

# THE PREPAREDNESS POST

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
YEAR 3, ISSUE 2

## UDOH Goes Green for the New Unified State Lab *by Charla Haley*

One of the newest state-owned buildings is also one of the greenest in Utah. In April, Utah Department of Health (UDOH) officials, along with Governor Gary R. Herbert, celebrated the opening of the new Unified State Lab (USL). Solar panels provide 10-15% of the heavy electricity needs and windows are “daylighted,” meaning they’re large on the outside, bringing light deep into the building. But, the building’s crowning glory is its cool, green, living roof. “When you put the green roof on, the temperature drops to approximately 70 degrees, and it will stay that way even if the outside temperature is 110,” says Dr. Patrick Luedtke, UDOH Laboratory Director.

Funded by the State Legislature in 2007, the USL is a three-story, 78,000 sq. ft. facility that houses a variety of public health labs and includes such modern features as negative air pressure lab spaces and dedicated BSL3 (Bio-safety Level 3) facilities. These features allow for better and safer testing of potentially dangerous chemicals and organisms like tuberculosis and pandemic influenza. Scientists at the Unified State Lab detected Utah’s first cases of H1N1 influenza last year.

“The work that occurs inside this laboratory is critical to ensuring



**Unified State Lab: Public Health exterior shot**

Utahns’ health and well-being on a daily basis,” said Gov. Herbert. “This facility is truly state-of-the-art, and it allows our public health professionals and scientists to better respond to the needs of Utah’s growing population.”

Other lab services provided by staff at the USL include:

- Detecting, identifying and responding to emerging disease threats
- Disease screening for newborns
- Drinking water testing
- Alcohol and drug testing for more than 200 Utah law enforcement agencies
- Soil, air and wastewater testing

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**To find Preparedness Training information:**



<https://www.utah.train.org>

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### New Lab continued

- Certification of more than 1,500 clinical and environmental labs throughout the state
- Chemical and biological terrorism preparedness and response
- Forensic toxicology testing for the State Medical Examiner

“Public health’s ability to rapidly and accurately detect disease in our community is paramount to our being able to stop a disease outbreak in its tracks,” said UDOH Executive Director Dr. David Sundwall. “From newborn disease screening, to air, water and soil testing, to chemical and bioterrorism preparedness, the lab is an important tool in ensuring the public’s well being.”

Future plans for the USL site include construction of two more buildings that will consolidate lab functions from the Department of Agriculture and Food, Department of Public Safety and the Office of the Medical Examiner. The site also includes plans for a “Power Park” to demonstrate renewable energy systems using wind, solar and geothermal power.

The USL was designed and constructed through a collaborative design process by VCBOI Architecture, Smith Group and Big-D Construction, and is managed in partnership with the state’s Division of Facilities Construction and Management.



**UDOH PIO Tom Hudachko with  
2010 Silver Telly Award**

The Utah Department of Health, with sincere thanks to Penna Powers Brian Haynes (PPBH), the advertising agency that produced the UDOH flu fighter campaign, won top honors in the 2010 Telly Awards.

Since 1978, the Telly Awards have honored the very best local, regional, and cable television commercials and programs, the finest video and film productions, and work created for the Web.

The 2010 competition attracted more than 13,000 entries from all 50 states and five continents.

The highest honor, the silver award, went to the UDOH “Be a Flu Fighter” TV ad. The Department also received a second place award for the Flu Fighter viral video. A third honor, marking the first time entries were judged by peers via the Telly Award’s Youtube channel, was a bronze People’s Telly, also for the viral video.

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**UDOH Web sites:  
health.utah.gov (main)  
health.utah.gov/preparedness  
health.utah.gov/ems**

## **Hard Work Brings Recognition *by Charla Haley*** ***Kudos to the Utah Department of Health***

Utah Governor Gary Herbert signed a declaration designating the week of May 3-9, 2010, as a time to recognize the service provided by state employees. As part of that recognition, the Governor honored the Utah Department of Health (UDOH), H1N1 Pandemic Response Team with a Governor's Award for Excellence in the area of outstanding public service.

The Governor's Award for Excellence couldn't have been accomplished without an effective collaboration between the UDOH and the twelve Utah local health departments (LHD). The Utah LHD staff were partners with UDOH employees in implementing H1N1 response activities.

In the spring of 2009, officials in Mexico begin to notice an increase in influenza-like illness. In April, California and Texas became the first areas in the United States to report illness due to an apparent new influenza virus. Eventually, scientists were able to link the two outbreaks to the virus that was named Pandemic Influenza A or H1N1. Over the next few months, the virus spread rapidly in the United States and eventually globally. On April 26, 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) declared a public health emergency in the United States, and on June 11, 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the onset of the Pandemic of 2009.

Initially, the severity of illness caused by the new virus was unknown and the outbreak in Mexico suggested the virus had the potential of becoming very severe. Pandemic influenza A (H1N1) was a new virus to which humans had not been previously exposed.

Utah reported its first cases in May 2009. Until the time CDC stopped tracking cases by state, Utah had the highest hospitalization and death rates in the United States. (During the spring outbreak, Utah recorded 431 hospitalizations and 21 deaths, making it one of the hardest hit areas.) Utah was also one of the few states to experience active outbreaks in both spring and fall waves. The fall outbreak lasted into December, resulting in over 800 hospitalizations and 28 deaths.

Among other things, Utah Department of Health employees were responsible for:

- Implementing laboratory testing to detect the virus and assist with diagnosis and treatment;
- Establishing surveillance (disease tracking) systems to detect and track the progress of the outbreak in Utah;
- Communicating to the public about the progress of the outbreak and what Utahns should do to protect themselves, their families, their workplaces, and the public;
- Managing the vaccination program;
- Developing guidance to assist with laboratory diagnosis, treatment with antiviral medications, infection control, workplace policies, and many other issues;
- Coordinating complex public health response efforts among multiple UDOH programs, Utah's local health departments, Utah hospitals, tribes, and other response partners.

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## Professional Development Zone *by Christine Warren*

### C.A.K.E. *Adapted by Christine Warren from Robert Thompson*

I love cake. No, really, give me a large piece of double chocolate cake smothered with dark chocolate gelato and cover it with melted, dark chocolate syrup and I'm in seventh heaven, as they say.

Just don't give it to me that often. It's about the waistline.

Although there are probably dozens of ways to do so, I don't usually combine my love of chocolate cake with a **Message About Leadership**.

A client of mine, knowing my affinity for using acronyms to anchor a point, challenged me to create a way to use the word "cake" in a leadership lesson.

Challenge accepted.

You may be familiar with my mantra: "**leadership is a moment-to-moment choice.**" Well, that's our starting point. Let's grab a fork and dig in to our **C.A.K.E.**

#### **C.A.K.E.**

**C= Choice**...Real leaders know it's all about the choices they make each day. Leadership takes **Courage** to be yourself and allow others to do the same. **Clarity** of purpose and how your values affect the world you walk in is instrumental. **Creativity** is essential. Real leaders love to stretch their thinking and create new avenues for success. And, of course, **Commitment** is crucial for yourself and others. Without commitment, nothing changes. Not you. Not them. Nothing.

**A=Action**... Real leaders don't sit around and wait for the action to come to them. They go after what they want with **Audacity**. They use the Law of **Attraction** to **Ask, Act** and **Accept** that the outcome they desire is only a matter of time. They have the **Ability** to see the perspective of others and inspire them. They see **Adversity** as a challenge to their vision only to be overcome.

**K=Kindness**...Real leaders lead with grace. They are **Kind** to themselves and others. They offer **Keys** to success to those who join with them.

**E=Energy**...Real leaders derive their energy from their passion. They jump into each morning with childlike wonder knowing they create that day with their attitude. They offer **Encouragement** to others and **Enable** them to aspire to great heights. Real leaders are always learners. Whether each action creates success or not, they learn from every outcome and **Evolve**.

**Robert H. Thompson is the Author of *The Offsite: A Leadership Challenge Fable***

### ***Hard Work Brings Recognition continued***

Utah Department of Health employees involved in the response worked long hours under stressful conditions, adapting to new challenges under conditions of uncertainty and rapidly changing information. They maintained a high level of professionalism in the face of stress and the pressure to prevent human illness and death.

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Ready  
Utah

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[www.BeReadyUtah.com](http://www.BeReadyUtah.com)**

## Exciting Changes Coming for UNIS

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The Utah Notification and Information System (UNIS) is undergoing some significant and important changes. UNIS is the secure notification and communication system used to exchange information and alerts within and among agencies, organizations and disciplines throughout Utah.

One big difference is that going forward, UNIS will be hosted in two separate data centers, providing both redundancy and increased reliability. The new system will also be fully compliant with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Information Network standards. Compliance with these standards ensures that UNIS meets grant guidelines, which provides system sustainability.

The new UNIS features an updated web layout which is more intuitive than the previous system. The new layout makes navigating through the site much easier and also incorporates new reporting features, etc. Registration for the new system is all web-based and it will only take you a few minutes to create an account. The system will still distribute information via e-mail, fax and phone, but also supports SMS/Text messaging. The UDOH is currently working to train UNIS administrators on the new system. The administrators will be notifying their contacts to request that they register in the new system.

## Preparing for the Upcoming Flu Season *by Becky Ward*

The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) and Utah Adult Immunization Coalition (UAIC) are hosting the annual Influenza Summit on Wednesday, August 25, 2010. It's a chance for public and private health care professionals to get together to address issues surrounding influenza vaccine and pandemic planning.

Sessions scheduled during the Summit include information on public health messages, surveillance planning, health care worker vaccination, school-based vaccination strategies, and a panel discussion with health care professionals about innovative vaccination strategies.

Influenza vaccination is routinely recommended for specific groups, such as young children, elderly persons, pregnant women and anyone with known health risks. This year's vaccine will protect against three strains of the influenza virus--the H1N1-like virus (A/California/7/2009) along with two other strains (A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus and a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus) and is recommended for everyone, regardless of age or risk.

The UDOH encourages everyone to get the influenza vaccine. Several formulations of influenza vaccine are available, including the nasal spray, shot and "thimerosal-free" version. To locate an influenza vaccination clinic, visit the Utah Flu Vaccine Locator at [www.immunize-utah.org](http://www.immunize-utah.org).

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Upcoming events—July—Sept. 2010

U-TRAIN [www.utah.train.org](http://www.utah.train.org)

DATE	Conferences / Events	Organization Sponsorship	Location	Registration Information	Contact
July 20-21	SNS Mass Antibiotic Dispensing (MAD)	UDOH Bureau of EMS/ Preparedness SNS Program	On-Site Weber/Morgan Health Dept. Ogden, UT	<b>NO COST</b> <b>Reg. Approval</b> <b>Reg @</b> <b>U-Train</b> <b>Course#</b> <b>1022761</b>	Christine Warren <a href="mailto:christinewarren@utah.gov">christinewarren@utah.gov</a> Don Wood <a href="mailto:donwood@utah.gov">donwood@utah.gov</a>
July 23	SNS Public Information & Communication (PIC)	UDOH Bureau of EMS/ Preparedness SNS Program	On-Site Weber/Morgan Health Dept. Ogden, UT	<b>NO COST</b> <b>Reg. Approval</b> <b>Reg @</b> <b>U-Train</b> <b>Course#</b> <b>1022816</b>	Christine Warren <a href="mailto:christinewarren@utah.gov">christinewarren@utah.gov</a> Don Wood <a href="mailto:donwood@utah.gov">donwood@utah.gov</a>
Aug. 6	Current EMS COURSE COORDINATOR Training 6:00 – 7:00 PM	UDOH Bureau of EMS/ Preparedness	On-Site Park City Yarrow Hotel 1800 Park Ave. Park City, UT	<b>\$50.00</b> <b>Reg @</b> <b>U-Train</b> <b>Course#</b> <b>1022911</b>	Riki Rice 801-273-6631 <a href="mailto:rikirice@utah.gov">rikirice@utah.gov</a>
Aug. 6	2-DAY Course Current EMS INSTRUCTORS COURSE Training 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	UDOH Bureau of EMS/ Preparedness	On-Site Park City Yarrow Hotel 1800 Park Ave. Park City, UT	<b>\$150.00</b> <b>Reg @</b> <b>U-Train</b> <b>Course#</b> <b>1022910</b>	Riki Rice 801-273-6631 <a href="mailto:rikirice@utah.gov">rikirice@utah.gov</a>
Aug. 6	Current EMS TRAINING OFFICER 4:45 PM - 5:45 PM	UDOH Bureau of EMS/ Preparedness	On-Site Park City Yarrow Hotel 1800 Park Ave. Park City, UT	<b>\$50.00</b> <b>Reg @</b> <b>U-Train</b> <b>Course#</b> <b>1022912</b>	Riki Rice 801-273-6631 <a href="mailto:rikirice@utah.gov">rikirice@utah.gov</a>

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Upcoming events—July—Sept. 2010  
(continued)

DATE	Conferences / Events	Organization Sponsorship	Location	Registration Information	Contact
Aug. 25	Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD)  WEBINAR TRAINING: “Emotional Fatigue”	UDOH Bureau of EMS/ Preparedness  and Utah Peace Officers Standards & Training (POST)	WEBINAR: LIVE On-Line @ Computer	NO COST  Register on-line POST website	Christine Warren  <a href="mailto:christinewarren@utah.gov">christinewarren@utah.gov</a>  Debra Mechan  <a href="mailto:dmecham@utahvalley911.org">dmecham@utahvalley911.org</a>

SEPTEMBER IS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Bureau of EMS & Preparedness will have a variety of Preparedness Activities throughout the Month

Sep. 21 and Sep. 23	UDOH Employee Preparedness Training Disaster 101  1:00 – 3:00 PM	UDOH Bureau of EMS/ Preparedness	On-Site TBA	NO COST  UDOH Employees	Christine Warren (801) 273-6663  <a href="mailto:christinewarren@utah.gov">christinewarren@utah.gov</a>  Liz Tubbs (435) 419-1538  <a href="mailto:etubbs@utah.gov">etubbs@utah.gov</a>
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Additional Trainings from Homeland Security

To register for a HLS State Training go to UTRAIN at: [www.utah.train.org](http://www.utah.train.org)

Communications Interoperability Course (G575) - Course ID: 102017

For additional information and available dates [click here.](#)

 COOP Devolution Planning Workshop (L551) - Course ID: 1020176

For additional information and available dates [click here.](#)

 Debris Management Workshop (G202) - Course ID: 1015557

For additional information and available dates [click here.](#)

 Developing & Managing Volunteers (G244) - Course ID: 1020191

For additional information and available dates [click here.](#)

 Donations Management Workshop (G288) - Course ID: 1011068

For additional information and available dates [click here.](#)

 (HSEEP) Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation - Course ID: 101117

For additional information and available dates [click here.](#)

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**Additional Trainings from Homeland Security**

 **(HSEEP) Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation - TOOLKIT - Course ID: 101927**

For additional information and available dates [click here.](#)

 **ICS-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents - Course ID: 1011051**

For additional information and available dates [click here.](#)

 **ICS 400 Advanced-ICS Command & General Staff Complex Incidents - Course ID: 1011057**

For additional information and available dates [click here.](#)

 **ICS/EOC Interface (G191) - Course ID: 1011067**

For additional information and available dates [Click here.](#)

 **Mass Fatalities Incident Response (G386) - Course ID: 1019680**

For additional information and available dates [click here.](#)

 **Mitigation Planning Workshop for Local Governments (G318) - Course ID: 1013133**

For additional information and available dates [click here.](#)

 **PIO - Basic Public Information Officer Course (G290) - Course ID: 1011053**

For additional information and available dates [click here.](#)

 **PIO - Joint Information System/Center Planning for Tribal, State, & Local Public Information Officers (G291) - Course ID: 1020466**

For additional information and available dates [click here.](#)

 **RACES/ARES Conference**

For additional information and available dates [click here.](#)

 **Water Sector Interdependencies - Course ID: 1023162**

For additional information and available dates [click here.](#)