

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

### Declaring a State of Emergency Due to Magnitude 5.7 Earthquake

**WHEREAS**, On March 18, 2020, a magnitude 5.7 earthquake and nearly 50 aftershocks (hereinafter, the “earthquake”) struck Utah, centered near the township of Magna, Salt Lake County;

**WHEREAS**, The earthquake caused significant damage in multiple counties along the Wasatch Front;

**WHEREAS**, Impacts from earthquakes are a threat to public safety and property;

**WHEREAS**, Many of the communities affected by the earthquake are also responding to the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, limiting resources;

**WHEREAS**, Numerous local communities have declared or are declaring local states of emergency due to COVID-19, are now declaring for the earthquake, and have requested resources and support from state departments and agencies to assist them in dealing with these emergencies;

**WHEREAS**, The Utah Division of Emergency Management has temporarily activated the State Emergency Operations Center to a Level 1;

**WHEREAS**, The Utah National Guard, Utah Department of Transportation, and Utah Geological Survey, among others, have deployed resources in response to the earthquake;

**WHEREAS**, The American Red Cross has opened a disaster shelter in West Valley City to aid individuals displaced by the earthquake;

**WHEREAS**, Declaring a state of emergency will facilitate the protection of persons and property from the impacts of the earthquake and will expedite the use of state resources and the deployment of federal and interstate resources, if required;

**WHEREAS**, Declaring a state of emergency will also permit the State to request and receive mutual aid assistance from other states through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, if required;

**WHEREAS**, The conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property due to the earthquake create a state of emergency within the intent of the Utah Disaster Response and Recovery Act, Utah Code § 53-2a-101 et seq.;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Gary R. Herbert, Governor of the State of Utah, declare a “State of Emergency” due to the aforesaid circumstances requiring aid, assistance, and relief available from state resources and hereby order:

1. The continued execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan;
2. Assistance from state government to political subdivisions as needed;
3. Coordination with local authorities and the private sector to maximize response and recovery; and
4. The Division of Emergency Management to ensure adequate state staffing to expedite disaster response and recovery efforts.
5. This State of Emergency is declared and effective immediately and shall remain in effect until I find the threat or danger has passed or the disaster reduced to the extent that emergency conditions no longer exist.

IN TESTIMONY, WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Utah this 20th day of March 2020.

(State Seal)

**Gary R. Herbert**  
Governor

ATTEST:

**Spencer J. Cox**  
Lieutenant Governor

2020/006/EO