DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACT
2006 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: J. Stuart Adams
Senate Sponsor: Gregory S. Bell
LONG TITLE
General Description:
This bill modifies statutes related to disaster response and recovery and establishes a
criminal penalty for failing to comply with orders issued in relation to a disaster or state
of emergency.
Highlighted Provisions:
This bill:
<ul><li>provides definitions;</li></ul>
<ul> <li>provides that the chief executive officer of each political subdivision, rather than the</li> </ul>
governing body of the political subdivision, shall have primary authority to provide
rules and orders during an emergency or local disaster;
<ul> <li>provides the chief executive officer with certain powers and authority to act;</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>provides for the issuance of orders of evacuation;</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>provides a listing of emergency interim successors for political subdivision officers;</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>provides that emergency orders, rules, and regulations that are issued by a political</li> </ul>
subdivision or an agency of a political subdivision shall be filed at the office of the
clerk of the political subdivision;
<ul> <li>provides a criminal penalty for persons who fail to comply with an order to evacuate</li> </ul>
or other emergency order after having received notice of the order; and
<ul><li>makes technical changes.</li></ul>
Monies Appropriated in this Bill:
None
Other Special Clauses:

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30	None	
31	<b>Utah Code Sections Affected:</b>	
32	AMENDS:	
33	63-5a-2, as last amended by Chapter 12, Laws of Utah 1994	
34	63-5a-4, as enacted by Chapter 253, Laws of Utah 1981	
35	<b>63-5a-6</b> , as enacted by Chapter 253, Laws of Utah 1981	
36	63-5a-7, as last amended by Chapter 67, Laws of Utah 1984	
37	<b>63-5b-401</b> , as enacted by Chapter 294, Laws of Utah 1992	
38	ENACTS:	
39	<b>76-8-317</b> , Utah Code Annotated 1953	
40		
41	Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:	
42	Section 1. Section <b>63-5a-2</b> is amended to read:	
43	63-5a-2. Definitions.	
44	[(2)] (1) "Attack" means a nuclear, conventional, biological, or chemical warfare action	
45	against the United States of America or this state.	
46	(2) "Chief executive officer" means:	
47	(a) for a municipality:	
48	(i) the mayor for a municipality operating under all forms of municipal government	
49	except the council-manager form of government; or	
50	(ii) the city manager for a municipality operating under the council-manager form of	
51	government; or	
52	(b) for a county:	
53	(i) the chair of the county commission for a county operating under the county	
54	commission or expanded county commission form of government;	
55	(ii) the county executive officer for a county operating under the county-executive	
56	council form of government; or	
57	(iii) the county manager for a county operating under the council-manager form of	

58	government.
59	[(1)] (3) "Disaster" means a situation causing, or threatening to cause, widespread
60	damage, social disruption, or injury or loss of life or property resulting from attack, internal
61	disturbance, natural phenomenon or technological hazard.
62	[(3)] (4) "Internal disturbance" means a riot, prison break, disruptive terrorism or
63	strike.
64	[ <del>(7)</del> ] <u>(5)</u> "Local emergency" means a condition in any political subdivision of the state
65	which requires that emergency assistance be provided by the affected political subdivision to
66	save lives and protect property within its jurisdiction in response to a disaster, or to avoid or
67	reduce the threat of a disaster.
68	[(4)] (6) "Natural phenomenon" means any earthquake, tornado, storm, flood,
69	landslide, avalanche, forest or range fire, drought, or epidemic.
70	[ <del>(8)</del> ] (7) "Political subdivision" means municipality or county.
71	[(6)] (8) "State of emergency" means a condition in any part of this state which
72	requires state government emergency assistance to supplement the local efforts of the affected
73	political subdivision to save lives and to protect property, public health, welfare, and safety in
74	the event of a disaster or to avoid or reduce the threat of a disaster.
75	[(5)] (9) "Technological hazard" means any hazardous materials accident, mine
76	accident, train derailment, truck wreck, air crash, radiation incident, pollution, structural fire or
77	explosion.
78	Section 2. Section <b>63-5a-4</b> is amended to read:
79	63-5a-4. Authority of chief executive officers of political subdivisions Ordering
80	of evacuations.
81	(1) (a) In order to protect life and property when a state of emergency or local
82	emergency has been declared, the [governing body] chief executive officer of each political
83	subdivision of the state is authorized to:
84	(i) carry out, in [its] the chief executive officer's jurisdiction, the measures as may be
85	ordered by the governor under this [act] chapter; and

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86	(ii) take any additional measures the [governing body] chief executive officer may
87	[deem] consider necessary, subject to the limitations and provisions of this [act; provided, that
88	no such action shall be] chapter.
89	(b) The chief executive officer may not take an action that is inconsistent with any
90	order, rule, regulation, or action of the governor.
91	(2) When a state of emergency or local emergency is declared, the authority of the chief
92	executive officer includes:
93	(a) utilizing all available resources of the political subdivision as reasonably necessary
94	to manage a state of emergency or local emergency;
95	(b) employing measures and giving direction to local officers and agencies which are
96	reasonable and necessary for the purpose of securing compliance with the provisions of this
97	chapter and with orders, rules, and regulations made under this chapter;
98	(c) if necessary for the preservation of life, issuing an order for the evacuation of all or
99	part of the population from any stricken or threatened area within the political subdivision;
100	(d) recommending routes, modes of transportation, and destinations in relation to an
101	evacuation;
102	(e) suspending or limiting the sale, dispensing, or transportation of alcoholic beverages
103	explosives, and combustibles in relation to an evacuation, except that the chief executive
104	officer may not restrict the lawful bearing of arms;
105	(f) controlling ingress and egress to and from a disaster area, controlling the movement
106	of persons within a disaster area, and ordering the occupancy or evacuation of premises in a
107	disaster area;
108	(g) clearing or removing debris or wreckage that may threaten public health, public
109	safety, or private property from publicly or privately owned land or waters, except that where
110	there is no immediate threat to public health or safety, the chief executive officer shall not
111	exercise this authority in relation to privately owned land or waters unless:
112	(i) the owner authorizes the employees of designated local agencies to enter upon the
113	private land or waters to perform any tasks necessary for the removal or clearance; and

114	(ii) the owner provides an unconditional authorization for removal of the debris or
115	wreckage and agrees to indemnify the local and state government against any claim arising
116	from the removal; and
117	(h) invoking the provisions of any mutual aid agreement entered into by the political
118	subdivision.
119	(3) (a) If the chief executive is unavailable to issue an order for evacuation under
120	Subsection (2)(c), the chief law enforcement officer having jurisdiction for the area may issue
121	an urgent order for evacuation, for a period not to exceed 36 hours, if the order is necessary for
122	the preservation of life.
123	(b) The chief executive officer may ratify, modify, or revoke the chief law enforcement
124	officer's order.
125	(4) Notice of an order or the ratification, modification, or revocation of an order issued
126	under this section shall be:
127	(a) given to the persons within the jurisdiction by the most effective and reasonable
128	means available; and
129	(b) filed in accordance with Subsection 63-5a-7(1).
130	Section 3. Section <b>63-5a-6</b> is amended to read:
131	63-5a-6. Local emergency Declarations.
132	(1) (a) A ["local emergency"] local emergency may be declared by proclamation of the
133	[principal] chief executive officer of a political subdivision. [It]
134	(b) A local emergency shall not be continued or renewed for a period in excess of 30
135	days except by or with the consent of the governing body of the political subdivision.
136	(c) Any order or proclamation declaring, continuing, or terminating a ["local
137	emergency"] <u>local emergency</u> shall be filed promptly with the <u>office of the</u> clerk of the affected
138	political subdivision.
139	(2) A declaration of a ["local emergency" is] local emergency:
140	(a) constitutes an official recognition that a disaster situation exists within the affected
141	political subdivision [and];

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142	(b) provides a legal basis for requesting and obtaining state or federal government
143	disaster assistance[. The declaration];
144	(c) activates the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local disaster
145	emergency plans; and
146	(d) authorizes the furnishing of aid and assistance [pursuant thereto] in relation to the
147	proclamation.
148	(3) A ["local emergency"] local emergency proclamation issued under this section shall
149	state:
150	(a) the nature of the ["local emergency"] local emergency;
151	(b) the area or areas that are affected or threatened; and
152	(c) the conditions which caused the emergency.
153	Section 4. Section <b>63-5a-7</b> is amended to read:
154	63-5a-7. Orders, rules, and regulations having force of law Filing requirements
155	Suspension of state agency rules.
156	$(1)$ All orders, rules, and regulations promulgated by the governor, [or by any] $\underline{a}$
157	political subdivision, or other agency authorized by this act to make orders, rules, and
158	regulations, not in conflict with existing laws except as specifically provided herein, shall have
159	the full force and effect of law during the state of emergency, when[, in the event of issuance
160	by the governor, or any state agency,] a copy [thereof] of the order, rule, or regulation is filed
161	with:
162	(a) the Division of Archives, if issued by the governor or a state agency; or [, if
163	promulgated by]
164	(b) the office of the clerk of the political subdivision, if issued by the chief executive
165	officer of a political subdivision of the state or agency [thereof, when filed in the office of the
166	clerk of the political subdivision or agency promulgating the same] of the state.
167	(2) The governor may suspend the provisions of any order [or], rule, or regulation of
168	any state agency, if the strict compliance with the provisions of [such] the order, rule, or
169	regulation would substantially prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the

170	emergency or disaster.
171	Section 5. Section <b>63-5b-401</b> is amended to read:
172	63-5b-401. Emergency interim successors for local officers.
173	(1) By July 1 of each year, each political subdivision officer shall:
174	(a) designate three emergency interim successors;
175	(b) specify their order of succession; and
176	(c) provide a list of those designated successors to the division.
177	(2) In the event that a political subdivision does not designate emergency interim
178	successors as required under Subsection (1), the order of succession shall be as follows:
179	(a) the chief executive officer of the political subdivision;
180	(b) the chief deputy executive officer of the political subdivision;
181	(c) the chair of the legislative body of the political subdivision; and
182	(d) the chief law enforcement officer of the political subdivision.
183	[(2)] (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law:
184	(i) if any political subdivision officer or his legal deputy, if any, is unavailable, a
185	designated emergency interim successor shall exercise the powers and duties of the office
186	according to the order of succession specified by the political subdivision officer; or
187	(ii) counties may provide by ordinance that one member of the county legislative body
188	may act as the county legislative body if the other members are absent.
189	(b) An emergency interim successor shall exercise the powers and duties of the office
190	only until:
191	(i) the vacancy is filled in accordance with the constitution or statutes; or
192	(ii) the political subdivision officer, his deputy, or an emergency interim successor
193	earlier in the order of succession becomes available to exercise the powers and duties of the
194	office.
195	[(3)] (4) The legislative bodies of each political subdivision may enact resolutions or
196	ordinances consistent with this chapter and also provide for emergency interim successors to
197	officers of the political subdivision not governed by this section.

198	Section 6. Section <b>76-8-317</b> is enacted to read:
199	76-8-317. Refusal to comply with order to evacuate or other orders issued in a
200	local or state emergency Penalties.
201	(1) A person may not refuse to comply with an order to evacuate issued under this
202	chapter or refuse to comply with any other order issued by the governor in a state of an
203	emergency or by a chief executive officer in a local emergency under Sections 65-5a-3 or
204	65-5a-4, if notice of the order has been given to that person.
205	(2) A person who violates this section is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

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