

Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology and Nevada Division of Emergency Management and Nevada Earthquake Safety Council

Earthquake programs in Nevada are interconnected among state and local agencies through the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council. The lead agencies are the Nevada Division of Emergency Management (www.dem.state.nv.us), the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (www.nbmj.unr.edu), and the Nevada Seismological Laboratory (www.seismo.unr.edu). The Council facilitates public input, develops consensus about seismic issues within public and private sectors, and is the public advisory body for state seismic policy. Minutes of the Council's quarterly meetings and related documents are posted at www.nbmj.unr.edu/nesc/index.html.

The 2006-2007 year was an eventful one for Nevada with a successful joint meeting with the Utah Seismic Safety Commission and the Nevada Earthquake Safety Council in St. George, Utah and the Western States Seismic Policy Council annual meeting, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the International Code Council, in Reno, Nevada. Utah and Nevada both have large rural and frontier areas exposed to earthquake hazards and would like to know what the most effective ways are to prepare these areas for earthquakes and how to respond to a disaster in rural areas; thus, the states are jointly promoting putting together a Rural Earthquake Disaster Summit. At the WSSPC meeting, one of the sessions included marketing and risk communication experts discussing ways to improve the earthquake safety, preparedness, and mitigation messages for the public. Hopefully this session will help reinvigorate efforts to motivate people to be prepared for earthquakes.

The updated Nevada State Hazard Mitigation Plan has received approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and includes 10 earthquake-related action items:

1. Retrofit and mitigate shaking hazards in Nevada emergency facilities.
2. Create Planning Special Consideration Zones for Nevada communities to avoid building over faults.
3. Create a Nevada earthquake Internet site.
4. Insert "Living with Earthquakes in Nevada" into Nevada newspapers.
5. Develop detailed earthquake disaster planning scenarios.
6. Successfully recover from an earthquake disaster.
7. Teach Nevada teachers about earthquake safety in workshops and classes and through curricula.
8. Inventory and retrofit seismically dangerous buildings.
9. Develop live and Internet-based workshops for professionals and citizens on building with seismic resistance, seismic retrofit methodologies, nonstructural hazard mitigation, and earthquake geology for geotechnical professionals.
10. Identify and characterize earthquake hazards in Nevada, including microzonation of urban areas.

The statewide emergency management assistance compact (EMAC) has been ratified, although it is undergoing revision. This compact allows for funds to be recovered after mutual assistance has been given between counties and/or incorporated cities during a disastrous event.

In November 2007 the Nevada Working Group on Quaternary Faults was convened at the University of Nevada, Reno. The 23-member Working Group reviewed 11 of the highest risk faults in Nevada and made recommendations for future research.

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