



LEPC Local Emergency Planning Committee

Gem County LEPC
April 21st, 2020

In Attendance:

Laurie Boston, Gem Co. EM	Jay Breidenbach, NOAA
Bill Butticci, Gem Co. Commissioner	Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire
Elbia Christensen, EOC Logistics	Quincy Chung, USDA Boise
Bryan Elliott, Gem Co. Commissioner	National Forest
Roger Folwell, Valor Health	Liz Gochnour, LEPC Secretary
George Gutierrez, Red Cross	Tahja Jensen, Prosecutor's Office
Steve Kunka, Emmett Police	Brent Larson, IOEM
Bev Martin, Sheriff's Posse	Dale Nalder, IOEM
Fire Dist. #2	Gordon Petrie, Emmett City Mayor
Lorin Price, Indian Meadows Home	Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioner
Owners Association	Lisa Resinkin, Gem Co. Dispatch
Rick Welch, Gem County	Steve Welch, Gem Co. Dispatch
Fire Dist#1/EMS	Terry Wilson, SWDH
Donnie Wunder, Gem Co. Sheriff	

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 Laurie Boston at 8:34 am.

COVID-19 Updates:

- **Gem County Commissioners:** **Bryan Elliott** – Shelly at the County Clerk's office has been working to get the county ready for voting. Staff has been working remotely or rotating shifts in office to maintain social distancing. Development Services is still busy with building permits. They are figuring out ways to legally hold public hearings to keep things moving forward. **Bill Butticci:** The County Clerk is compiling COVID-19 costs. They have asked for re-opening plans from all of their departments. **Mark Rekow:** There have been challenges with land fill operations at JAG and Montour. In Montour, there have been traffic issues with people trying to get in and out of the dump station onto the highway. There have been scheduling challenges with higher risk employees. The County is expecting high volumes when services open back up. **Bill Butticci:** Youth Appreciation Day has been canceled and will not be rescheduled for this year.
- **Mayor Petrie:** The City is getting ready to open things back up. Curb side services for the library will start Monday, April 27th. Everything that comes in and goes out of the library will be sanitized. One of the City Clerks has started working in the office again. Employee temperatures are being taken upon arrival and areas are being sanitized upon leaving. Social distancing is being followed. The tennis courts will be opening back up to singles play only. If social distancing is not followed, it will be closed again. New guidelines have been given by the Health District for food establishments and business guidelines for re-opening. It has been posted to Social Media and the newspaper will get a copy as well.
- **Unified Command:** **Curt Christensen**, City Emergency Manager: Unified Command is when something happens to multiple jurisdictions, they come together to organize thoughts and resources as a team to combat the incident, which is COVID-19. They identify goals and objectives that are built around provider safety and community health and security. Those objectives are sent to the Planning section, who is Laurie Boston. She then comes up with ideas

to combat the virus. Those plans are communicated with agencies like the Senior Center and the School District so that they can continue to provide services to the community safely. Contingency plans for worse case scenarios are also developed and put into place. Unified Command has been meeting twice a week to walk through plans to make sure they are not missing anything. **Rick Welch:** EMS has had no personnel has been infected to take them out of service. Staff temperatures are taken at the beginning of shift, anyone over 100 degrees are asked to go home. Staff are wearing full PPE (gloves, masks, eye glasses, and gowns) for all calls. The ambulances has been isolated with plexi-glass to separate the driver from the back compartment. Only one staff member initiates contact with the patient to screen for symptoms. PPE is offered to additional agencies that respond to calls if assistance is needed.

Donnie Wunder: Call volumes are down. They are only responding to calls that require an officer's presence, otherwise calls are being handled over the phone or online. Jail staff are monitoring all persons coming into the facility by taking temperatures and asking screening questions. Driver's License requests are being handled online.

Lisa Resinkin: Dispatch call volume is lower. Screening questions are being asked for each call. Recommended CDC screening questions are being used: if someone is quarantined, waiting for results, possible exposure, recent travel, and ending with symptoms. These questions have been approved by Chief Kunka and Chief Deputy Wunder. The community has been extremely gracious about the screening questions. **Steve Kunka:** Thanks for everyone for communicating any changes that have occurred within their departments. Thanks to the EOC for tying things together and facilitating meetings. There has been understanding from the public that that law enforcement has been enforcing the order with education and to help get information to the public. CJ Soltis from Southwest District Health has been coming out the businesses to educate those that have had issues understanding the social distancing orders. **Curt Christensen:** Communication and collaboration has been great amongst the agencies. The things that happen in a small town just don't happen in bigger towns.

- **Valor Health: Roger Folwell:** They are looking back to see things that have worked and things that did not work. Globally the response was good within Valor Health. They were ready for how the pandemic hit Gem County. Testing has gone down. They are looking at how service lines can be opened back up. City Fire helped set up a testing/triage tent on March 16th to prevent those with symptoms from entering the facility and to test for COVID-19.
- **Emergency Operations Center: Laurie Boston:** The EOC started at a Level 2 on March 27th. This is the longest that the EOC has been up and running in Gem County. The active functions of the EOC are: Operations, PIO, Unified Command, Logistics, Planning, Finance, and Volunteers. We started with daily briefings and are now down to twice a week. Shelly Tilton is in charge of finance and is hoping to have anywhere from 50% - 90% of expenses reimbursed from FEMA. Logistics has been compiling a daily report for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) which includes requests for, current inventory, and burn rate of PPE from local agencies. Stock piles of PPE from around the country are now exhausted. Temperatures and social distancing is being practiced in the EOC. The EOC acts as a liaison between Southwest District Health, Idaho Office of Emergency Management, City of Emmett, and Gem County. The EOC has daily conference calls between IOEM, Idaho H & W, County Emergency Managers, and the Healthcare Coalition and provides daily reports to Public Officials and 1st responders to communicate the information that comes into the EOC. Plans that have been reviewed and updated include: Medical Surge, Alternate Care Site Plan, Mass Fatality Plan, Emergency Operations, etc. Social distancing will need to be included in these plans. **Curt Christensen:** A lot of the work is done behind the scenes until the situation escalates and then these plans get put into action.
- **Southwest District Health: Terry Wilson:** COVID-19 numbers as of 4/20/2020 for SWDH by County: Adams – 1 case, Canyon – 199 cases and 1 death, Gem - 9 cases, Owyhee – 3 cases, Payette – 12 cases and 1 death, Washington – 1 case. SWDH has been communicating with Emergency Managers, Public Officials, School Districts, and Small Businesses. There has been a reemergence in China as things have opened back up there. SWDH recommends continuing with precautions (hand washing, social distancing, staying home if showing symptoms, etc.) after things open back up.

- **Emmett School District: Steve Kunka**: Lunch delivery is being provided from buses along their bus routes. Other supplies are being delivered as well on the buses to students. Some staff is able to go back to work to help provide those deliveries. Chrome books have been given to students and Wi-Fi access has been set up for students to do their work from outside of the school. **Shawna Davis**: 17 buses are being utilized for deliveries.
- **Emmett Ranger District/National Forest Service: Quincy Chung**: Next week seasonal onboarding will begin for hot shot crews. Daily screening of employees has been done. Supplies for sanitizing and disinfecting are adequate for 120 days. Anticipating the upcoming fire season on the national level has been a challenge. Many neighboring geographic areas are not allowing fire fighters to travel across state lines or out of affected areas. Plans are being addressed at a higher level if a long term/long duration fire occurs that requires an Incident Management response.

Public Comments:

No public comments were provided.

General Reports:

- **Laurie Boston**: Here are some dates regarding COVID-19: March 1st – 1st confirmed case in Idaho. State of Emergency for Idaho declared; March 15th – National State of Emergency declared. Gov Little called for a Statewide school closure; March 18th – Gem County and the City of Emmett declared a State of Emergency. The EOC was activated at a Level 2; March 24th – Idaho Board of Education issued a soft closure of schools; March 25th – Gov Little and the Idaho Dept of H & W issued a stay at home order for 15 days that has been extended until April 30th; March 27th – 1st confirmed case in Gem County. The state is now reporting probable cases, which are individuals that have come into contact with a confirmed case that are exhibiting symptoms, and recovered cases.
- **Curt Christensen**: Please reach out to Laurie or myself for questions. Hats off to everyone in this meeting for your efforts and response to the virus. The last positive confirmed case was April 6th. (Since this meeting we have had additional confirmed and probable cases.)

Meeting adjourned at 9:26am.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19th, 2020 at 8:30am. virtually. An email will be sent out with an invitation to Join Me.