



Gem County LEPC
April 18th2023
Meeting Minutes

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Gem County Local Emergency Planning Committee is an organized gathering of community members, response agencies, organizations, and public officials, sanctioned by Congress to work together prior to any emergency, natural or man-made disaster, or hazardous material incident, in an attempt to improve planning, response, and coordination as well as the mutual understanding of capabilities and resources to the situation.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Gem County Local Emergency Planning Committee is to enhance capabilities in order to successfully mitigate, respond to, and recover from emergency situations in Gem Co community.

In Attendance:

Liz Bolts, American Red Cross	Ricky Bowman, Southwest Dist. Health
Bill Butticci, Gem Co. Commissioners	Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Dist.
Mike Darling, Emmett Police Dept.	Liz Gochnour, LEPC Secretary
Sgt. Greco, 101 st CST	Tahja Jensen, Gem Co. Prosecutor
Mike Knittel, City of Emmett	Steve Kunka, Emmett Police Dept.
Bev Martin, Gem Co. Sheriff's Posse/ Fire Dist. #2	Joe Mayer, Member of the Public
Heidi Novich, IOEM	Len McCaulou, Gem Co. EMS
Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioners	Lorrie Pahl, IOEM
Dave Timony, Gem Co. Sherriff	Margaret Romiti, Valor Health
Trudy Wadsworth, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	Jeff Ulmer, Gem Co. Emergency Mgr.
Mike Welch, Gem Co. Fire/EMS	Barbara Weber, American Red Cross
	Kyle Welch, Gem Co. Fire/EMS
	Kirk Wille, Gem Co. Commissioners

Meeting called to order by Chief Christensen at 8:30a.m.

Approval of February 21st, 2023 Minutes:

- Motion to approve February 21st, 2023 minutes by Dave Timony. 2nd by Chief Welch. Motion passes, minutes approved.

Kyle Welch, Gem County Fire and EMS: Push 2 Talk Technology for Gem County and Emmett First Responders and Law Enforcement:

- Zello Push 2 Talk will provide personnel the ability to talk over designated channels and to dispatch from their cell phones. Reserve staff will no longer need to carry a pager or radio, just their cell phones.
- If the internet goes down at the EMS garage or cell phone service is down, this ability does go down.
- Transmission and messages can be recorded in order to go back and review the calls. Location tracking cannot be done at this time.
- If this works well, it could replace radios for EMS volunteer staff when they are on-call and not on in the ambulance.
- The app offers true encryption. People cannot listen to the call unless they have access to the app. Once access is no longer needed for the personnel, their access is deleted.
- Costs for similar systems are \$5 a month per user which would be a cost saving benefit for us. Base costs for radios are running between \$800 - \$1000 with additional costs for chargers and batteries.
- Bev Martin: Is this to replace Chief 360? Kyle: No, it will not. It is just to replace the hand-held radio. Bev: What is the subscription cost? Kyle: They guaranteed us five years for free.

- Trudy Wadsworth: In the event of an extended power outage, how long can our county run on backup power? Mike Welch: We do have a backup generator that will run for as long as needed. Fuel just needs to be re-filled.

Public Comments:

- No public comments.

General Reports:

- **Bev Martin, Gem County Fire District #2/Sherriff's Posse:** People are still getting stuck in the snow in around Sage Hen. Turn around before you hit snow to avoid sliding off and getting stuck. They have had several call outs on controlled burns get out of control. There was a barn fire from heat lamps. Use caution with all heat sources. Their burn ban runs through May 10th. People don't realize how much old grass is still out there. They have had one range fire from old grass.
- **Heidi Novich, Idaho Office of Emergency Management:** Flooding potential – Parts of the state have already had flooding. If sand bags are needed, contact IOEM with a 2–4-day lead time for assistance with sand bags. Army Corps of Engineers do have sand bags, but has asked to go through the process with the State to get them.
- **Barbara Weber, American Red Cross:** They have a new direct first-responders line to report single family home fires—it will be emailed to Jeff to distribute to group. In the event of flooding, if it looks like people will be displaced, please give a heads up to open a shelter. Contact Barbara or Liz B.
- **Gem County Commissioners:** With all the snow in the upper county, Third Fork Road washed out. They are keeping an eye on the river for flooding. Youth Appreciation Day will be Sat, April 29th at the Island. The canopy at the Fairgrounds is going up.
- **Chief Welch, Gem County Fire District #1/EMS:** They went out on 31 calls last month, 17 were car accidents. They added 5 new members to the volunteer roster. They will be having a training at the Waste Water Treatment plant.
- **Jeff Ulmer, Gem County Emergency Management:** He has been monitoring the flood plain for potential flooding with 3 monitors in place. So far it is still under half. He drove around the high county in Ola with the Road and Bridge Dept. and there is still snow. He had a meeting with Idaho Power reviewing their Mitigation plan with the other EMs in the Snake River area. There will be a regional EM workshop tomorrow.
- **Chief Kunka, Emmett Police Department:** POST was canceled the January training for patrol. Two officers will be going to the May training and one in September. They hired a new officer that will be a lateral move and will not have to go through training.
- **Chief Christensen, City of Emmett Fire:** Three members went to a firemanship conference at Boise State about coordinated ventilation and nozzle work. More smoke detectors are needed. They have six car seats being installed this week. Three staff are certified to install car seats and can replace them. Call for an appointment. They have had no chimney fires for two years. They have had three dryer fires this year. They are usually caused by oily rags not being cleaned properly. Not properly cleaning them and then putting them into the dryer provides all that's needed to start a fire - Fuel, Oxygen, & Heat. After drying them, separate them and let them cool completely before folding them and storing them. This will remove the residual heat that can cause a fire to start. They will be working on education with the community.

Motion to adjourn by Len McCaulou. 2nd by Dave Timony. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16th at 8:30 a.m. We will be meeting in person, and via zoom. Please see reminder email for more detailed direction.