



# The Earthquake Exchange



## Delicate, Beautiful Earth

### Special points of interest:

- Commencing this month, April 2007, *The Earthquake Exchange* will be distributed quarterly instead of monthly.
- Set one preparation goal per month and then actually do it! Get the family involved. Start with the basics in home & personal safety.



Utah Apple Blossoms  
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## P Waves & S Waves

**It was 1:00 AM when the fire alarms went off in the luxury high-rise hotel where we were staying. Strobe lights began flashing, and an insistent voice came over the loud-speaker telling us to “evacuate the hotel immediately.”**

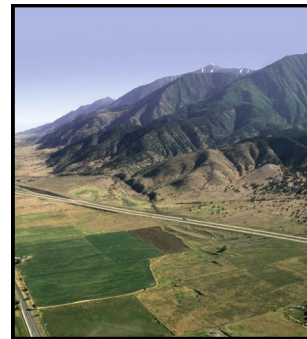
With one of us struggling to become fully awake, we

grabbed keys, purse, and wallet, donned bathrobes from the closet, and headed for the stairwell emergency exit where, one of us with slippers on and the other in bare feet, we descended six flights of stairs to the ground floor exit. Moving into the parking lot we shivered in in the 40 degree weather and observed the

other guests exiting the hotel. At least one lady did not even take time to grab a bathrobe and was clad only in a sheet. Surprisingly, some of the guests took the opposite approach and seemed more concerned with their appearance than getting out of the building.

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## Helping the Community: Read This Month's UGS Survey Notes!



Cover of *Survey Notes*,  
January 2007:

View north along Wasatch  
fault at base of southern  
Wasatch Range.

Photo by Ronald Bruhn.

### Did You Know?

#### You Can Listen to Earthquakes...

*Thanks to the United States Geological Survey and the work of Andy Michael (USGS) and Daniel Ross (12 year-old USGS volunteer), you can now listen to earthquakes right on your computer.*

*You can download the sound files here:*

[www.earthquake.usgs.gov/learning/listen/download.php](http://www.earthquake.usgs.gov/learning/listen/download.php)

*The sounds are available as .wav files. If your computer doesn't play .wav files, you can install a free plugin on the USGS Listening to Earthquakes introductory page, here:*

[www.earthquake.usgs.gov/learning/listen/index.php](http://www.earthquake.usgs.gov/learning/listen/index.php)

*Check out the USGS site for all kinds of other fascinating information including geology, history of earthquakes, on-line lessons, research & monitoring, photos, preparedness, earthquakes for kids, and regional data, including the Wasatch Fault.*

[www.quake.usgs.gov](http://www.quake.usgs.gov)

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*"In a band both trumpets and tubas can play at the same ... magnitude, but the smaller trumpet will play higher notes. For the same magnitude, a short fault will produce more high frequencies than a longer fault."*

*(USGS Web Site)*

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### Quarterly Preparation Tip: Make a Binder of Information



**In a large trash can, a rolling ice chest, or a duffel—heavy items move faster and more easily on wheels.**

**Educate  
Prepare  
Communicate  
Share**

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**We're on the Web!**

Past newsletters are now posted on our web site. Go to [www.UtahEarthquake.org](http://www.UtahEarthquake.org) and click Free Newsletter.



**Like it or not, you may need to evacuate in the middle of the night—home or hotel.**

**Check out the well-earned evacuation suggestions in this article.**

*UtahEarthquake.org is a not-for-profit educational tool. Originally created with help from three junior-high students, it was conceived during a UNICEF lecture about natural disasters. The website's mission is to fill a community need for concise earthquake preparation information. The website and newsletter serve to provide easy access about everything from the physical laws of plate-tectonics to home retrofits, emergency instruction, food & water storage, community action, public events, and disaster & supply planning.*

*Although every reasonable effort is made to ensure information is accurate, information, data, suggestions, links, instructions and guidelines are provided for informational purposes only. UtahEarthquake.org makes no guarantees of any kind. This newsletter, and the information posted herein, may contain personal opinions.*

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Astoundingly, the evacuation process went on for an extended period of time with some of the hotel patrons having taken time to fully dress, pack, and perhaps even to apply make-up.

We remember one man who made sure to bring his guitar and case. He later serenaded the evacuees with "Kum Bay Yah." However, carrying luggage and large personal effects down the stairwell could have slowed or confused the evacuation process, perhaps unnecessarily jeopardizing human life.

Others assumed additional risk by taking the elevator instead of the stairs.

Fortunately, there was no actual fire that night and we only suffered mild discomfort and several hours of inconvenience.

Had there been an actual fire, we doubt that all of the guests would have made it out, particularly those who spent so much time in their rooms prior to evacuating, or those who chose the uncertainty of the elevator over the stairs.

We realize that there is a better way, a middle ground between our solution which resulted in standing outside in bathrobes, and the choice that other guests made to expend precious seconds, minutes, or tens of minutes packing and preparing to evacuate.

We now make it a regular practice to pay attention to the layout of the room and to arrange clothes and shoes on a chair close to the bed.

We recommend leaving wallets, keys, cell phones, etc. in pants pockets or purses so

that there will be no need to think of these items or to search for them, possibly in the dark, during the confusion and noise of an emergency situation.

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