



**American  
Red Cross**  
Utah Region

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## **Utah Students Get Prepared for Disasters in New Pilot Program Thanks to the American Red Cross and Be Ready Utah**

**Media Note:** Members of the media and cameras are welcome from 9 to 10 a.m. on September 27 at Channing Hall School as teachers use these kits to teach students preparedness.

### ***For Immediate Release***

**Salt Lake City, UTAH (Friday, September 24, 2010)** — In the wake of the Herriman fire evacuations, preparedness is on the minds of many Utahns and a new pilot program in twenty schools in the Salt Lake Valley offers one new way to help get students prepared for disasters. Thanks to the American Red Cross and Be Ready Utah, teachers will be using the American Red Cross *Masters of Disaster*® kit.

The *Masters of Disaster* curriculum is centered on a series of ready-to-go lesson plans that help organizations educate youth about important disaster safety and preparedness information. *Masters of Disaster* helps reduce children's anxiety about unknown aspects of disasters and tragic events. They will also gain confidence to deal successfully with life's unexpected turns.

A *Masters of Disaster* Pilot Kick-Off will be held at Channing Hall School at 13515 S. 150 E. in Draper on Monday September 27<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. The Red Cross, Be Ready Utah, Director of Utah Division of Homeland Security, Col. Keith Squires and the Be Ready Bee will be on hand at the kick-off. Teachers will teach a subject from the kit to students from 9 to 10 a.m. The *Masters of Disaster* series of topics includes:

- Preparing for any disaster with *Be Disaster Safe*
- Coping with tough issues like terrorism, war and pandemic flu with *Facing Fear*
- Recovering and rebuilding from any disaster with *In the Aftermath*
- Preventing injuries that happen at home with *Home Safety*
- *Earthquakes*
- *Fire Prevention and Safety*
- *Floods*
- *Hurricanes*
- *Lightning*
- *Tornadoes*
- *Wildland Fires*

Disasters happen in Utah. In fact, just this past year, Red Cross Chapters in Utah responded to 139 local disasters, some of them rendering multiple families homeless.

Teachers interested in participating in the program can contact Heather McKinnon at 801-323-7010 or visit [utahredcross.org](http://utahredcross.org) for details.

The program is made possible by generous support from the following sponsors: Rocky Mountain Power, Questar, Zions Bank and Utah Disaster Kleenup.

(insert Be Ready boilerplate here if desired.)

**About the American Red Cross in Utah:** The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and counsels victims of disasters; teaches lifesaving skills; supplies blood to 30 area hospitals; and supports military members and their families. The organization also provides emergency utility assistance and international family tracing services. The American Red Cross is a nonprofit organization, not a government funded agency, which depends entirely upon volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its humanitarian mission. Donate your time or resources to your Red Cross: Northern Utah Chapter/Ogden (801) 627-0000, Cache County Office/Logan (435)752-1125, Greater Salt Lake Area Chapter 801-323-7000, Mountain Valley Chapter/Provo (801) 373-8580. Visit [www.utahredcross.org](http://www.utahredcross.org) and click "Across Utah."