

STAFF REPORT

TO: Summit County Council
Tom Fisher, County Manager

FROM: Chris Crowley

DATE: June 2, 2017

SUBJECT: Flood Hazards Outlook - 2017



Introduction

Flooding remains a significant hazard in Summit County with alert levels at MEDIUM to HIGH depending on location.

As of June 2, 2017, Oakley and Woodland present the most likely scenarios for potential flooding along the Weber and Provo Rivers. Snow melt, heavy rain and debris are the leading causes for floods in these areas.

Primary flood window is expected over the next two weeks May 30 through June 14.

As expected, residents and infrastructure located within the flood plain, high elevations, near waterways, streams & drainages, high-water table locations and wetlands are more prone to flooding.

NWS Spring Snowmelt Briefing - 2 Week Outlook – May 30, 2017

- NWS Spring Snowmelt Briefing: <https://youtu.be/VeKw3RyNq04>
- Temperature: Warming trend will continue May 28 – June 6
- Cache Valley: Highest potential for flooding
- Trial Lake, Uintah: Bear River Drainage feeds Weber, Provo & Duchesne Rivers. High and mid-elevation snowpack @ 26 inches – 1-2 inches of melt per day calculates to a 2 week window for flooding.
- Reservoirs: All reservoirs in Summit County expected to fill 100%

Safety Concerns

- Fast moving, cold water with many debris hazards creates an extremely dangerous situation for children, pets and adults alike. As little as 6 inches of fast moving water can sweep an adult off their feet. Streams moving at 5 to 7 miles per hour. Hypothermia can set in within 2 minutes. An abundance of trees, foliage, and other debris presents ample opportunity for hazards and flooding due to blockages. Cold water temperatures pose similar dangers in lakes, reservoirs and other still water catchments. Utah has already experienced 6 fatalities due to fast/cold water drownings.
- Floods have not been reported in Summit County to date, however, the possibility exists especially in designated flood plain areas.

Mitigation & Public Outreach

Summit County Emergency Management along with County and partner agencies have been actively planning and campaigning to address flood mitigation and safety issues.

- Spring Hazard Mitigation Planning Group: Summit County Agencies including Emergency Management, Public Works, Engineering, Fire and Law Enforcement have been meeting regularly to develop flood mitigation and response plans. Public Works produced the Summit County Debris Management Plan.
- Be Ready Summit County Television Program: Bi-weekly television program on PCTV addressing emergency management and hazards in Summit County. 5/31/17 segment addressed floods and flood water safety.
- County Hazard Alert System & Social Media: Summit County Emergency Management along with County and partner agencies have been releasing FLOOD POTENTIAL and FLOOD WATER SAFETY alerts since 5/31/17 and will continue until flood risks are reduced.
- Summit County CERT: Summit County Community Emergency Response Teams have been put on alert for potential flooding hazards. In addition to responding to a flood, CERT is prepared to assist the public with sand-bag filling, instruction on proper sand-bag stacking techniques and assist at-risk populations.
- Sand & Sandbag Precautionary Measures: Summit County Public Works has delivered sand and sandbagging materials to the following communities in preparation for potential flooding. Materials are free and self-service.

Location	Address	Activity/Quantity	Approximate Delivery
Oakley City Hall	960 W. Center Street Oakley, Utah 84055	Deliver 2 loads of sand & empty sand bags	5/31/17 – 17:00
Woodland LDS Church	4219 S 2800 E Woodland, UT 84036	Deliver 1 load of sand & empty sand bags	5/31/17 – 17:00

Resources

- Flood Plain Maps
 - **CURRENT FLOOD MAPS**: <http://msc.fema.gov/portal>
 - **UPDATED MAPS** (adopt 8/18): <http://fema.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

- **National Weather Service SLC, Flood Conditions Maps:**
<http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/>
- Utah Department of Emergency Management National Flood Insurance Program:
<https://dem.utah.gov/hazards-and-mitigation/nfip-national-flood-insurance-program/>
- FEMA Flood Smart.gov: www.FloodSmart.gov
- Be Ready Utah: [Be ready Utah: Floods - What You Should Know](#)

Sample: NWS Hazardous Weather Outlook, Salt Lake City UT - June 2, 2017

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Hazardous Weather Outlook
National Weather Service Salt Lake City UT
449 AM MDT Fri Jun 2 2017

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Cache Valley/Utah Portion-Northern Wasatch Front-
Salt Lake and Tooele Valleys-Southern Wasatch Front-
Great Salt Lake Desert and Mountains-Wasatch Mountain Valleys-
Wasatch Mountains I-80 North-Wasatch Mountains South of I-80-
Western Uinta Mountains-Wasatch Plateau/Book Cliffs-
Western Uinta Basin-Castle Country-San Rafael Swell-
Sanpete/Sevier Valleys-West Central Utah-Southwest Utah-
Utahs Dixie and Zion National Park-South Central Utah-
Glen Canyon Recreation Area/Lake Powell-Central Mountains-
Southern Mountains-Southwest Wyoming-
449 AM MDT Fri Jun 2 2017

This Hazardous Weather Outlook is for the western two thirds of
Utah and southwest Wyoming.

.DAY ONE...Today and Tonight

No hazardous weather is expected at this time.

.DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN...Saturday through Thursday

No hazardous weather is expected at this time. However, a warming
trend will bring some of the hottest temperatures yet this season,
particularly on Sunday. As a result of the warming, waterways
will continue to run fast and full, especially across Northern
Utah and southwest Wyoming. Keep children and pets away from
these dangerous, fast-flowing waterways as they could be rapidly swept away.