



Gem County LEPC  
April 16<sup>th</sup> 2024  
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:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Commissioner Bill Butticci,<br>Gem Co.            | Neal Capps, City of Emmett<br>Road and Bridge                       |
| Chief Curt Christensen, City of<br>Emmett Fire    | Chad Dutcher, City of Emmett Fire                                   |
| Liz Gochmour, LEPC Secretary                      | Mike Giery, City of Emmett Fire                                     |
| Tahja Jensen, Gem Co. Prosecutor                  | Matthew Humphrey, Gem Co.<br>Development Services                   |
| Chief Steve Kunka, City of Emmett<br>Police Dept. | Bev Martin, Gem Co. Fire Dist. #2/<br>Ola Community/Sheriff's Posse |
| Joe Mayer, Member of the Public                   | Dep. Chief Len McCaulou, Gem<br>Co. EMS                             |
| Renee McDaniel, Valor Health                      | Mayor Gordon Petrie, City of Emmett                                 |
| Janet Monti, Friendship Coalition                 | Molly Smith, Southwest Dist. Health                                 |
| Commissioner Mark Rekow, Gem Co.                  | Kyle Welch, Gem Co. Fire/Ems  |
| Jeff Ulmer, Gem Co. Emergency Mgr.                | Commissioner Kirk Wille, Gem Co.                                    |
| Chief Mike Welch, Gem Co. Fire/EMS                |   |

**Meeting called to order by Chief Christensen at 8:30am.**

**Public Comments (3 Minutes):**

- No Public Comments.

**Approval of March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Minutes (3 Minutes):**

- Motion to approve by Mayor Petrie. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Welch. Motion passes.

**Flooding Probability Forecast, Jeff Ulmer: Gem County Emergency Management (20 Minutes):**

- Jeff attended a Webinar that included the Idaho Office of Emergency Management, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (National Weather Service), and the Army Corps of Engineers. This is some of the takeaways that pertain to Gem County and is serving as a pre-flood meeting.
- Season in Review: Our snowpack was heavy enough and with rain it was enough to fill our reservoirs.
- Current Snowpack and Reservoir Situation: Reservoirs are full.
- El-Nino weakening and expected to end in Spring 2024 which will bring warmer temperatures and possibly less snow this coming winter.
- Above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation favored this Spring.
- Flood Potential for streams South of Snake River – above normal.
- Flood Potential for streams in Central Idaho – normal.
- Flood Potential for streams in Northern Idaho – low.
- US Army Corps of Engineers: Public Law 84-99, Emergency Response to Natural Disasters: USACE's basic authority to provide for emergency activities in support of State, Local, and Tribal governments prior to, during, and after a flood event. Allows the Corps to provide both emergency technical and direct

assistance in response to flood and coastal storms. Also allow the Corps to assist when flood threat occurs due to earthquake damage. Assistance must be requested by the State (except for Tribal interests) and it must be supplemental to State and Local actions.

- We have sandbags and pumps that have been provided by USACE to use during a flood. They are located at the new Road and Bridge facility. Contact Jeff or Neal if needed.
- Types of Assistance authorized under PL84-99: Emergency Operations – Technical Assistance Onsite or Virtual. Direct Assistance: Flood fight material issuance (sandbags, pumps, etc.), emergency contracting to raise and stabilized threatened flood risk management projects. Post-Flood Assistance: Special authority to cover the gap between the end of disaster and the issuance of presidential disaster declaration. Advance Measures: May be provided in order to prevent or reduce damages when there is an imminent threat of unusual flooding, technical assistance, and temporary projects.
- Flood After Fire: Fire removes ground cover preventing water from absorbing into the ground increasing the risk for flash floods and mudslides to those located below or downstream of the burn areas.

### General Reports (10 Minutes):

- **Jeff Ulmer for Janet Monti, Friendship Coalition:** The Friendship Coalition does have the means to provide food to individuals displaced by an evacuation.
- **Renee McDaniel, Valor Health:** A Cyber Security workgroup has been created.
- **Deputy Chief Len McCaulou, Gem Co. EMS:** They had 188 calls for service last month which is above norms from last year.
- **Neal Capps, City of Emmett Road and Bridge:** They have several projects going throughout the County with one of their big projects happening on Substation Rd.
- **Chief Mike Welch, Gem Co. Fire Dist. #1:** The burn ban in the County will be from July 1<sup>st</sup> – September 15<sup>th</sup>. They will have an auto extrication class on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.
- **Molly Smith, Southwest District Health:** There will be a Regional Readiness Rendezvous Conference on April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise. Featured Sessions: St. Luke's Response to Civil Unrest, The Worst Kind of Engineers, and a talk about Measles hosted by Southwest Dist. Health. Molly will also be at Youth Appreciation Day with a booth about household preparedness.
- **Mike Giery, City of Emmett Fire:** He has been putting together a flyer about the lifespan of smoke detectors. The US Fire Administration says the lifespan of smoke detectors is 8 – 10 years. They will be at Youth Appreciation Day with a booth about prevention/education and an activity for kids.
- **Bev Martin, Gem Co. Fire Dist. #2:** They are getting ready for wildland fire season. Let them know of any equipment grants that are available. Fire Dist. #2 has a new Commissioner for the Montour subdistrict – Scott Conklin.
- **Mayor Gordon Petrie, City of Emmett:** Wings and Wheels will be this Saturday. They are getting ready for the summer events, Cherry Festival and Cruise Night.
- **Commissioners, Gem County:** They are waiting for bids on a culvert failure project at the RV park. They are getting ready for their summer events, Fair and Rodeo. They are working on the Island parking lot and pot-hole repairs.
- **Chief Curt Christensen, City of Emmett Fire:** Thank you to Gem County EMS and Fire for their assistance with a roll-over accident within City Limits that required coordination to send the patient with air medics. There has been a huge uptick in house explosions due to explosive gas that have injured fire fighters. They are trying to put together education about better response from agencies. There is a new grant called Light my Fire about getting prevention methods into schools.

Motion to adjourn by Mayor Petrie. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dep. Chief Len McCaulou. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 @ 8:30 a.m.