

# *Salt Lake City “SAFE” Neighborhoods Project*

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*“SAFE”: Schools Aid Families in Emergencies*

*Tag Line: “Walk to School”*

*Re: American Red Cross Utah Region/ Salt Lake City Schools/ Salt Lake City/ Community joint reunification, evacuation, sheltering, & mass care project*

## **Project Justification**

The Great Utah ShakeOut full-scale earthquake exercise was very valuable for Salt Lake City. It allowed us to implement, test, and refine the Earthquake Annex of the Salt Lake City Emergency Operations Plan. One of the most significant and troubling lessons learned is that Salt Lake City, its response partners, and stakeholders are currently ill equipped to manage the reunification, reception, sheltering, and evacuation requirements that will be presented after a catastrophic disaster. To be clear, it's not a matter of a lack of concern, will, or expertise within Salt Lake City departments or partner agencies. As with all of the other aspects of the response, it is largely a matter of human resources and supplies.

Based on projection models using the most accurate data available to date, it is estimated that after an earthquake of a 7.0 magnitude, 30,000 to 60,000 people will be displaced in Salt Lake City alone. This does not include the impacts to the Salt Lake Valley as a whole. Consequently, local emergency response resources will be strained due to compromised transportation corridors and other infrastructure components. As a result, requests for response and assistance from external assets will be delayed. We simply will not possess the number of response personnel or sheltering supplies and equipment to address this most impacting consequence of such a disaster for several days.

However, this is not an unsolvable problem. We are fortunate to live in a city where there is no shortage of people who have the desire and will to give of themselves to make a difference in times of need. Building on this knowledge the Salt Lake City Office of Emergency Management in partnership with the American Red Cross Utah Region and Salt Lake City Schools are implementing the Salt Lake City “SAFE” Communities Project to better prepare Salt Lake City to mitigate the impact of such catastrophic events.

## **Project Partners**

- Salt Lake City Departments
- American Red Cross Utah Region
- Salt Lake City School District
- Salt Lake City Community School Councils
- Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs)

## **Project Components & Providers**

- Facilities - Salt Lake City School District(s)
- Training Staff - SLC Public Services (Parks & Public Lands), American Red Cross Utah Region
- Comprehensive Shelter Kits - SLC Emergency Management, American Red Cross Utah Region
- Human Needs supplies - American Red Cross Utah Region, private sector partners, residents

