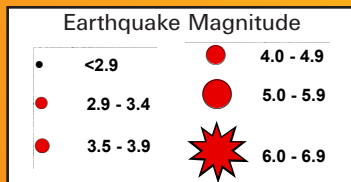
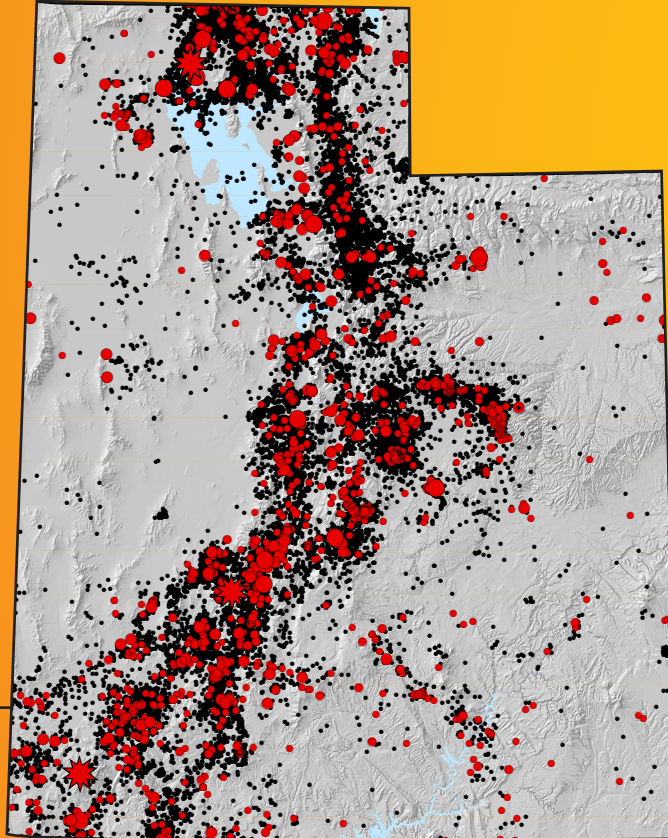


Utah is Earthquake Country

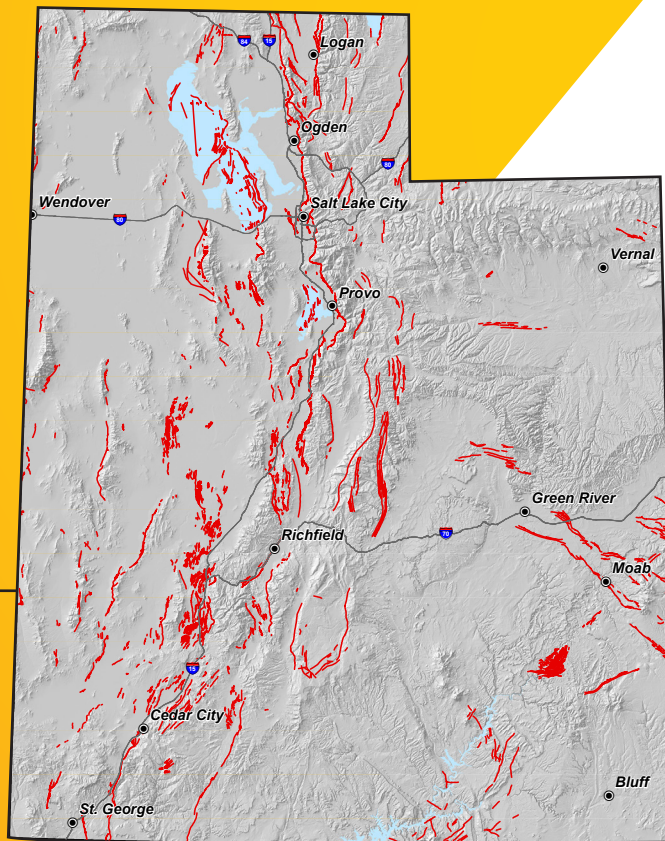
- Earthquakes pose the greatest natural threat to Utah's people, built environment, and economy.
- 17 earthquake mainshocks of magnitude ≥ 5.0 , and 9 earthquake mainshocks of magnitude ≥ 5.5 have occurred within or bordering Utah since 1850.
- A magnitude 7.0 earthquake in the urban Wasatch Corridor could displace more than 84,000 households, with nearly 53,000 individuals needing shelter, causing a short-term economic loss now estimated at over \$52 billion (from Scenario for a Magnitude 7.0 Earthquake on the Wasatch Fault - Salt Lake City Segment, EERI).

Earthquake Epicenters and Magnitudes Since 1850



Benson Stake Tabernacle being demolished due to damage from the 1962 magnitude 5.8 Richmond earthquake in Cache Valley, Utah. Photo courtesy of the Utah Geological Survey.

Utah Quaternary Faults



Faults around Utah that have geologic evidence of movement in the last 2.6 million years (Quaternary).

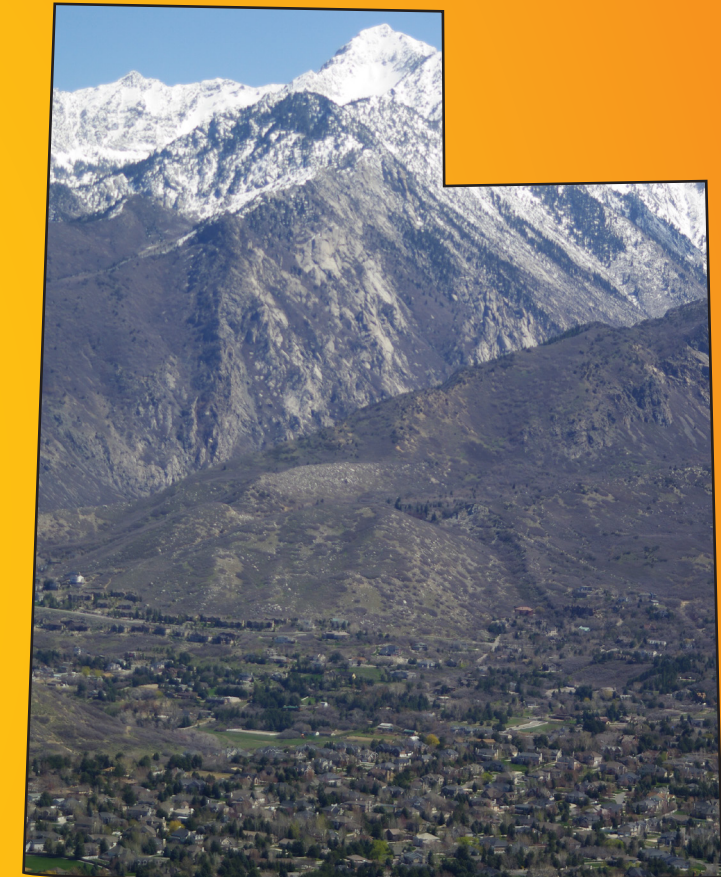
Contact USSC

Website: ussc.utah.gov

E-mail: ussc@utah.gov



Supporting Organizations



Promoting an
Earthquake Resilient Utah
Since 1994

What is the USSC?

- The Utah Seismic Safety Commission (USSC) was created in 1994 by statute to advise and promote earthquake safety awareness and action within the Utah Legislature, the state and local governments, the private sector, and the public.
- USSC includes 15 commissioners from 15 different organizations that have expertise in areas of earthquake science and safety. The Utah Division of Emergency Management and Utah Geological Survey provide staff support.
- USSC acts as a clearinghouse for earthquake related emergency management information.
- 2019 marks the 25th anniversary of the USSC.

USSC's Accomplishments

Seismic Resilience

- Created a seismic strategic plan for the State of Utah.
- Continued support of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program managed by the Utah Division of Emergency Management.
- Supported the development and maintenance of a State Earthquake Technical Clearinghouse.
- Continued support of Utah's participation in the Advanced National Seismic System that promotes and maintains a national seismic instrument network.
- Continued participation in biannual meetings with the Nevada Seismic Safety Council to discuss cross-border seismic issues.
- Continued sponsorship of the annual state-wide earthquake drill, the Great Utah Shakeout (www.shakeout.org/utah/).

The Built Environment

- Past and future support for seismic retrofitting of buildings, including the Utah State Capitol and the University of Utah's Marriott Library.
- Advocacy and support for open forums, trainings and lectures for earthquake safety and other geological hazards.

Seismic Policy

- Supported legislation for a state-wide school building inventory.
- Supported legislation for State of Utah adopted building codes.
- Supported legislation for funding to expand and maintain a state-wide seismic network.
- Continued support of the Utah Geological Survey geologic hazard guidelines and local government hazard ordinances.



Upper left: Surface fault rupture from the 1934 magnitude 6.6 Hansel Valley, Utah, earthquake. Lower left: Residents look at a damaged home after the 2011 magnitude 6.3 Christchurch, New Zealand, earthquake. There are many similarities between the infrastructure of Christchurch and that of the Wasatch Front. Right: Earthquake-induced landslide that damaged a home and property in Springdale, Utah, approximately 30 miles from the epicenter of the 1992 magnitude 5.5 St. George earthquake.

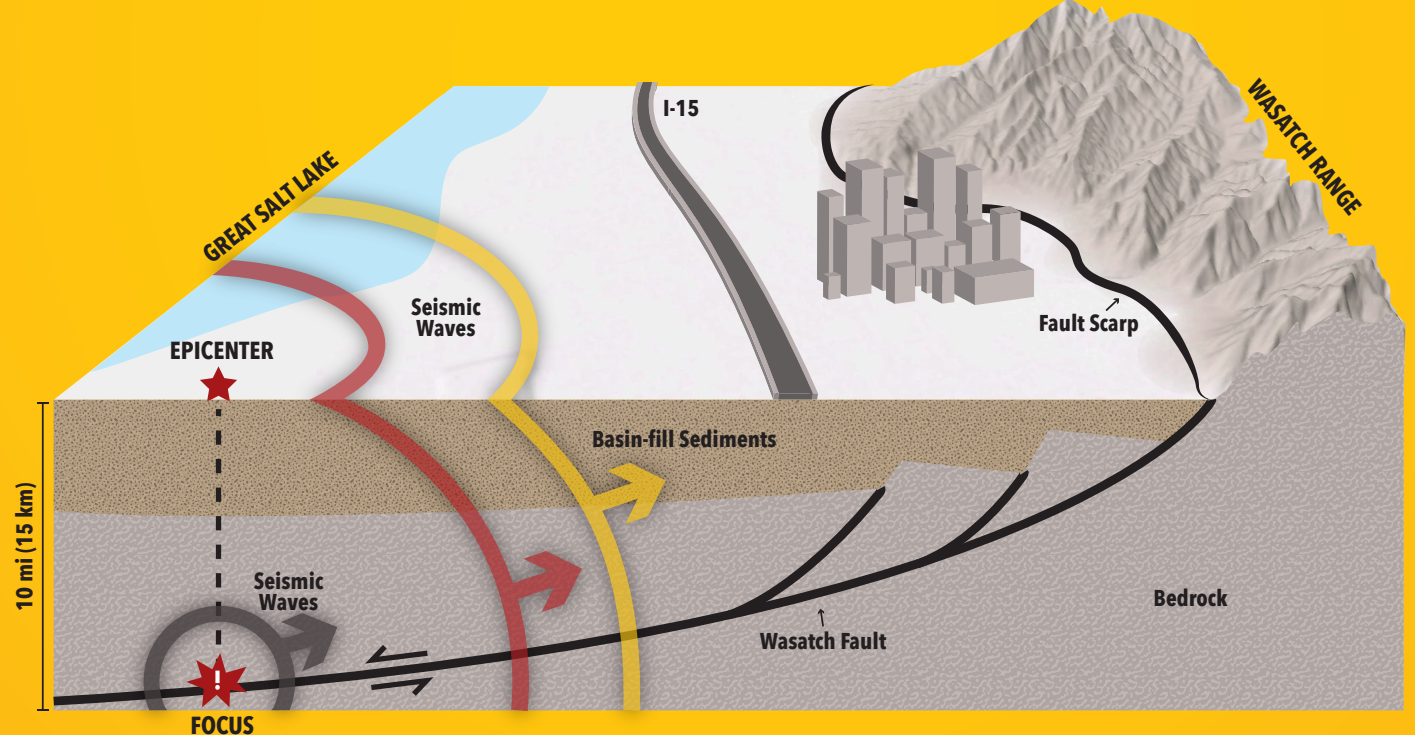
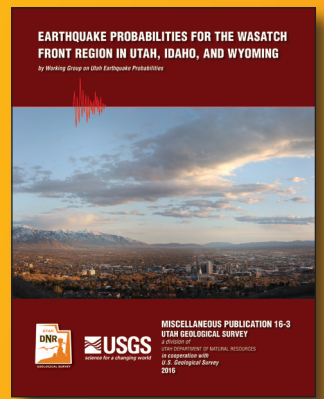
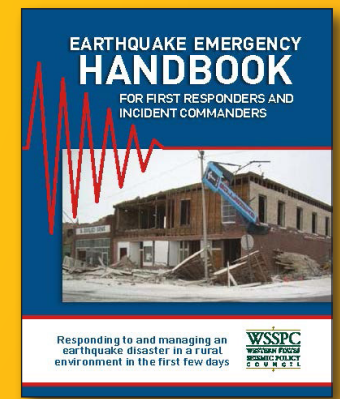
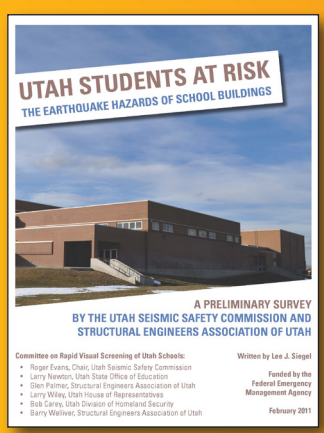
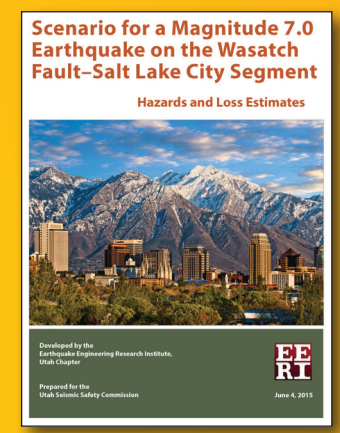
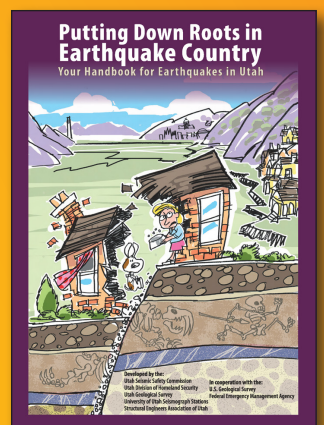
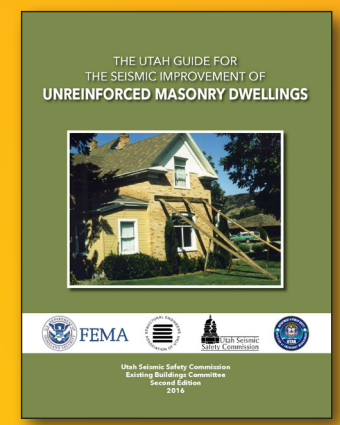


Illustration showing a potential large earthquake on the Wasatch fault below Salt Lake Valley. The main shock would initiate approximately 10 miles beneath the valley, releasing energy in the form of seismic waves, causing ground deformation and strong ground shaking throughout the valley, impacting infrastructure, homes, and businesses. The Wasatch fault runs along the length of the densely populated Wasatch Front Region, and is capable of generating large earthquakes underneath this populated urban area. Figure from the Utah Geological Survey.

Available Resources



Scan the QR code with a smart device to access USSC resources, including those pictured above.

