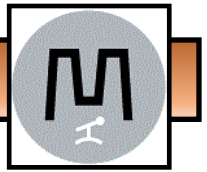


## City Council Message



March 2018



**Jim Brass**

Will you be ready when the next earthquake, flood, drought, or pandemic strikes?

The Murray City Council recently reviewed responsibilities when the community experiences a major disaster of this kind. What became perfectly clear is that advance self-preparedness is key! Today .... make sure that you have a 72 hour kit ready at a moment's notice. An extensive water supply on hand is a necessity. If you have elderly family members or pets in home, special supplies may be required.

In the event of a large scale emergency, the services of the city will quickly be overrun. For example, the Murray City Fire Department operates three ambulances. Without a disaster, these ambulances are very busy on a daily basis. If an earthquake hit the Salt Lake Valley, there could be thousands of people who need help simultaneously in the Murray area alone. It would be futile to think that all those in need would be able to get the 911 response they require in a timely manner.

The first responsibility of First Responders will be to drive pre-set routes and conduct damage assessments. Fire crews and police will report hazards and damage as they move through the city. Several target locations will be checked first, such as, hospitals and schools. The goal is to report in status within two hours. Following that resources and manpower may be assigned to specific emergency situations. This is the reason why it is so important for people and businesses to be prepared and learn what they can do to help themselves and neighbors in case of emergency.

A new program called "Safe Neighborhoods" has been developed throughout the state. As part of this program, elementary schools become shelters for those who need housing, minor medical care, food and other support. Everyone has an elementary school within walking distance, so this should become your destination.

If you need to locate family members, cell phone and landline phone service will be overloaded locally. You should designate an out-of-state contact person who all family can check in with. Usually in these circumstances long distance service is more reliable than local, although text messages may work well.

City council members will serve as liaison with residents in their districts and help to survey problem sites and assist residents with finding solutions to problems resulting from the disaster. We will visit the elementary school shelters and impacted areas to identify issues and special needs helping to connect people to the resources they require.

The city council may be called on to conduct special meetings in order to determine funding, legislation, policies, and resolutions to help manage the emergency and restore the city to "business as usual".

The statewide 2018 Shakeout earthquake exercise will be held on April 19, 2018 at 10:15 a.m. If you would like to get involved start by registering on the 2018 Shakeout website [www.shakeout.org/utah](http://www.shakeout.org/utah). You can sign-up as individuals, families, schools, businesses or other groups. Here you will find articles and suggestions on how to become better prepared.

So sign up today! Be a part of changing the culture of "waiting for help" to "being prepared". Remember on April 19th to "Drop! Cover! and Hold On!"