

## Mayor's Message: December 2010



**Mayor Russ Wall**

As I write this, I am attending Emergency Management Training sponsored by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). As a City, we have spent an enormous amount of time learning and practicing proper policies and procedures in the event of a disaster. We have trained with other cities, Salt Lake County, the State of Utah and also the Federal Government. The goal is to protect lives, property, and the environment in the event of disaster.

The most likely natural disaster we face in our area is earthquake, so most of our training revolves around that scenario. We also plan for smaller and more localized incidents such as hazardous material spills, plane crashes, weather phenomena, and terrorist attack.

Although I feel very confident in the ability of our police and fire departments to respond to community needs on a daily basis, as well as small localized emergencies, it is apparent that government resources will be overwhelmed in a citywide or countywide incident. We do have citizen groups that have been trained to help within their neighborhoods to supplement government efforts, but even that resource will be limited in a disaster.

We have all witnessed television coverage of natural disasters in various parts of the country. They all seem to have one thing in common. Each incident exposes the lack of readiness on the part of the individuals in the community. We have also been told for years to prepare in our own homes and families for emergencies. Unfortunately, many of us have not yet done so. If you are not yet prepared, I would encourage you to go to [www.bereadyutah.gov](http://www.bereadyutah.gov) or go to the City website [www.taylorsvilleut.gov](http://www.taylorsvilleut.gov) for a link. On this site you can learn what you should do to minimize the negative effects of a disaster to you and your family. It may take some time and effort on your part.....

Is your family worth it?

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russ Wall". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Is your family worth it?".