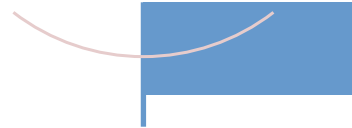




The Earthquake Exchange



6.0 Magnitude Earthquake in Nevada, Felt in Utah

Special points of interest:

- **Please Note: *The Earthquake Exchange* is now distributed at random intervals. If you wish to contribute to keep the issues flowing, please write to Kelly Johnson:**

prepare@utahearquake.org

- **Set one preparation goal per month and then actually do it!** Get the family involved. Start with the basics in home & personal safety.

- You can listen to earthquakes! Click below or paste this site into your browser:
<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learning/listen/download.php>

According to the Salt Lake Tribune, Wells, Nev., experienced the most damage from a 6.0 magnitude earthquake whose epicenter was 11 miles from that small railroad town.

Two historical buildings suffered major damage, the roof of a 24-hour casino collapsed and several small fires erupted throughout the city, according to the Elko County Commissioner Charlie Meyer. Throughout the city, residents reported cracked sidewalks and shattered windows.

Water and gas lines were shut off throughout Wells,

and two evacuation centers were set up. The Red Cross was on-hand with snacks, drinks, cots and blankets. Temperatures were in the 20's this morning.

The quake was also felt about 180 miles away in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Salt Lake Tribune reports that its seven-story building, located in the Gateway Mall shook east to west, with light fixtures swaying 6 inches to a foot.

Steven Watson was sitting at his desk at the Moran Eye Center when the quake hit. "Holy cow! I was sitting at my desk in SLC at about 7:15 a.m. and I swayed a few times



Buildings in Salt Lake City, 180 miles from the epicenter, swayed for several minutes.

and thought I was losing my mind. Then I heard there was an earthquake. I am so happy I'm not going crazy!"

One split-second indication of an earthquake is often a sudden feeling dizziness or swaying, almost as if you are sick. If you recognize this physical manifestation, you can duck under a sturdy piece of furniture before any major shaking begins.

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House Bill 162—Shot Down? What About Our Children?

by Kelly Johnson

Those in the recently seismically retrofitted Utah capitol didn't feel a thing in this morning's earthquake.

There is some irony in that since just yesterday a bill to retrofit schools in Utah for earthquake safety was

killed in committee in that very building.

According to KSL news, House Bill 162, backed by Rep. Larry Wiley, would support a \$500,000 measure to fund initial evaluation of Utah schools. After

Wiley left the committee meeting, an employee for the State Division of Facilities and Construction Management, told the state that if it identified a problem with the schools, they are obligated to correct the

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Helping the Community: Emergency Kits at Work

Where do you spend the most time? Likely responses are home, work, school, and your car. It's important to be prepared for an emergency wherever you are, but most of us forget to store supplies at work. Those that do become famous for it.

Remember you could be stranded for up to 72 hours. Make sure you have enough supplies to meet your needs!

Here are some items you could choose to store at work:

1. Dry food—candy bars,
2. Drinks—water or juice
3. Tennis shoes/walking shoes—don't be stuck evacuating through glass, spilled chemicals, or freezing snow in flip-flops.
4. First aid kit with routine medications
5. Extra prescription medications that you require daily
6. Flashlight/batteries
7. Chemical light sticks
8. Matches
9. Small radio (battery-operated & portable)
10. Small and large plastic bags
11. Toiletries/personal hygiene items
12. Family photos/notebook
13. Contact information for loved ones in and out of state
14. In addition, you should have an emergency plan and know what to do during an earthquake. Protect yourself from shattering glass and falling objects.

Did You Know?

You Can Report What You Felt in the Wells, NV, Earthquake...

The USGS has posted a preliminary earthquake report on the strong earthquake that occurred at 6:16 AM (PST) on Thursday, February 21, 2008. If you felt the quake you can report it here:

http://pasadena.wr.usgs.gov/shake/STORE/X2008nsa9/ciim_form.html.

Reporting will help the USGS track how far from the epicenter the earthquake was felt as well as create an accurate intensity grid. You can report everything from whether the shaking woke you up to how you reacted and whether it was difficult to stand or walk. You can also report whether there was any damage to your building, swinging/swaying or doors or hanging objects, creaking noises, and whether others felt the quake near you. Additionally, you can share comments or circumstances that may not have been covered in their brief questionnaire.

Quarterly Preparation Tip: Evacuation Lessons

by Emily Richards

I lived in Louisiana when Hurricane Ivan was coming to town. Some people will remember that in September of 2004 Hurricane Ivan was headed straight toward New Orleans. It pulled what I call a "crazy Ivan" (from *The Hunt for Red October*) and turned to hit Mobile, Alabama instead. Here's my list of practical lessons learned from the evacuation.

- First, keep your gas on the top half of the tank. It doesn't cost more money. Fill up when you still have a half a tank.
- Second, if you are ever dealing with long lines at the gas station in an evacuation situation, try the high octane gas. It may move faster than the cheaper gas.
- Third, know at least two routes out of your city and keep local maps in your car.
- Fourth, be prepared to spend hours on the freeway moving at slow speeds. It takes time and is frustrating, but it's worth it. The sooner you get on the road, the less time it will take.
- Fifth, have water now, don't try and get it then. Food is important, water is essential.



You may be stranded after an earthquake up to 72 hours. Be prepared, wherever you are.

***Did you feel it?
Report it!***

You can submit a form on the USGS web site to report feeling the earthquake 11 miles ESE of Wells, Nevada.



Keep your gas on the top half of the tank. It doesn't cost more money. Fill up when you still have half a tank. Make it a habit.

Contributors to this Issue:
Kelly E.H. Johnson
Emily Richards

Comments? Questions?
Phone: 801-836-8522
E-mail: prepare@UtahEarthquake.org

We're on the Web!
Past newsletters are now posted on our web site. Go to www.UtahEarthquake.org and click Free Newsletter.

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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In 2005, a casualties estimates summary report published by FEMA shows that a Provo segment M7.2 earthquake at 2 p.m. would injure or kill the following numbers in educational settings: 25 in Davis; 1,474 in Salt Lake; 1 in Summit; 9 in Tooele; 5,032 in Provo; 7 in Wasatch; and 6 in Weber; totaling 6,554.

This estimate does not include colleges and universities.

problem. A bill that Wiley thought had already passed out of committee, was then reconsidered and killed.

Gregg Buxton, the DFCM employee and former state representative, said the bill could cost the state millions.

The bill goes before another committee today, and has picked up support from the Utah Parent Teachers Association and some Republican lawmakers.

Although some local school districts have made efforts to seismically retrofit their school buildings, the issue is always money. The state has consistently backed away from offering assistance, stating that school districts are responsible for the upkeep of their buildings.

And while that is historically true, if the worst-case scenario happens and a large earthquake occurs during school hours, it will be children and families who suffer. School districts and state officials alike will share the blame.

In February of 2006, the Utah State Board of Education requested a draft of seismic issues for school districts. Only 17 of 40 districts reported, and even so close to 250 schools were not up to seismic code. This includes Salt Lake district which has been the most proactive in seismic rebuilding, starting over 15 years ago and reporting that all 36 schools met the equivalent of UBC Seismic Zone 3 requirements.

However, Box Elder reported that some of its school buildings were as old as 1890, 1912, and 1916. At an estimated \$360,000,000 to replace schools, Box Elder is not sure how they can retrofit or rebuild with a limited tax base and without legislative support of capital funds.

Of equal importance is that schools can be used as public shelters, unless they are destroyed. An investment is thus two-fold: protect students, teachers, and faculty as well as provide meeting places and shelter for displaced households.

Estimated displaced households & short-term public shelter needs—Provo Segment, M7.2—FEMA 12/07. Green dots represent public shelter needs.

