

The Earthquake Exchange

Special points of interest:

- **Share your story in *This is Life!***
-150 words or less
tips@UtahEarthquake.org
- **Set one preparation goal per month and then actually do it! Get the family involved. Start with the basics in home & personal safety.**

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Old Messages Ring New

Utah Geological Survey Survey Notes, Sept. 2005 UGS Director

As last winter progressed, and the snow pack in most parts of Utah accumulated at an above-average rate, our Hazards Program became concerned about the increased risk of landslides once the spring snowmelt began. Warnings were sent out to city and county officials to be on the watch for evidence of ground movement, which could be a precursor to damaging landslides.

The concerns were justified, because 85 landslides were documented this spring. This compares with only three during spring of 2003 following a winter with below-normal snow accumulation. In addition, several large debris flows and rock falls also occurred this

spring. Some of the notable hazard events are reviewed in this issue:

<http://geology.utah.gov/surveynotes/>

The total cost of the property damage and repair is difficult to estimate, but it probably exceeds \$5 million, in addition to one fatality.

The Cedar Hills landslide highlights a recurring challenge caused by the rapid urban growth in Utah and development pressure to build on more hazardous land. A townhouse was built on a portion of a landslide that reactivated during the very wet spring of 1983. This landslide was shown on geologic hazard maps, but unfortunately this information was not adequately taken into account prior to construction.

It is not uncommon for UGS concerns about slope instability to be downplayed by



Townhouse damaged by a landslide in Cedar Hills, northern Utah County, April 28, 2005.

From UGS Survey Notes Cover Design by Vicky Clarke

developers or even contested as not a relevant factor potentially limiting a proposed subdivision. It is during times like the recent spring that local government planning departments, and hopefully most developers, realize that the risk of geological hazards is real, requiring either avoidance or special mitigation measures.

Check out this and other issues of Survey Notes at <http://geology.utah.gov/surveynotes/>

Magnitude 3.4 Earthquake Felt in Salt Lake City

On Wednesday, December 20, 2006, at 11:15 am, an earthquake in Utah, magnitude 3.4, was recorded by the University of Utah Seismograph Stations.

The epicenter was 8 miles from Morgan, 9 miles from Henefer, 14 miles from Huntsville, and 31 miles from Salt

Lake City.

Although a magnitude 3.4 earthquake is still considered minor, the U.S. Geological Survey has received 422 reports in 44 zip codes from individuals saying they felt the quake.

The earthquake originated at a

depth of 4.9 miles and, according to reports, was felt most intensely in Salt Lake City and Ogden.

The earthquake has been reviewed by a seismologist and is officially titled Event 6215.

--Continued on page 3

Community Alert! Provider Cancels Earthquake Insurance

Allstate Insurance has cancelled earthquake insurance for Utah residents.

Check with your insurer, no matter what company, to corroborate the status of your earthquake insurance.

Policy changes, such as the unexpected cancellation of earthquake insurance, should be documented in your policy renewal, but it is **unlikely your insurance representative will speak to you personally about what your**

policy no longer includes. Read your policy renewal carefully.

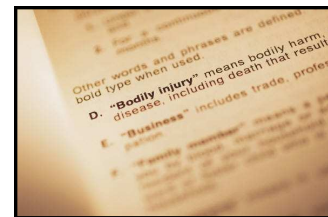
Allstate actuaries have researched the risk of a major earthquake in Utah and have determined that it is no longer worth the business risk to Allstate to insure Utah residents against earthquakes.

Allstate will route a new & authorized earthquake insurance policy through Pacific Specialty Insurance Company, upon request.

PSIC's deductibles are higher than those Allstate used to offer and an inspector will be dispatched to your home to determine whether it is built to current seismic code. If it is not, they maintain the right to cancel your earthquake insurance.

If you would like to report the cancellation of earthquake insurance by another company, please send an email to

prepare@UtahEarthquake.org.



Allstate has cancelled earthquake insurance for Utah residents.

This Is Life... Water and Food Storage on a Tiny Budget

Living in a small apartment with three roommates is not conducive to having vast quantities of emergency food storage. How do I, a college student with a tiny budget, prepare for emergencies? There are several easy things I can do to be at least somewhat prepared for emergency situations.

One simple thing I can store is emergency water. Water is cheap, and gallons of it can sit on the floor in cupboards or under the sink. These spots are usually reserved for trash cans and dish soap, but they have lots of empty space that can be used for storage.

Reasons for storing water are obvious. We can live far longer without food than we can without water. Water is necessary for sanitation, and its medical uses (such as washing out cuts to avoid infection) should not be overlooked. Though an emergency would be uncomfortable without much food, it would be deadly without water.

I find that storing extra food is fairly difficult on my budget and given the space constraints of my apartment. However, **I try to shop for about a week's worth of groceries at a time, so I at least have some short term food storage.** Luckily, some

college staples such as pasta have long shelf lives.

Another simple way to prepare for emergencies is to have a whistle and a flashlight handy. Small ones can be attached to a keychain. I have been the recipient of several emergency whistles, all of which have found their way to the bottom of my "junk" drawer, where they would do me no good were I to be pinned under fallen debris. On the other hand, I always carry my keys or set them on the nightstand by my head when I sleep. Practicality is pertinent to preparation.

Jon Hoose - Provo, UT

"Though an emergency would be uncomfortable without much food, it would be deadly without water."

Monthly Preparation Tip: Update Your Road Atlas

It was a trip we'd made a dozen times. There are several ways to drive from Utah to my hometown in Texas, but even by back roads it felt like a beaten path to the grocery store.

That is, until we fell off the road.

It was the middle of the night, wintertime, and the kind of pitch black one only sees in the remotest regions of nowhere.

On a two-lane shortcut between Albuquerque, NM, and Seminole, TX, cruising along at typical interstate speeds, we passed a parked front-end loader with a row of stadium

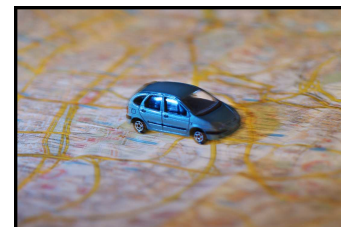
lights blazing atop the cab. The lights weren't pointed to illuminate the road but blasted straight through our windshield, short range.

We didn't know it at the time, but this was our only warning. We looked for a sign to understand the situation, but there was none.

We were just blinking the spots out of our eyes and thinking, "How odd," when the car shot off the end of the road and fell several feet into a wash of icy mud. Partially frozen water troughs of unknown depths lay to either side.

I've never had a scarier drive. Slipping, revving, sliding, and almost sinking, we managed to drive the 30 miles of "no road" until we hit asphalt on the other side. Even after two high-powered car washes, chunks of dried mud dropped out of our engine for weeks.

When we finally reached home, we checked a new map. Although our atlas was only a few years old, the road we had taken so many times, clearly emblazoned in our old atlas, didn't exist anymore in the new one. It's wise to keep a road atlas in your trunk for emergencies, but be sure it's updated.



Ever driven off the end of a road? I have.

Buy a new road atlas every year for the car to avoid this scary mistake.

**Educate
Prepare
Communicate
Share**

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Phone: 801-836-8522
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We're on the Web!

Past newsletters are now posted on our web site. Go to www.UtahEarthquake.org and click Free Newsletter.

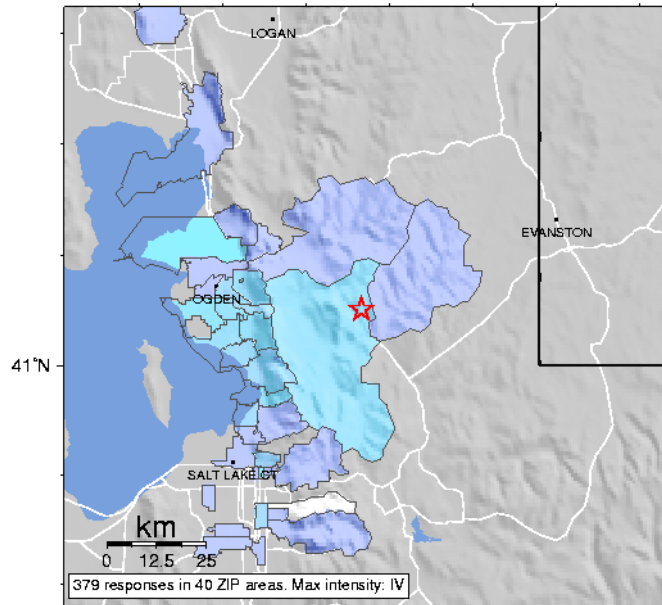
UtahEarthquake.org is a not-for-profit educational tool. Originally created with help from three junior-high students, it was conceived during a UNICEF lecture about natural disasters. The website's mission is to fill a community need for concise earthquake preparation information. The website and newsletter 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.

Cont'd from Page 1 — 3.4 Earthquake in Utah

If you felt this earthquake and would like to report it or would like to view statistics and additional maps and data, please go to http://pasadena.wr.usgs.gov/shake/imw/SALT_LAKE_CITY/X6215_06/cijm_stats_1.html.

USGS Community Internet Intensity Map (20 miles ENE of Kaysville, Utah)
ID: 6215_06 11:15:36 MST DEC 20 2006 Mag=3.4 Latitude=N41.13 Longitude=W111.58



Map last updated on Fri Dec 22 13:23:41 2006

INTENSITY	I	II-III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+
SHAKING	Not felt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy