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Natural Disasters

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**Earthquake Disaster Preparedness Plan**

For my disaster preparedness plan, I chose earthquakes because it is something I often hear about hear in Utah. In addition to my current career path as a Victims Advocate helping people in crisis, trauma, and fatalities. It is known in Utah that earthquake has been overdue. I am interested to know how else I could be prepared to help not only my family but the community around me. It is a fact that in Utah’s Wasatch front and most of our state is on an active fault zone. Utah has indirect interactions with the Pacific plate along the plate margin on the west coast of the United States.

The history of the Wasatch fault shows to have major earthquakes every three hundred and fifty to four hundred years. The most recent was almost three hundred and sixty years ago. When our expected earthquake comes, we will experience a magnitude between six point five to seven point five earthquakes in the next fifty years. The effects our state can expect to happen will be devastating. Experts estimate that around ten thousand buildings would collapse and damaging approximately two hundred and eighty-five hundred buildings — a death toll around two thousand three hundred people and thirty thousand injured. 35,000,000,000 in damage around the state, the earthquake would most likely cause fires.

Even though our probability is for a seven-point five, an earthquake of 6.0 would still bring extreme damage. It would still be strong enough to knock down buildings and cause damage. Infrastructure would be destroyed, and we would have no water, power, or cell phone service for up to months. The possibilities of Utah’s recovering an earthquake that vigorous depends on our state and individual’s willingness to take the warnings seriously and prepare. My Natural Disasters Course informed us that an earthquake in Salt Lake City, UT, with a high seven-point zero magnitude, has the potential to cause a catastrophe instead of a disaster.

Disasters in the past now cause catastrophes because of the growth in the human population; it has created more significant concern in certain areas because it will put a substantial demand on resources. People will need to have food and water supply for a three-day period stored for each individual in the household. Emergency kits, including plenty of first aid supplies, and a family plan, so people in your family know what to do and where to meet. As a mother, I will take this information seriously and start practicing drills with family, making sure all my kids and family members know our point of contact. I also will begin working on keeping a portable seventy-two-hour safety kit on hand.

Throughout my research, I was happy to learn that there is a program called “fix the brick grant” my husband and I can apply for to help earthquake-proof my brick home. Because Utah’s history of earthquakes was long before our cities grew, most of our houses were not built to hold up in an earthquake. The problem distinctively is in the inside where our brick houses connect to the foundation. The walls were not constructed with anchors to the foundation. The state recommends being “retrofitted,” attaching the roof to the walls and attaching walls to the foundation. On a positive note, I do feel that our state is being proactive from what I can see.

It is said that Utah’s local landmarks have been preparing for the earthquake. We have a program called The Utah Earthquake Program. It has a strong partnership that unites diverse professionals working together to find ways to reduce our earthquake losses and risk in Utah. They have participants like the Utah Earthquake Program collaborate routinely on a variety of technical investigations, research projects, and public outreach activities. An expert says since Utah has been warned about our upcoming earthquake, often people have disregarded the urgency.

There are plenty of guides for the seismic improvement of unreinforced masonry dwellings, and earthquake insurance could also be useful. Also, when preparing your home, a practical tip to try and secure heavy or valuable items preventing them from falling. It seems that the sooner people plan, the better the possibilities of recovering after. There are plenty of ways to prepare yourself and your loved ones. There are some apps to give you real-time information. There are plenty of resources to understand better what you and your family might need to prepare for our earthquake.

I would hope that soon officials would provide more than just seventy-five percent to people who apply, and become more proactive by beginning a process start giving people help their foundation to become “retrofitted” rather than waiting for the community to figure out and be approved for such a grant that could help prepare them and their families. The potential damage seems to be more costly than the initial house proofing preparation. I would hope civilly authorities would have empathy and consider how severe the destruction will be.

**MY RESEARCH REFERENCES**:

<https://www.utah.gov/beready/index.html>

[https://www.utah.gov/beready/documents/roots\_earthquake\_low.pdf](#_top)

<https://pnsn.org/seismograms>

<https://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=550986>

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