



# Flood Reference Guide

## Purpose

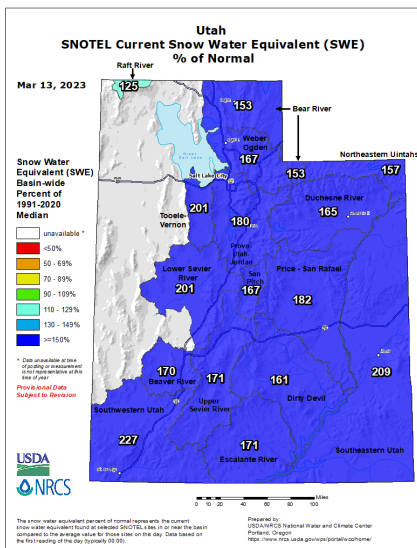
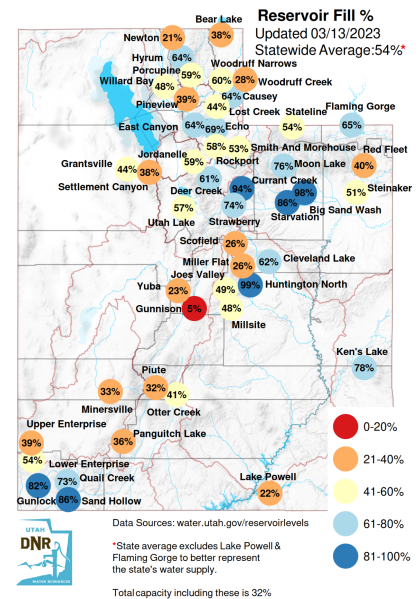
The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to our local emergency management officials and local elected officials as it pertains to anticipated, statewide spring flooding.

## Current Flood Summary

**Flooding is the number one disaster risk in Utah.** Ten of Utah’s fifteen presidential declarations are due to flooding, and the state experiences multiple localized flood events each year. This year Utah has an above average snow pack, increasing the risk of spring flooding statewide.

This year we are faced with statewide snowpack near historic levels, with the snow water equivalent at 169% of the median as of March 14. The statewide snow water equivalent is now at 143% of the median peak, with a value of 22.9 inches. There are still 20 days to

go before reaching the snow water equivalent median peak date. Numerous sites have broken their all-time snow water equivalent records. An active weather pattern is anticipated to continue into the end of March, with odds favoring below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. The short-term concern is a potential for sheet flooding in lower elevations/basins with a robust snowpack, primarily due to rain-on-snow events. The stage is set for elevated flooding threats due to snowmelt runoff, but it is still too early to know how things will play out this spring into early summer. Weather patterns will dictate additional accumulation of snow water equivalent into the spring, as well as runoff scenarios as the snowpack is shed during the snowmelt season, generally April through June.



## Key Messages for Elected Officials

- ❖ All disasters begin and end at the local level.
- ❖ It is encouraged that local elected officials meet with emergency management officials at the city and/or county level and discuss preparedness messaging and mitigation activities that can be implemented immediately to enhance our ability to save lives and property.
- ❖ When visiting disaster sites and getting contacted from constituents, the following may be resources:
  - Coordinate with local and state subject matter experts on any technical, program, or disaster funding opportunities (DEM can connect public officials to the right contacts)
  - Local jurisdictions have emergency managers and floodplain managers that DEM works closely with to support disaster related efforts.



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## Things to Consider - Key Actions

### ❖ Public Messaging - How Should Communities Prepare

- Do not go near flooded rivers and streams. Keep children and pets safe from these dangerous areas
- Don't drive through flooded streets. "Turn around don't drown"
- Flood insurance is not part of your regular homeowners insurance, it is a separate policy
- Stay alert, listen to news and weather alerts
- Be aware of post fire debris flow areas
- Be Ready Utah - [Preparing for Flooding](#)
- DEM public website to learn real risks of flooding, [www.FloodFacts.utah.gov](http://www.FloodFacts.utah.gov)

### ❖ Sandbag Disposal

- Waste disposal after a flood needs to be communicated and addressed to ensure proper handling. By blocking the water flow, both the bag and the sand can become contaminated with sewage, pathogens and chemicals from the floodwater.
- Sand or sandbags that have come into contact with only precipitation, but not floodwater, are normally considered to be not contaminated and can be reused without restriction as long as blowing sand and blowing litter from sandbags is prevented.
- Sand or sandbags that have been in contact with flood water should not be reused in ways that would involve direct human contact, such as sand boxes, gardens, or playgrounds.
- Check with your local waste management agencies for possible disposal sites.

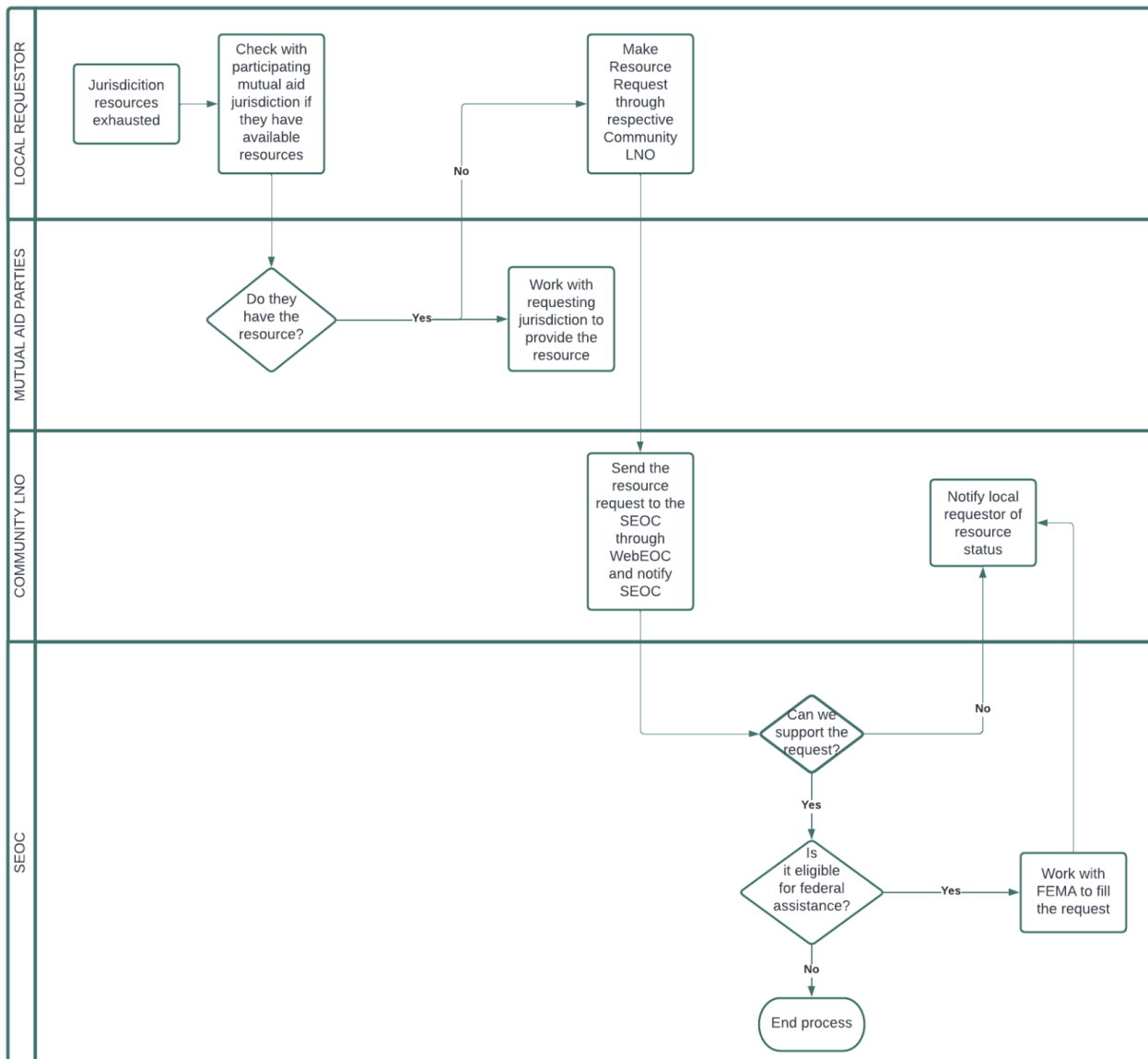
### ❖ Stream Alteration Permits

- Any work that will alter the bed or banks of a natural stream in Utah must obtain written authorization from the State Engineer.
- Know stream alteration permit requirements [UT Code 73-3-29](#) & local [DNR Officer](#) for notification of emergency work occurring in streams
- Work with Local Floodplain Administrators to ensure permitting requirements for the [NFIP](#) are being met

## Requesting Resources from State of Utah

- ❖ If your jurisdiction has exhausted or committed local resources and requires state assistance, contact your [Community Support Liaison](#) for support
- ❖ Follow the flowchart below for requesting assistance:

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## Potential Requests for Assistance

If a local jurisdiction's resources are exhausted, they may make requests to other jurisdictions under the Statewide Mutual Aid Act, or the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) through county emergency managers. Below are the potential requests the SEOC may receive:

- ❖ Sandbag machines and sandbags, which is managed by the SEOC through a statewide inventory
- ❖ Road repair and signage
- ❖ Security near flooded areas and evacuation support
- ❖ Media support, press releases
- ❖ Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) & Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWs) alerts
- ❖ Coordination Calls with community officials and subject matter experts,
- ❖ Drinking water concerns and coordination support
- ❖ Technical Assistance for Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs)



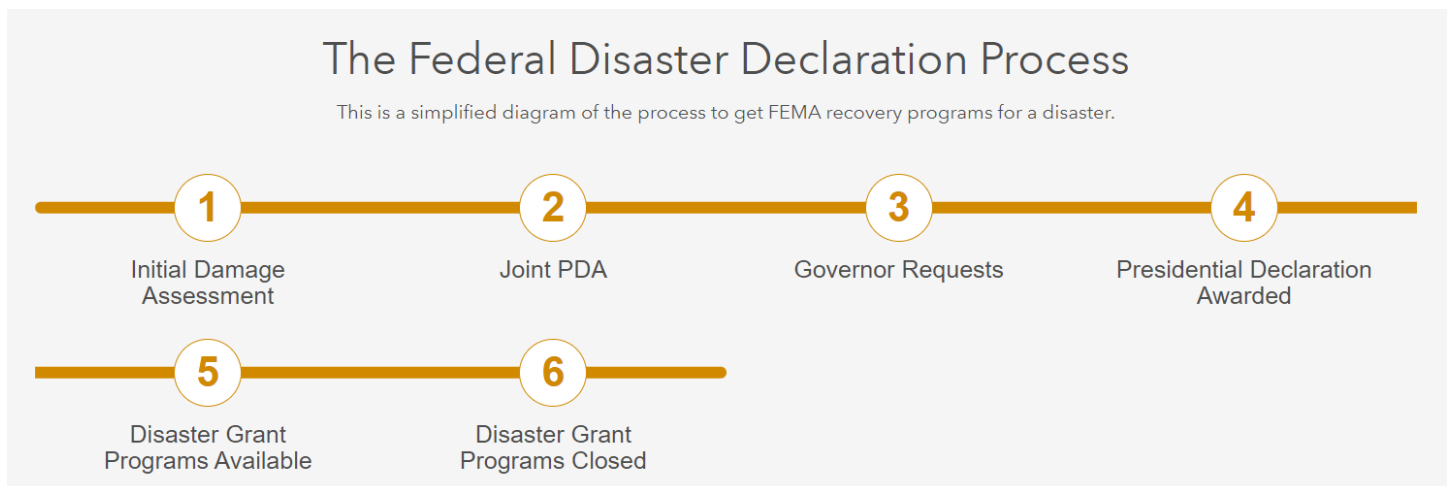
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## Information the State EOC utilizes to Provide Statewide Situational Awareness

Essential Elements of Information (EEI)

Local Concerns for Flooding	Road closures or restrictions	Political ramifications
Local Preparation Activities	EOC activations	Declarations / Emergency Orders
Flood Details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Location (areas of concern, near population centers)</li> </ul>	Evacuations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Reception Center(s)</li> <li>❖ Shelter(s)</li> </ul>	ICP is operational and requesting LNO assistance
Impact Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Threatened, proximity to</li> <li>➤ Damaged</li> <li>➤ Destroyed</li> <li>➤ Boil orders</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Structures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Threatened, proximity to</li> <li>❖ Damaged</li> <li>❖ Destroyed</li> </ul>	Resource Needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ State Agency Resources</li> <li>❖ Utah National Guard</li> <li>❖ Incoming mutual aid resources</li> </ul>

## [State of Utah Recovery Hubsite](#) - Your reference site for recovery needs



- ❖ Communities can get help to cover their costs for debris removal, life-saving emergency protective measures, and restoring public infrastructure through the FEMA PA program.
  - [PA Frequently Asked Questions](#)
  - [Thresholds, Reporting Tools, Damage Assessment Tool](#)



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## Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA)

- ❖ PDAs are used to determine the impact and magnitude of damage and the resulting unmet needs of individuals, businesses, the public sector, and communities as a whole. There are two types of PDAs: initial damage assessments and joint preliminary damage assessments.
  - [Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide](#)
  - [PDA Pocket Guide](#)
  - [PDA Guide Fact Sheet - Summary of Changes for 2020](#)
- ❖ To report your damages to the State of Utah, you must first fill out a Preliminary Damage Assessment cover sheet [found here](#). Please note: this form must be filled out completely and sent directly to the State of Utah. Our recovery team will follow up with you once received.

## Individual Assistance (IA)

- ❖ Individual Assistance programs are designed to help meet disaster applicants' sustenance, shelter, and medical needs during their path to recovery. FEMA helps state, local, tribal, and territorial governments and certain types of private nonprofits. [Individual Assistance Site](#)

## Small Business Assistance (SBA)

- ❖ The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) provides low-interest disaster loans to help businesses and homeowners recover from declared disasters. [SBA Site](#)

## State Disaster Restricted Recovery Account [Fact Sheet](#)

- ❖ Requires local, state or federal declaration and reimburses state agencies for emergency work.

## Links for More Information

- ❖ [National Weather Service - Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Stream Gauge and Status](#)
- ❖ [Natural Resource Conservation Service NRCS/USDA Snowpack Water Equivalency Map](#)
- ❖ [Reservoir Capacity and Storage](#)
- ❖ [Central Utah Water Conservancy District Reservoir statistics](#)
- ❖ [Dams and Reservoirs in Utah](#)

## Resources

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