



*Utah Seismic Safety  
Commission (USSC) –  
Update of Activities*

Peter McDonough, Chair

2009 NESC/USSC joint meeting

Wells, Nevada

# *Utah Seismic Safety Commission*

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➤ Established 1994 by Utah Legislature

➤ 17 members (2 ex officio):

- ✓ Division of Homeland Security
- ✓ Utah Geological Survey
- ✓ Univ. of Utah Seismograph Stations
- ✓ Utah League of Cities and Towns
- ✓ Structural Engineers Assoc. of Utah
- ✓ Utah Division of Facilities Construction and Management
- ✓ Utah Department of Transportation
- ✓ American Institute of Architects
- ✓ American Soc. of Civil Engineers
- ✓ State Planning Coordinator (Governor's Office of Planning and Budget)
- ✓ Utah Department of Insurance
- ✓ Assoc. of Contingency Planners
- ✓ American Public Works Assoc.
- ✓ Utah House of Representatives
- ✓ Utah Senate
- ✓ U.S. Geological Survey (ex officio)
- ✓ Federal Emergency Management Agency (ex officio)

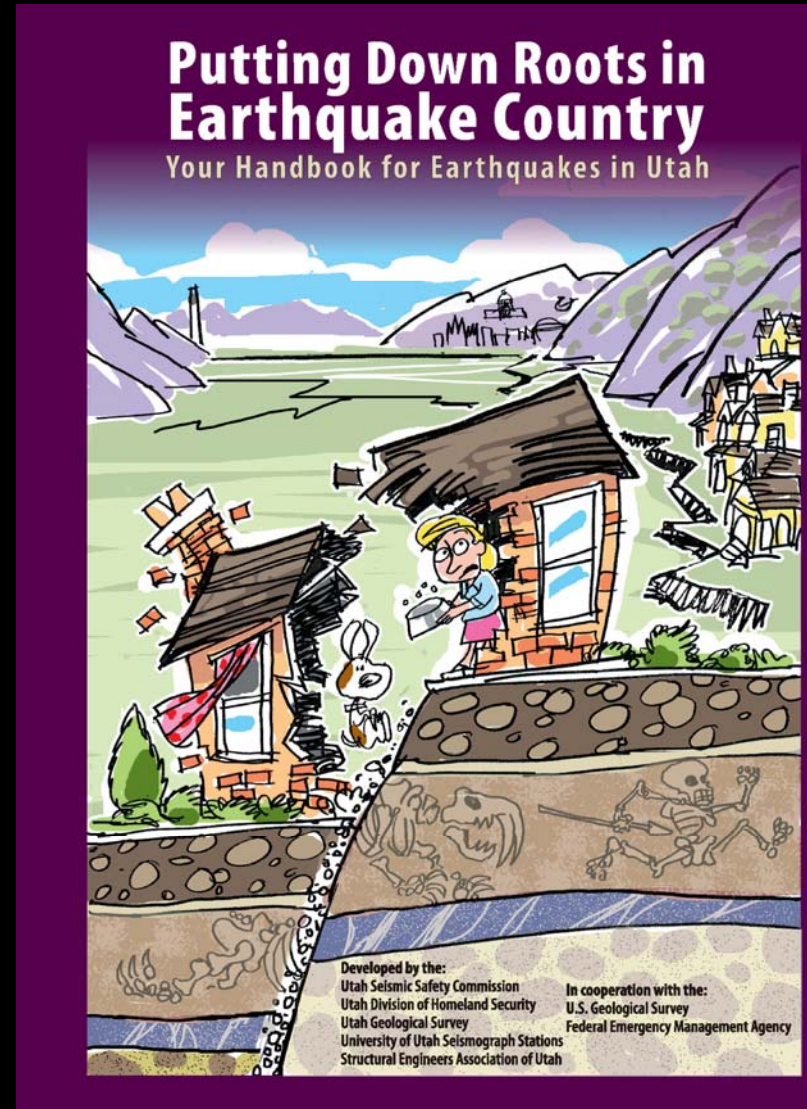
# *Standing Committees*

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- Awareness and Education
- Geosciences
- Engineering and Architecture
- Lifelines and Infrastructure
- Intergovernmental Relations

# USSSC Successes

- Awareness & Education
  - ✓ *Putting Down Roots in Earthquake Country* handbook
    - 50,000 high-quality copies; distributed by Utah Divisions of Homeland Security and Natural Resources, and city/county emergency managers
    - ~400,000 inserted into 15 newspapers across the state
    - Provide insert to Ogden Standard Examiner for distribution to schools in their area (Fall 2009).



# *USSC Successes*

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## ➤ Awareness & Education

- ✓ Earthquake Preparedness Month (April 2009)
  - Governor's Declaration/News Conference
  - Weekly focus included Schools, Community, Individuals and Family, and Business and Public/Private Partnerships
- ✓ Student research grants program
  - Nephi segment paleoseismic research (May 2009)
  - Yellowstone (Hebgen Lake) earthquake field trip
  - Earth Science kits for Logan Charter School science fair projects
- ✓ ATC-20 Training-SEAU/DHLS
  - First Workshop – Salt Lake City (April 2009)
  - Future training to be statewide

# *USSC Successes*

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## ➤ Geosciences

### ✓ Utah Earthquake Program

- Response to Wells earthquake (UDHS, UUSS, UGS, SEAU)
- Expansion of seismic network in southern Utah (UUSS)
- Ongoing paleoseismic investigation of Wasatch and Washington faults (UGS)

### ✓ 2008 & 2009 Utah Earthquake Working Group meetings

- Fault Parameters, Ground Shaking, and Liquefaction

### ✓ Governor's Geologic Hazards Working Group

- UGS Circular 104: *A Plan to Reduce Losses from Geologic Hazards in Utah*

# *USSC Successes*

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## ➤ Legislation

- ✓ 2008 HJR7 – Joint Resolution Recognizing Unreinforced Masonry Buildings (URMs)
  - Tasks the USSC with conducting an inventory of public URMs statewide and recommending priorities for reducing risk
  - Public buildings include all state, government, public school, college, and university buildings
  - USSC partnering with the Structural Engineers Association of Utah (SEAU) Existing Buildings Committee

# *USSC Successes*

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## ➤ Legislation

- ✓ 2008 HB177 – County and Municipal Land Use Regulation of Potential Geologic Hazard Areas
  - Authorizes counties/municipalities to enact ordinances regulating land use and development in potential geologic hazard areas
  - Provides a process for assembling a 3-person expert review panel to arbitrate appeals



# *USSC Successes*

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## ➤ Legislation

- ✓ 2008 HB162 – Utah School Seismic Hazard Inventory
  - Did not pass 2008 or 2009 (HB330) sessions
  - Requires a seismic evaluation of all public schools
  - Creates a public school seismic safety committee to determine a threshold score on the seismic evaluation

# *USSC Successes*

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## ➤ USSC publications

- ✓ 2000-2007 Progress Report (in press)
- ✓ Putting Down Roots – Second Printing (Fall 2009)