

State Partnership-Utah

Summary

At the forefront of our public-private partnership is the Private Sector Homeland Security Coordinating Council. Membership includes representatives from the private sector, nongovernment organizations and local/state/federal government. The following CI/KR Sectors are represented: Agriculture and Food, Commercial Facilities, Energy, Information Technology, Postal and Shipping, Banking and Finance, Communications, Government Facilities, Transportation Systems, Emergency Services, Healthcare and Public Health, Water

Background

Be Ready Utah and the Private Sector Homeland Security Coordinating Council was organized between 2004 and 2005, at the request of Lt. Gary Herbert, who is now Governor of the State of Utah. Co-chaired by the Lt. Governor and the President of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, it is facilitated by the manager of the BeReadyUtah/Private Sector Section in the Division of Homeland Security (DHLS). The coordinating council is built in part on relationships that were developed during preparation for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Utah.

The Governor established a steering committee in 2008 as a central coordination point for related committees such as the Public Health and Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council. The Steering Committee provides direction for the growing Coordinating Council. One of the major influences behind the partnership is the expressed interest of the private sector to be involved in all phases of emergency management.

Goals and Objectives

1. Strengthen Information Sharing and Collaboration Capabilities among members of the Private Sector Homeland Security Coordinating Council.
2. Address Planning, Training, and Exercise Needs associated with the council's membership's role in aiding one another and supporting the State during a disaster.
3. Maintain the 12-Step Program for providing basic business continuity planning instruction to medium and smaller-size businesses.
4. Enhance and expand the BeReadyUtah website.
5. Establish and determine roles for a State Business Operations Center to collaborate with the State Emergency Operations Center

Description

We live in a state that is vulnerable to man-made threats and natural disasters. Since 1983, Utah has received eight presidential disaster declarations. The unexpected happened in 2005 when our state had three declarations in one year. The Utah Department of Public Safety's Division of Homeland Security has adopted an

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all-hazard approach to mitigate and prepare for, respond to, and recover from any disaster that may occur in our state.

Be Ready Utah is the State of Utah's official emergency preparedness campaign managed by the Division of Homeland Security and under the direction of Lt. Governor Greg Bell. It's designed as a bottom-up approach for preparedness with the focus on every individual's personal responsibility in preparedness first.

The Be Ready Utah campaign was officially launched in April 2005 at the annual League of Cities and Towns conference in St. George, Utah following the devastating floods in January 2005.

Be Ready Utah provides valuable information for individuals and families, communities, public safety professionals, business and civic leaders, school administrators and volunteers. We believe that preparedness leads to prosperity. Every community has the opportunity to provide resources to prepare its citizens and Be Ready Utah can help prepare Utah.

We encourage you take on the challenge to be 'Be Ready.' Be ready with an emergency plan. Be ready with an emergency supply kit. Be informed about Utah's natural hazards and get to know the local emergency manager in your community. Look for opportunities to get involved and volunteer your expertise and talents. The time and effort we invest in preparing now will help us navigate through and recover quickly from what may come our way at the most unexpected moment.

Please visit BeReadyUtah.gov for more information on how to get started with simple, basic steps to preparedness.

Requirements for Success

- Funding is a key part of the success of the partnership. Be Ready Utah is funded by federal EMPG funds and many of our activities and print materials are subsidized by our private sector partners
- Support from the Lt. Governor and legislators has been key to the success of the Private Sector Homeland Security Steering Committee and Coordinating Council. They attend meetings and are actively involved in the efforts of both public outreach and private sector partnership

Resources

Be Ready Utah has the following resources available through its partnership- A seat in the Emergency Operations Centers; resources to help prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters; web resources; tools and templates; and employee and family preparedness information.

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Training and Exercises

Be Ready Utah hosts and participates in joint exercises with the private sectors.

Communication Tools

Be Ready Utah has the following methods of communication with their public/private sectors—Email alerts; text messages; in-person meetings on a monthly basis at the Private Sector Coordinating Council meetings; Annual Ready Your Business Conference; website; paid advertising; and public service announcements.

Links

www.bereadyutah.gov

http://www.fema.gov/medialibrary/media_records/2766

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Be Ready Utah's 'Ready Your Business' focuses on preparing businesses for potential emergencies and disasters. This preparation includes the most essential elements including a 12 step program for basic business continuity planning. Ready Your Business also provides you with information about the natural hazards we have in Utah so you can be informed about the potential risks and dangers involved with each one.