

## Executive Summary

Each year natural, technological and man-made hazard events occur in Utah. It is important to understand the risk represented by these events and take actions to protect against them. The State of Utah's Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) demonstrates the State's commitment to reducing risks from all hazards, natural and man-made, and serves as a guide for State decision makers in committing resources to reduce the effects of these hazards. The plan update identified the following priorities for natural hazards in Utah:

<b>High Priority</b>	<b>Medium Priority</b>	<b>Low Priority</b>
<b>Wildfires</b>	<b>Landslides</b>	<b>Problem Soils</b>
<b>Severe Weather</b>	<b>Dam Failure</b>	<b>Radon Gas</b>
<b>Earthquakes</b>		
<b>Drought</b>		
<b>Floods</b>		

To remain eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hazard mitigation grants and Public Assistance funds associated with presidentially declared disasters, the SHMP must be maintained, reviewed, updated and submitted to FEMA for approval every three years. State Mitigation Plan requirements are outlined in Section 44, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 201. The following document represents the update to the approved Standard SHMP that was approved by FEMA in 2011.

### **Plan Mission**

The mission of the SHMP is to identify hazards, determine areas vulnerable to those hazards and determine methods to reduce or eliminate injuries, loss of life, and property damage within these areas. The plan is intended to promote sound public policy designed to protect citizens, critical facilities, infrastructure, private property, and the natural environment. This can be achieved by increasing public awareness, documenting resources for risk reduction and loss-prevention, and identifying activities that act as a guide to assist Utah in becoming more safe and sustainable.

### **Plan Organization**

The SHMP was developed and organized within the rules and regulations established under CFR Title 44, Part 201.6. As a part of this three-year review and update, the overall format of the plan has remained the same. The plan is intended to improve the State's ability to mitigate disasters, and will document valuable local knowledge on the most efficient and effective ways to reduce loss. The plan shall be based on the natural and human-caused hazards identified by the Utah Division of Emergency Management and the risk and consequences of those hazards.

Section 1, Introduction, summarizes the plan, describes the planning process, describes the integration of the plan into other state planning initiatives, outlines how the plan will be evaluated and updated.

Section 2, Identifying Hazards, is the scientific foundation of the plan. This section profiles natural hazards that are present in Utah (hazard history, determination of risk and vulnerability of buildings and infrastructure) and includes a brief discussion of development trends and consequence analysis. The plan uses a broad range of sources to identify the natural and human-caused hazards that impact Utah.

Section 3, State Mitigation Strategy, presents hazard mitigation goals, objectives and actions items to be effective in hazard mitigation.

Section 4, Capabilities, discusses the capabilities of the State, local plan coordination and integration, state and local plan coordination, identifies areas of deficiencies, identifies the present and potential sources for funding for local mitigation planning activities.

Section 5, Local Mitigation Strategies, is a list of county mitigation strategies.

Finally, an Appendix contains additional information that supports the content of the plan.

### **Plan Update**

This Plan update builds upon the risk assessment and mitigation strategy that was developed in 2011. In addition, other plan elements were updated as needed to incorporate new information regarding hazards that threaten Utah as well as changes to agency programs that address hazards. Funding was provided through the operating budget of state and the FEMA Emergency Management Preparedness Grant (EMPG). Maps and figures were created using funding from these sources and also provided through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and RiskMAP.

### **Plan Participation**

The SHMP was developed as a result of a collaborative effort between the seven Associations of Government (AOG), Utah Department of Public Safety, DEM, City and County Emergency Managers, the State Hazard Mitigation Team (SHMT), and citizens and public employees of the cities and counties in Utah. The SHMP update represents the end product of shared information between state and federal agencies building on the previous plan utilizing the local mitigation plans

### **Plan Goals**

In an effort to ensure that the mission of the SHMP is met, the participants in the planning process reviewed and agreed to keep the goals developed and defined utilizing the list of goals from the 2011 Plan. These goals are directly relevant to meeting the mission of the plan. The State Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (SHMPC), in discussion and meetings with the SHMT, and review from updated regional mitigation plans, continue to be a critical component of the goal review and reevaluation process.

The following is a list of the goals identified during the planning process, which provided overall direction to the plan:

- Protection of life before, during, and after the occurrence of a disaster
- Preventing loss of life and reducing the impact of damage where problems cannot be eliminated
- Protection of emergency response capabilities (critical infrastructure)
- Maintain government continuity
- Protection of developed property, industry, education opportunities and the cultural fabric of a community
- Protection of natural resources and the environment
- Promoting public awareness through education of community hazards and mitigation measures
- Preserving and/or restoring natural features that provide mitigation
- Minimize the impacts of natural hazards