

Utah Spring Flooding



FLOODING SUMMARY

Major floods in Utah are usually the result of rapidly melting snow in late spring and early summer and accompanied by thunderstorms. Flooding in Southern Utah typically begins in March-May. Flooding in Northern Utah typically begins April-June. As temperatures continue to rise, snow on lower and mid elevations begins to melt causing swollen rivers and streams and saturated ground. This year the volume of runoff could be significant due to the high percentage of water still left in our snowpack and higher water content in the soil. If spring rain begins to fall, and temperatures warm, the flooding potential increases more. This type of flooding can lead to widespread flooding, landslides, and debris flow damage.

AREAS OF CONCERN

- Fire burn-scar areas: Dollar Ridge Fire* (Duchesne County) Camelot and Pinnacles Subdivisions; Pole Creek & Bald Mountain Fire (Utah County) Elk Ridge and Woodland Hills Subdivisions; Brian Head* (Iron County); Huntington Canyon* (Emery County); Tank Hollow burn scar* (Spanish Fork, Utah County). * indicates a weather station is located on this burn scar
- Cache County - Blacksmith Fork and Logan River confluence
- Virgin River (Washington County) near Santa Clara early spring
- Tribal areas - Big Water, Navajo Nation
- Reservoirs - Reservoirs are in good shape to date. Most have more capacity to fill. We will keep an eye on these and report any changes to this status.

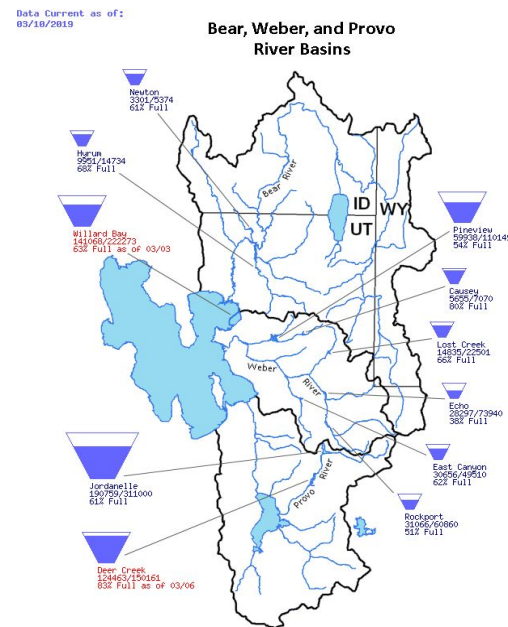
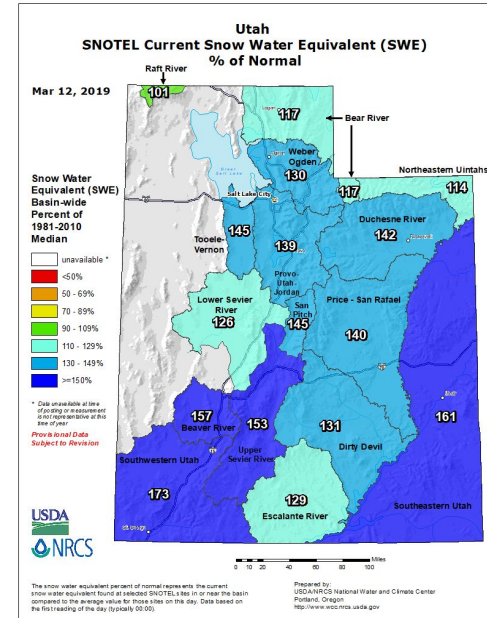
POTENTIAL REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

- Sandbags, Sandbag machines - Mutual Aid and DEM
- Road repair and signage - UDOT
- Security near flooded areas and evacuation support - Law Enforcement, National Guard
- Media support, press releases - PIO
- Coordination Calls with community officials and subject matter experts - DEM
- Drinking water - DEQ Division of Drinking Water; and water hauling contracts
- Mass Care (reception centers/ shelters/bottled water) - Red Cross
- State Hazard Mitigation Team - Technical Assistance and damage assessments

SANDBAG INVENTORY

UDOT 420,095; counties 837,100; cities 390,085; Utah National Guard 22,545

DECLARATION PROCESS





STATE DISASTER RESTRICTED RECOVERY ACCOUNT (SDRRA)

Use of the SDRRA - Requires local, state or federal declaration and reimburses state agencies for emergency work. It does not provide funding for local government agencies or homeowners.

FEMA DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Use of FEMA Assistance - Requires state of Utah Declaration, meets the current county and state [thresholds](#); The 2019 State threshold is \$4.1 Million; approval from President; Public Assistance helps repair of public infrastructure (not homes) including roads, bridges, water systems, government buildings.

PARTNERS; ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Dept. of Public Safety	Mobile Command Vehicle UHP - Evacuations, Road Conditions, security, law enforcement support Aero Bureau - Search and rescue
National Weather Service	Forecasts, water outlooks/concerns
Dept. of Environmental Quality	Hazardous materials in waterways, contact to EPA Div. Water Quality - algal blooms, mining operations, wastewater, ground water, watersheds Drinking Water - safety of drinking water
Dept. of Natural Resources	Water Rights - appropriation and distribution of water, irrigation Dam Safety - regulation of state dams Stream Alterations - regulation of natural streams and river bank alterations Wildlife Resources - monitoring effects of fish and wildlife Forestry Fire and State Lands - ordering fire resources for fire suppression on state and private lands.
Utah Department of Transportation	Road status, signage, road repair, bridge repair, support in debris management
Utah National Guard	Security, forces, fire suppression and drinking water support, debris management
Utah Dept. of Health	Pandemic, boil orders, hospital status, patient movement
Utah Dept. of Human Services	Crisis counseling
Water Service Districts	Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District - Major supplier of Salt Lake Valley drinking water Central Utah Water Conservancy District - Water management of 5 streams and 11 reservoirs including Deer

	Creek and Jordanelle. Washington County Water Conservancy District - Supplies water for St. George, Washington, Hurricane, Santa Clara, Ivins, Toquerville, La Verkin and the town of Virgin.
Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)	BOR Dams, Reservoir storage
Dept. of Agriculture	Livestock issues, drought declarations/support
Natural Resource Conservation Service / USDA	Water equivalent in Snowpack, Emergency Watershed Program, drought
Red Cross	Sheltering, food and water support to local incidents

OUTREACH

- Preparedness - Joe Dougherty - Public Information Officer, Kathy Holder - State Floodplain Manager, Wade Mathews - Be Ready Utah, DPSNews.utah.gov, Social media: @UtahEmergency and @BeReadyUtah
- Outreach to local public works encouraging maintenance of storm drains, flood control structures, creeks, streams, and rivers.

KEY MESSAGES

- Do not go near flooded rivers and streams. Keep children and pets safe from these dangerous areas.
- Flood insurance is not part of your regular homeowners insurance, it is a separate policy
- Stay alert, listen to news and weather alerts.
- Don't drive through flooded streets. "Turn around don't drown".
- Gov. Herbert declared March as Flood Safety Awareness Month.
- Be aware of post fire debris flow areas.

LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION

- National Weather Service - Advanced [hydrologic prediction](#) - stream gage information and status near flood stage
- Natural Resource Conservation Service NRCS/USDA [Snowpack](#) Water Equivalency map
- Utah Division of Water Rights - Stream Alteration [Permit](#) - Any work in the streams need to have a permit.
- We created a new website for people to learn real risks of flooding, www.FloodFacts.utah.gov
- Reservoir Capacity and [storage](#). Central Utah Water Conservancy District Reservoir [statistics](#)
- List of [Dams and Reservoirs](#) in Utah. Informational pages.