronic Meeting - Via GoToMeeting  
December 10, 2021  
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

---

**Welcome** - Lt. Gov. Spencer J. Cox, Co-Chair and Commissioner Jess L. Anderson, Co-Chair

- Welcome and opening remarks by both co-chairs
- Roll call of Council members connected through GoToMeeting

**Agenda Item: Meeting Minutes Approval**, Commissioner Anderson asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the July 28, 2020 meeting.

- A first and a second motion were made and the minutes were approved unanimously
- Commissioner Anderson thanked the Council for the efforts and coordination made through the many emergency and disaster events through 2020.

### **Agenda Item: Winter Weather Outlook**

Kevin Barjenbruch - Meteorologist - NOAA National Weather Service

- We had pretty good precipitation levels through the winter of last year but then rose to above normal temperatures in the spring and the dry weather continued throughout May.
- We had a lack of any monsoonal weather throughout the summer and continued throughout the fall.
- As of today there are many areas in Utah where we are only at 50%-75% of where we should be for snow water equivalent and we're currently experiencing exceptional and extreme drought throughout most of the state.
- We are forecasting a La Niña Pattern over the next three months which tends to see wetter conditions over the northern United States and drier conditions over the southern United States. For Utah this puts us in the transition area where we tend to be drier in southern Utah but it doesn't indicate where we'll be in northern Utah.
- We have had high snowpacks years with a La Niña Pattern but we've also had years with lower snowpack so nothing is definite one way or the other.
- We have the following services that are available to assist you in your planning and response efforts:
  - Partner email briefings
  - iNWS
  - Social media: Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

### **Agenda Item: Update on Previous Action Items**

Sheila Curtis - Operations Section Manager - Utah DPS Division of Emergency Management

Will Lusk - Emergency Manager - Cache County (UAC Representative)

- A view and demonstration of the Utah Special Needs Registry website was provided. This website allows individuals with special needs and access and functional needs to sign up where they can be included in their county and local plans so those local officials can take those needs into consideration as they plan for disasters, emergencies including evacuation.
- Individuals and facilities can sign up so they can be included in considerations of emergency planning.
- Once they have signed up, they will be contacted to ensure the information is accurate.
- **Question:** Is there an opportunity to partner with health home agencies to educate and encourage them to sign up as they provide services in home they know where these individuals are at? Would a social media effort also help to inform the public of this resource?  
**Answer:** Yes we have a task force that hasn't been as active in the past but with the revamp of the website our goal is to get together with representatives from those groups, UHA, home care and hospice, local clinics and local jurisdictions to get more people signed up. Currently we only have about 2,000 signed up when there could be 200K - 500K that could sign up. Our goal is to utilize those different channels to share it on social media and other means of communication.
- On the backside of the website is the mapping component of where we can see geographically where those with special needs can be identified and see what the current hazards around them could affect them and that gives us better information to know how to plan and it gives first responders better information on specific addresses/locations that they may need to provide additional assistance to individuals and facilities.

### **Agenda Item: 2020 Disaster Recovery Update**

Janna Wilkinson - Recovery Section Manager - Utah DPS Division of Emergency Management

- Overview of three grant programs through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
  - Hazard Mitigation Assistance which includes hazard mitigation grants before and after a disaster
  - Public Assistance Program which is the funding mechanism to restore damaged infrastructure to pre-disaster levels with opportunities for additional mitigation measures. Individual Assistance is for individuals affected by a disaster and provides some relief for housing, food, shelter and some medical needs.

- Fire Management Assistance Grant which provides funding for suppression efforts for wildfires that have affected local communities within the wildland urban interface.
- Overview of the federal assistance the State of Utah has received to date from COVID-19, the Magna Earthquake, wildfires and the September Wind Storm for both public entities and individual assistance including damaged homes and crisis counseling and lost wages.
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) which will provide significant funding and mitigation opportunities for the entire state. The new program is funded by a percentage of total disasters nationwide which will put potentially billions of dollars into a competitive grant program.

### **Agenda Item: Wildfire Season Recap**

Jason Curry - Public Information Officer - Utah DNR - Forestry Fire and State Lands

Kaitlyn Webb - Fire Prevention Manager - Utah DNR - Forestry Fire and State Lands

- In November of last year, the snowpack was looking good and the indices looked good. However as we got into the spring conditions for fire risk increased. As COVID-19 hit we had to reassess how to ensure precautions while maintaining our ability to respond and coordinate fire suppression and fire management.
- We had a record number of human caused fires that correlate to the pandemic with the amount of people out recreating. In some parts we had a 90% increase in people recreating which elevates the threat and risk of fire hazards.
- 2020 Fire Season Statistics
  - 1,547 wildfires reported from January to November
    - By comparison 1,100 in 2019 and 1,404 in 2018
  - 316,364 acres burned
  - At least one ignition everyday between April 18th and September 20th
  - Human-caused fires were 1,202
    - By comparison 762 in 2019 and 704 in 2018
- Spark Change Campaign is a multi-agency effort focusing on the highest risk areas through outreach and education of all channels of communication.

### **Agenda Item: 2020 Volunteer Response Efforts**

Ed Blake - CEO Habitat for Humanity SLC - Utah Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters

- Actions taken by volunteers and volunteer organizations during COVID-19, the Magna Earthquake and the September Windstorm
  - COVID-19
    - Many of the organizations that use box trucks for donations changed those missions and used them to deliver food to food pantries and food serving destinations. For three months everyday, these organizations were feeding 500 people a day.

- Distributed 25,000 masks to local area nonprofit organizations, schools and businesses
  - Many donation and service efforts to the Native American tribes
- Magna Earthquake
  - Repaired and raised 37 homes in three weeks so that those occupants didn't have to sleep in their vehicles.
  - Remediated mold if found in any of those homes.
  - Provided building materials to those that showed up to the Habitat store after the earthquake.
  - The Red Cross provided over 900 meals and emergency kits to those affected.
- September Windstorm
  - Provided meals and water to seniors affected by the storm.
  - Team Rubicon provided tree services to residents unable to cut down branches and trees blown over by the storm.
  - 211 provided community services information to those affected.
  - Coordinated volunteers that were available for debris cleanup.

### **Agenda Item: Emergency Management Amendments**

Representative Suzanne Harrison - Utah House of Representatives

- Of the 246 municipalities there are approximately 210 that may not have a designated emergency manager or coordinator and an emergency operations plan; and there is no statute requiring such an effort to better prepare our communities in the 246 municipalities and 29 counties.
- The Emergency Management Act Amendments that are being proposed and that we're asking the support of this council are:
  - Ensure all counties have a designated emergency manager or coordinator and that all municipalities have a designated emergency manager or coordinator or coordinate preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery activities with their county.
  - All counties have an emergency operations plan and that all municipalities have an emergency operations plan or a plan to coordinate and participate in the county emergency planning process.
  - Deposit the interest derived from the State Disaster Recovery Restricted Account back into the account rather than going to the General Fund.
  - Direct state agencies to ensure that state development in the flood plain meets the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- A draft of the legislation will be distributed to the Council via email

**Agenda Item: COVID-19 Roundtable**

Lt. Governor Spencer J. Cox - Utah Coronavirus Taskforce

DPS Commissioner Jess Anderson - Utah Department of Public Safety (Council Co-Chair)

- The big news is we've got vaccines coming to Utah over the next three weeks. We're expected to get over 100K vaccines.
- We have a robust distribution system and the amazing speed with which these vaccines were developed and are being rolled out. This is a game changer and with the surge in November we had a surge in hospitalizations and deaths.
- We've had 3 days of more than 20 deaths.
- We didn't see the big spike that we thought we'd have after Thanksgiving.
- Hospitals have filled to capacity with about an 85%-90% utilization.
- Trends are moving in the right direction.
- Teachers were bumped up in the essential worker group and keeping kids in school is one of our highest priorities.
- Dr. Miner was thanked for his service and expressed gratitude to the group and especially to the dedicated staff at the Utah Department of Health.
- With the vaccine coming all Utahns can go to [coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine](https://coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine) sign up to get regular updates on the vaccine.

**Information Item: Adjourn Meeting**

**Next Meeting: TBD**