

**Utah Department of Public Safety  
Division of Emergency Management  
Situation Report  
Friday, August 14, 2015  
As of Noon  
(801) 538-3400 (24-hour number)**



# Significant Activity Summary

- **Significant Incidents:**

- **New:** Utah County - A mudslide in Woodland Hills has damaged one home and local officials have evacuated 11 families in the area as a precaution. Three additional homes have mud in their yards and driveways. The Department of Public Safety helicopter is supporting Utah County efforts to assess the damage this morning. See the Utah County Mudslide [Details](#) page.
- **New:** San Juan County - Utah DEQ [test results](#) from August 10 are now available, showing there is no cause to restrict recreation uses of water along the San Juan River. The Department of Health continues the advisory to avoid drinking the water. Additional testing will continue to determine the long term impacts. A plume of mine wastewater entered the Animas and San Juan Rivers due to a spill from the Gold King Mine in Colorado on August 5. For Agency Actions, see details below.
- There are no active wildfires threatening communities or critical infrastructure in Utah at this time.

- **Significant Weather:**

- The National Weather Service has issued a Hazardous Weather Outlook for the entire state of Utah. Showers and thunderstorms will increase throughout the day today, mainly across the north. Stronger storms could bring local heavy rain with a threat of isolated flash flooding, strong gusty winds and hail.

- **Significant Actions:**

- Multiple State Agencies are supporting response efforts due to the Gold King Mine Incident, see [Agency Actions](#). Preventative actions, response and recovery efforts are underway.
- DEM deployed an EOC support team to San Juan County to assist county emergency management.
- DEM deployed a team of Public Assistance support for the [Major Disaster Declaration](#) recent flooding in Colorado. Learn more about [EMAC](#) deployments.
- The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands deployed Utah fire personnel and equipment to assist local wildfire suppression efforts in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California.
- Governor Gary Herbert has signed a monthly [Executive Order](#) to expedite the declaration process for wildfires.

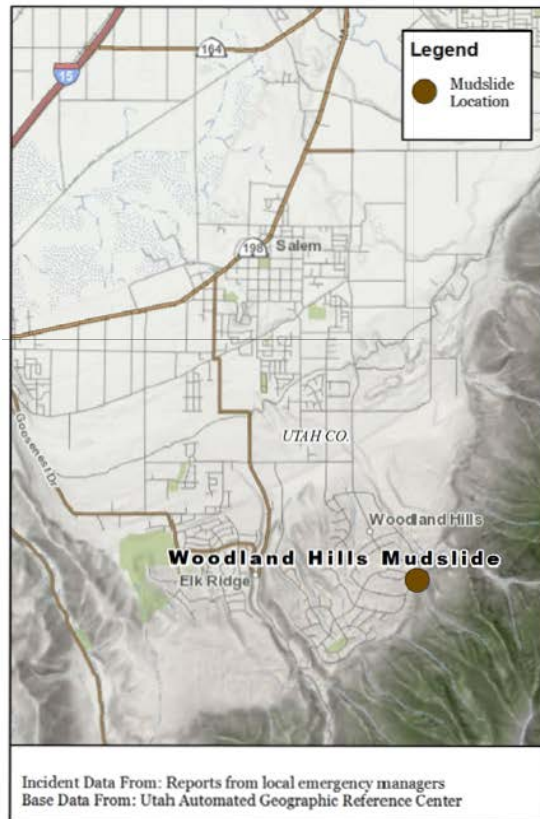
State Emergency Operations Center Status			
EOC Activation Level			
Daily Operations	Level 3 Monitoring	Level 2 Partial Activation	Level 1 Full Activation

*Situation Reports and Weekly Briefings are produced by the Division of Emergency Management, see last page for details.*



# Utah County Mudslide Details

- **Location:** Utah County, Woodland Hills, Skylake Drive.
- **Evacuations:** 11 Families are evacuated
- **Shelters:** The American Red Cross, Utah Region is on the scene supporting the families as needed.
- **Damage:** One home is affected. Three homes have mud in driveways and yards.
- **Cause:** The cause is unknown. This is not an area with a burn scar from a former wildfire. Heavy rains occurred yesterday in this area.
- **Incident Date:** 8.13.2015
- **Resources:** County officials are on the scene of the incident. The Department of Public Safety helicopter is supporting damage assessment.
- The Division of Emergency Management (DEM) liaison and mitigation specialist are on scene.
- DEM requested support from the National Weather Service.
- **Roads Closed:** Portions of Schoolhouse & Highline and a large portion of Skylake Drive.



# Mine Spill Update- Agency Actions

- **Agency Actions Details:**

- **New:** The Utah Department of Environmental Quality has released test results from August 10. The orange plume from the Gold King Mine Spill is not visible in Utah and test results are now available. [Click here](#) for the results overview.
- The Utah Department of Public Safety (DPS) Division of Emergency Management (DEM) activated its Emergency Operations Center to Level 3- Monitoring.
- DEM has deployed an EOC support team and the DPS Mobile Command Vehicle to Monticello to assist the San Juan County EM in response and coordination efforts.
- The Joint Information Center (JIC), led by DEM, is facilitating collaboration of all state agency response information. Conference calls between supporting agencies will continue as needed. Two JIC news releases ([8.12.15](#) and [8.13.15](#)) have been sent out through the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding actions Utah agencies are taking to support this incident.
- The Utah DPS plane assisted DEQ's delivery of water samples from Blanding to Salt Lake. This helped expedite the process for water sample testing.
- The Utah Department of Natural Resources' Division of Wildlife Resources took fish tissue samples to establish baseline data for subsequent testing.
- The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) continues to [advise](#) agricultural producers along the San Juan River in Utah to avoid using river water as an irrigation and livestock watering source. The UDAF seeks consistent low level readings of the compounds in the water before advising farmers and ranchers to resume irrigating with San Juan River water. UDAF veterinarians remain cautious about the possible long term effects of the heavy metals uptake by animals.
- The Utah Department of Health is working with DEQ, the San Juan County Health Department, and other state and federal partners to monitor the spill and provide public health guidance.
- The Attorneys General from Colorado, New Mexico and Utah met to determine appropriate actions.
- A State of Emergency declarations have been made in [San Juan County](#) by the San Juan County Commission, by [The Navajo Nation's](#) Commission on Emergency Management and for the [State of Utah](#) by Governor Gary Herbert. Colorado and New Mexico have also declared.



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH**

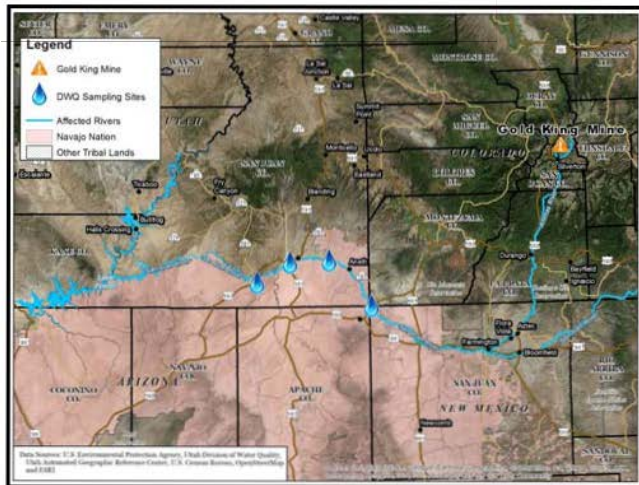


# Utah DEQ Test Results

According to test results from August 10 samples, none of the identified contaminants exceeded initial screening values for agricultural use. Based on these data, the Department of Health does not expect that recreational or agricultural use of the San Juan River will result in adverse effects in people, livestock, or crops. However, because this is still a potential contamination incident, the Department of Agriculture and Food recommends against using water for irrigation or livestock, as a precaution.

It is still recommended that recreational users carry their own drinking water and not rely on filtering or purifying river waters. Further evaluations and updated findings will be provided as new data become available.

- The data showed that for public use, six contaminants exceeded screening values: aluminum, arsenic, barium, iron, lead, and manganese.
- Five of these suspected contaminants are not shown to be a threat.
- For this data set, the 95% UCL (a safety threshold) for barium fell within safe screening levels. Therefore it was determined it would not need to be further evaluated at this time.
- The five remaining contaminants that exceeded safety screening levels were evaluated for recreational exposure to determine safety thresholds.



# Division of Emergency Management

## What Does the Division of Emergency Management Do?

DEM (pronounced D-E-M) plays an active role during emergencies and disasters. The Division coordinates emergency management efforts between federal, state and local government agencies and tribal nations. These efforts include preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

DEM also brings subject matter experts and multiple state agencies together at the State Emergency Operations Center to support and coordinate response and recovery as needed.

While Utah is not located in the hurricane path or tornado alley, disasters strike here. For the list of threats and hazards in Utah see the State Hazard Mitigation [Plan](#). When no incidents are underway, the Division's year-round efforts prepare the State of Utah to better respond to and recover from disasters.

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

## DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Our Vision

*To achieve a self-sustaining  
culture of emergency preparedness  
for all individuals  
and communities in Utah.*

### Our Mission

*To unite the emergency management community  
and to coordinate the efforts necessary  
to mitigate, prepare for, respond to  
and recover from  
emergencies, disasters and catastrophic events.*



To learn more about DEM, the agency which produces Weekly Briefings and Situation Reports, click [here](#) for the 2014 Annual Report. Also, see [DEM Organizational Chart](#).

For questions or comments regarding this DEM report, email: [ESF05Planning@utah.gov](mailto:ESF05Planning@utah.gov)

