

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EARTHQUAKE LEGISLATION

by the

UTAH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE

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The Earthquake Task Force has considered recommendations for earthquake legislation submitted to the State and Local Affairs Interim Study Committee, and has combined and prioritized them into the following recommended legislative actions. Actions have been placed into five groups which are listed below in order of priority. Items within each group are in no particular order. The first four groups of actions are recommended for consideration for legislation in 1991. Items listed in group 5 are also important, but are a lower priority because they either are already written into 1991 legislation, may be achieved by non-legislative means, or are a follow-up action to one listed in group 1, 2, 3, or 4.

GROUP 1 - TOP PRIORITY

- 1) Establish a Seismic Safety Commission to oversee and coordinate the state earthquake program.

-This commission would have the responsibility of coordinating and leading the state's earthquake program, and may be modeled after the ACIR Earthquake Task Force. Although the items listed below are intended for consideration as separate bills in the 1991 legislature, they may also be combined and written into a charter for this commission.

GROUP 2

- 1) Earthquake instrumentation: a) modern seismic network instrumentation, b) strong-motion instrumentation for earthquake engineering, c) portable seismographs for data collection, d) communication systems for information transfer, and e) earthquake deformation monitoring from global positioning satellite measurements.
- 2) Require plan checks for all buildings (public and private) to more effectively implement the Uniform Building Code structural/seismic provisions.

GROUP 3

- 1) Seismic vulnerability assessments of bridges, fire stations, and schools.
- 2) Training for disaster preparedness and Urban Search and Rescue.
- 3) Improve communications, including a microwave system for disaster communications and updated network design of radios, telecommunications, and microwave resources (cellular phones).
- 4) Increase public awareness to improve personal and family preparedness.

GROUP 4

- 1) Mandatory geologic hazards site investigations for new critical government facilities.
- 2) Require local governments to enact geologic hazards ordinances.
- 3) Geologic hazards disclosure in real estate transactions.

GROUP 5 - SECOND OR LOWER PRIORITY

- 1) Require school districts to certify each year that emergency preparedness plans for each school are updated and current.
- 2) Train school personnel in disaster preparedness and response.
- 3) Require state agencies to develop and test operations resumption plans for critical applications.
- 4) Identify and evaluate hazardous materials storage and disposal sites.
- 5) Establish rules of succession to ensure continuity of government (state and local) following an earthquake or other emergency.
- 6) Cross-state licensing for emergency response professionals.
- 7) Allow fire districts over municipal boundaries.
- 8) Prepare and disseminate information about available insurance coverage for earthquake damage and losses.
- 9) Require geologic hazards site investigations for non-government critical facilities.

- 10) Disclose or retrofit seismically unsafe structures.
- 11) Update loss estimation studies.