

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

WHEREAS, A natural disaster is any event or force of nature that has catastrophic consequences, such as avalanche, earthquake, flood, forest fire, hurricane, lightning, tornado, tsunami, and volcanic eruption;^{1,2} and

WHEREAS, Man-made disasters are the result of human intent, error, or as a result of failed systems, which can be divided into categories such as terrorism, technological hazards, transportation hazards and environmental accidents;^{3,4} and

WHEREAS, In 2015, the United States was reported as the second highest country in the occurrence of natural disasters and there were a reported a total of 11,774 terrorist attacks worldwide, resulting in more than 28,300 total deaths and more than 35,300 people injured;^{5,6} and

WHEREAS, Utah Administrative Code R277-400 requires all schools to establish and practice an emergency preparedness and response plan specific to their school's needs;⁷ and

WHEREAS, Since being prepared can reduce the fear, anxiety, losses that accompany disasters, communities, families, and individuals should know what to do in the event of a disaster;^{8,9} now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations work to provide for the safety and survival of all children in a disaster by collaborating with schools, cities, first responders and parents by adopting and maintaining an all-hazards approach in the school's emergency preparedness and response plans specific to their school's needs; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations work with Utah schools to educate and train students, parents, staff and first responders on their school's emergency preparedness and response plan by facilitating drills and exercises including evacuation, lockdown, shelter-in-place and reunification; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations promote public awareness on the importance of creating personal, family and community preparedness plans; and be it further

Resolved, That Utah PTA and its constituent associations urge local and state policy makers to update policies to current standards, facilitate multiagency coordination, promote education and fund comprehensive emergency preparedness plans.

(Updates SAF 1977-3 and SAF 1983-2)

Documentation:

¹<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/natural-disaster>

²<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/natural%20disaster>

³<https://www.co.mchenry.il.us/county-government/departments-a-i/health-department/emergency-preparedness-response/terrorism-man-made-disasters>

⁴<http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/man-made-disaster.html>

⁵<http://reliefweb.int/report/world/annual-disaster-statistical-review-2015-numbers-and-trends>

⁶<https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2015/257526.htm>

⁷<https://rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r277/r277-400.htm>

⁸https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1549-20490-4325/why_prepare.pdf

⁹Be Ready Utah. “Guide to Personal and Family Preparedness.”,

marketing.mediaoneutah.com/uploads/d44322742fa12ee6f0e0be039794d797EmergencyPreparedness081611.pdf