



Gem County LEPC
August 15th 2023
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:

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| Mike Boltz, American Red Cross | Chief Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Dist. |
| Liz Gochmour, LEPC Secretary | Tahja Jensen, Gem Co. Prosecutor |
| Chief Steve Kunka, Emmett Police | Brent Leatherman, Emmett Police Dept. |
| Joe Mayer, Member of the Public | Bev Martin, Gem Co. Fire #2/Sheriff's |
| Dave McCarville, USBR | Posse/Ola Community |
| Chief Len McCaulou, Gem Co. EMS | Heidi Novich, IOEM |
| Lori Pahl, IOEM | Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett |
| Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioners | Jeff Ulmer, Gem Co. Emergency Mgr. |
| Trudy Wadsworth, Church of Jesus | John Wallace, US Forest Service |
| Christ of Latter-Day Saints | Barbara Weber, American Red Cross |
| Chief Mike Welch, Gem Co. Fire/EMS | Kirk Wille, Gem Co. Commissioners |

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

Approval of July 18th, 2023 Minutes:

- Motion to approve July 18th, 2023 minutes by Chief Kunka. 2nd by Jeff Ulmer. Motion passes, minutes approved.

Training and Exercise Planning, Jeff Ulmer-Gem Co Emergency Manager, Chief Curt Christensen-Emmett Fire Department, Chief Deputy Dave Timony-Gem Co Sheriff's Department:

- Chief Christensen: Chief Christensen, Chief Kunka, and Chief Deputy Timony attended the school safety meeting on August 14th and the Idaho Standard Command Response for Schools was presented. There are four different modes – Evacuation, Reverse Evacuation, Hall Check, and Lockdown.
- Ada and Canyon County schools have been using this response for years. By adopting this in Gem County, it will be the same across all schools in Gem County.
- Evacuation: Removing students and staff from dangerous situations inside a building.
- Reverse Evacuation: Removing students and staff from dangerous situations outside a building. Bringing students and staff outside back into the building.
- Hall Check: Detecting and protecting from potential threats or other emergencies while continuing instruction. Examples include: disruptive person, unknown person on campus, out of control student, medical issue, or any other unknown situation in and/or around a school building.
- Lockdown: Procedures for staff and student to respond to an imminent threat or active violence inside a school. All exterior doors and rooms are locked with rooms barricaded. The lights are turned off and everyone is quiet. Carberry did a lockdown drill last year.
- Jeff has volunteered to be the point of communication for First Responders.
- Each school is required to do a fire drill (Evacuation) once a month and must do one within the first ten days of school.

- They were talking about computer programs that could be used by Fire and EMS and also better video cameras that could be used by Incident Command.
- Chief Kunka: Gem County adopted this response two years ago with the High School using it last year and will now be using it in all the schools. All the schools will now be using the same terminology and training to improve communication.
- Website to view more information on the Idaho Standard Command Response for Schools: <https://schoolsafety.idaho.gov/idaho-standard-command-responses-for-schools/>
- Chief Christensen: So, what do we do with this information for training? Officer Leatherman asked about bringing ALERRT training to Gem County a year ago. ALERRT is law enforcement driven. How does Fire integrate into a school shooting? Law enforcement takes the lead. There are three modes: Stop the killing, stop the dying, and get them out. Fire can get involved to organize and send in a rescue task force to get victims to advanced care.
- How to deploy and coordinate with law enforcement is a really important aspect of this. How do we all come together without getting into each other's way? Two weeks ago, we really focused in on patient care. How do we treat patients, get to them, and move them?
- Fire uses the ICS Command structure to establish command and coordinate. Law enforcements responds to an incident as a team of one due to the first on scene taking command as more law enforcement respond.
- Next LEPC will be a walk through and then a run through will be scheduled in October.
- Chief Kunka: It's important for everyone to see that we are prepared for this and we are going in with a plan. These exercises help out with that so it would be great if LEPC members can come out in October to see the run through.
- To view an ALERRT video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDqjGHwKVIQ>
- Mike Bolts: This is sponsored by the school district, but it can be taken beyond schools. Is there a thought process to continue this education to groups like churches and other organizations in the community?
- Officer Leatherman: I've been an ALERRT instructor for the avoid, deny, defend model (CRASE) for a little over a year and have taught about twenty-three classes to schools, churches, private citizens, etc. You can reach out through the City of Emmett website if interested in scheduling a class: <https://www.cityofemmett.org/police>
- Chief Kunka: We have also had table top exercises with the hospital.
- Commissioner Wille: Have you considered taking the live exercise all the way to EMS and the hospital?
- Chief Christensen: I like it, let me see if we can get them on board for the exercise. Maybe we can do a mock bridge call also.

Public Comments:

- No Public Comments

General Reports:

- **Jeff Ulmer, Gem County Emergency Management:** Maui fire update – Seventeen hundred structures lost and about one hundred deaths due to fires so far. They were prepared for hurricanes, but not fires. There have been three fires locally. The Montour fire was surrounded with agriculture land that was wet which was helpful in limiting damage.
- **Chief Mike Welch, Gem County Fire:** Gem County Fire had thirty-five calls out for service last month. The Burn Ban is in effect until September 15th. They received a \$60,000 FEMA micro grant for new rescue equipment.
- **Chief Len McCaulou, Gem County EMS:** For the second month in a row, EMS had two hundred calls for service.
- **Lori Pahl, Idaho Office of Emergency Management:** Reminder to get started on your mitigation plan. It takes one to two years to get grant monies awarded. Work on getting your letters of participation. The grant application process is now easier. Contact Lori for questions and assistance.

- **Mark Rekow, Gem County Commissioners:** They continue to have land use hearings and expect to have meetings on the old comp plan through December. There have been a lot of complaints about traffic, speed and road conditions. There has been discussion about bypassing traffic downtown during rush hour times due to congestion. The Road department had two traffic engineers ride along looking at Hwy 52 North looking at the road structure. It is scheduled to be re-done in 2029 but will not make it until then. It will cost approx. \$1.5 million to re-do. They attended the Governor's water summit, looking at water conditions and concerns around the state. Lining canals, cloud seeding, snowpack, rain, water requests, etc. The County budget hearing will be at the Court House on August 21st at 6:00p.m.
- **John Wallace, US Forest Service:** Gem County Fire responded to the Gold Run fire. It was worked on for three days but is still not completely out. There were a few fires in Valley and Boise County. There was a shooting at one of the campgrounds due to a road rage incident. Last week there was an incident of a gun being pulled on a camper. They are talking about those incidents and how to deal with them. Be vigilant while out camping and know what to do in those instances.
- **Barbara Weber, American Red Cross:** We are going to meet with Chief Christensen about providing more smoke alarms. We need to review our shelter locations here and need to be prepared to open an evacuation shelter. We have a First Responder phone number to report home fires and get resources for recovery to residents effected by home fires. We have preparedness programs available for K-2nd grade and 3rd – 5th grades. They also have people from the Treasure Valley responding to the Maui fires.
- **Chief Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Department:** They have added a Community Risk Reduction Specialist position to City Fire. This new position will focus on community education to be proactive in reducing fires. There was a focus on chimney fires, and this is the third year in a row with no chimney fires. They had a car seat clinic last week in conjunction with a senior project. There was also an installation after a car accident the next day. A bed shaker and strobe light smoke detector will be installed today at a residence for a hearing-impaired individual.
- **Dave McCarville, US Bureau of Reclamation:** There is an Emergency Action Plan exercise scheduled for August 30th. Invites have been going out. This is for the Payette River Basin and will be in person at Black Canyon Dam or virtually. Contact Dave if interested in attending or for future invitations at email: dmccarville@usbr.gov or phone number 208-501-6735
- **Bev Martin, Gem County Fire Dist. #2:** Fire Dist. #2 responded to five fire call outs, twice back to the Gold Run fire and there were seven EMS call outs. There is one truck out due to repairs after running over a big rock. The Ola Community Center is considered our evacuation center in an emergency.
- **Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett:** Congrats to getting back to plan and exercises. The City passed their budget last week. Two highlights are that grants exceeded ten million dollars and there will now be two full time Fire employees. Last week Clint discovered that the measurements to pour the concrete for the new splash pad devices were incorrect. The concrete will be poured on the 16th and by September the ADA bathrooms will be installed.

Motion to adjourn by Jeff Ulmer. 2nd by Chief Len McCaulou. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19th at 8:30 a.m. We will be meeting in person, and via zoom. Please see reminder email for more detailed direction.