



Gem County LEPC  
December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
**Meeting Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Bill Butticci, Gem Co. Commissioners                  | Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Dist.   |
| Liz Gochnour, LEPC Secretary                          | Adam Gonzalez, Payette Co. EM         |
| Del Grey, Messenger Index                             | Tahja Jensen, Gem Co. Prosecutor      |
| Bev Martin, Gem Co. Sheriff's Posse/<br>Fire Dist. #2 | Joe Mayer, Member of the Public       |
| Heidi Novich, Idaho Office of EM                      | Len McCaulou, Gem Co. EMS             |
| Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett                          | Melanie Patterson, SW District Health |
| Lisa Resinkin, Gem Co. Dispatch                       | Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioners     |
| Jeff Ulmer, Gem Co. Emergency Mgr.                    | Rick Sego, Team Rubicon               |
| Rick Welch, Gem Co. Fire/EMS                          | Dennis Weaver, Ola Community          |
| TJ Wilson, Southwest Dist. Health                     | Kirk Wille, Gem Co. Commissioners     |

**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.

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

**Approval of November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Minutes:**

- Motion to approve November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 minutes by Chief Welch. 2<sup>nd</sup> by TJ Wilson. Motion passes, minutes approved.

**Rick Sego, Operations Associate for Team Rubicon & Disaster Response Chair for Idaho VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster):**

- He is the one staff member that serves in five states for Team Rubicon: Idaho, Utah, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. He became the Vice Chair for Idaho VOAD four years ago and became Chair last year.
- Idaho VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) is a collaboration and a bringing forth of all volunteer organizations that want to be involved in supporting disaster relief. Organizations include faith based, non-profit, corporate, etc. It is made up of Members and Partners. Members are dues paying community organizations that have voting rights. Partners are government agencies that play a role in disaster response. The forty-two Emergency Management offices in Idaho are included as Partners.
- One of the primary purposes of the Idaho VOAD is to bring support and be a resource during a disaster or humanitarian crisis. A list of capabilities will be sent out to Emergency Managers. They will also start to do AAR's (After Action Report) after events in order to better their services.
- Idaho VOAD has been active and in-active for the past five years due to COVID, but it is now starting to build itself back up. Idaho VOAD is necessary due to their people power. They are split right now consisting of the State VOAD located in the Treasure Valley, the Eastern VOAD located in Bonneville County, and the Intermountain West VOAD supporting Eastern Washington and part of Western Montana.

- One thing that was exercised in Ada County was the MARC (Multi-Agency Resource Center). During a disaster, a MARC center can be set up to bring together multiple non-profit and government service providers in one location to provide assistance to those in need.
- The Idaho VOAD is happy to participate in exercises if you'd like to see how they would offer support during a disaster.
- Team Rubicon is a Veteran-led humanitarian organization that serves global communities before, during, and after disasters and crises.
- They have been in Florida since before the hurricanes started and are still there mucking out homes, cleaning debris, etc. Their primary purpose in Idaho is flood and wild fire mitigation.
- Team Rubicon has 1400 volunteers in Idaho with 700 in the Treasure Valley. Volunteer leaders build the projects and events and offer support. One of the things that Team Rubicon can do that Government entities cannot is go onto private property to provide aid and support.
- Team Rubicon also has an International Medical Team that the first non-profit that is certified with the World Health Organization. There is a team that is currently in Ukraine supporting refugees.
- Commissioner Butticci: Where does funding come from? Rick: VOAD funding comes from member's dues and Team Rubicon has donors and corporate sponsors such as Microsoft, Pepsi Co., Nascar, etc.
- Joe Mayer: CBS did a segment on the Power Grid and Substations. Do you get involved in that at all? Rick: No, we primarily focus on the humanitarian side and getting people back into their homes after a disaster.
- Heidi Novich: Several years ago, after the Charlotte fire in Pocatello, the local VOAD came in and set up a long-term recovery center. Sixty-four homes were lost due to how fast the fire was. The VOAD organized and distributed all the monetary donations that came in. They also helped with cleanup on the housing lots.
- Rick: Every state has a VOAD. Those states that tend to have more disasters have more active VOADs.

### **Public Comments:**

- No public comments.

### **General Reports:**

- **TJ Wilson, Southwest District Health:** Get your flu shots. They have seen a rise in RSV. SWDH has re-done their continuity of operations plan and will be getting together with the Emergency Managers to see how it can work with their plans.
- **Bev Martin, Gem County Fire District #2:** They are in the process of appointing a new Commissioner and Secretary.
- **Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett:** Santa's Run Through Town was a success. The City is in the midst of their annual audit, which should be completed today. The City Council meeting will be today, rather than next week due to Christmas.
- **Jeff Ulmer, Gem County Emergency Manager:** Jeff attended flood plain management 101. They are in the first steps of defining what is being done with the flood plains. He is working on training opportunities with IOEM and looking for a date for Emergency Management training for Elected Officials.
- **Heidi Novich, Idaho Office of Emergency Management:** IOEM has been working on a revised Elected Officials guide and is hoping that get it pushed out by the end of January. There have been a lot of questions from local Emergency Managers about infrastructure money coming from the Federal Government. Those are not managed by IOEM, but IOEM can tell you which agency to contact to apply for those funds.

- **Chief Welch, Gem County Fire/EMS:** Fire District #1 had 13 calls last month. This month there was a structure fire that displaced a family. They assisted the family with their Burnout Fund and The Red Cross was involved to help the family. Chief Welch and his Assistant Chief went to South Dakota to attend a pre-conference on their new ladder truck. The new truck will cost \$995,000. A Federal grant will pay \$900,000 and the District will pay \$95,000. Delivery date is October 2024. Crews helped put up Christmas lights around town. Donations are given to put up the lights and take them down. \$2450 was raised for the Burn Out fund.
- **Len McCaulou, Gem County EMS:** EMS has seen an approx. 10% decrease in call volume from the later part of October, November, and the first part of December. They are seeing more respiratory illnesses so calls are going back up. They are starting a new EMT class within Gem County EMS, Fire Dist. #1, and Fire Dist. #2. There are six individuals in the class.
- **Commissioner Rekow, Gem County Commissioners:** Welcome Commissioner Wille, who replaced Commissioner Elliott. They have been looking at some of the County facilities and doing property assessments for usage. They have been looking at Court House security and has been an on-going process. An AED has been ordered for the Court House. The Comp plan is nearing completion and they are hoping to move into the ordinance portion of that. The Road Department has had some staffing challenges and are doing their best to take care of things. Ola and Valley County have had some challenges due to snow.
- **Adam Gonzalez, Payette County Emergency Manager:** Payette County has had some fire districts try to adopt impact fees. In the Spring, they will be hosting ICS300 and PIO training.
- **Commissioner Butticci, Gem County Commissioners:** They will be starting up meetings for Youth Appreciation Day in April. The new canopy for the Fair Grounds should be up in January.
- **Chief Christensen, Emmett City Fire:** City Fire had 17 calls for service and 5 other calls last month. City Fire hung lights and banners around Emmett. Firefighter #1 class is going and they are very enthusiastic and engaged. The Snake River Valley Fire Chiefs will be bringing in Mike Gagliano to talk about “Go or No Go” (determining whether or not to go into a structure fire), teaching “This House Rocks” (how to create a winning culture inside your firehouse), and in the evening will be talking about Firefighter marriage with his wife. Chief Christensen was nominated and ran un-opposed as Vice President for the SRV and was also nominated for the Communications Committee. State Communications is an amazing resource that Idaho has and would be a good presenter for this meeting. If you call State Comm and tell them what kind of event you are having they will organize a bridge call with resources needed pertaining to that event to offer suggestions and will determine if teams are needed to respond. Valor Health had an active shooter presentation and walk through.

Motion to adjourn by TJ Wilson. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick Welch. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. We will be meeting in person, and via zoom. Please see reminder email for more detailed direction.