



LEPC Local Emergency Planning Committee

Gem County LEPC
May 19th, 2020
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

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|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Laurie Boston, Gem Co. Em. Mgr. | Jay Breidenbach, NOAA |
| Bill Butticci, Gem Co. Commissioner | Curt Christensen, Emmett City Fire |
| Elbia Christensen, EOC Logistics | Liz Gochmour, LEPC Secretary |
| Del Gray, Messenger-Index | Steve Kunka, Emmett Police |
| Len McCaulou, Gem Co. Fire/EMS | Dale Nalder, IOEM |
| Gordon Petrie, Emmett City Mayor | Lorin Price, Indian Meadows Home |
| Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioner | Owners Association |
| Lisa Resinkin, Gem Co. Dispatch | Beth Sutton, Valor Health |
| Donnie Wunder, Gem County 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 Curt Christensen at 8:32 am

Approval of April minutes:

- Motion to approve April minutes as written by Gordon Petrie. 2nd by Bill Butticci.

Public Comments. :

- No public comments at this time.

Presentation: COVID-19 Update from Public Officials:

- **Gem County Cases:** Laurie: 12 confirmed cases and 4 probable for a total of 16. SWDH reports 7 recovered, but numbers support 9 by the definition of recovery.
- **Overview of Stage 2 (May 16 – May 29) and Governor Little’s New Conference (5/14):** Laurie: Approximately 95% of business have been opened. Restaurants will be practicing social distancing. Those in the vulnerable population should still continue to self-quarantine. Those going back to work should self-isolate themselves from those in the vulnerable population. Gatherings should be held to less than 10 people. Minimize non-essential travel. The Governor lifted the 14-day self-quarantine for those coming into Idaho except from areas of prevalent community spread. Hair salons and gyms are open as long as they have a plan for practicing social distancing. Bars and night clubs will open in Stage 3 rather than Stage 4.
- **Gem County Commissioners: Mark:** Gem County Commissioners have been participating in weekly conference calls with the Governor. Every Monday they have been having discussion with department heads and elected officials about the virus, general county operations, and problems and successes. They participated in a conference call with the Idaho Association of Counties about preparation, next steps, and restoring normal operation. The Court House and offices have their plexi-glass barriers in place, staff are wearing masks and

gloves when needed, and areas are being sanitized. **Bill:** Things are moving forward. Commissioner Elliott is at the Health Department meeting this morning.

- **Mayor Petrie:** The City is open for business. Clerks at City Hall are conducting business through a window. There has not been a lot of walk-in traffic. Payments and other business have been conducted over the internet or by the drop box. Emmett Police are coordinating a Senior Walk down Main St. for graduates on Saturday, May 23rd. Candles will be set out between Hays and Johns along Main St. for the students to walk down.
- **Unified Command: Chief Kunka:** Emmett Police are back to full staff. Call volume has increased, becoming more equivalent to the amount from last year. The Senior March will be from 1:00 – 1:30 depending on participation. Denise Sorenson organized a successful parade on May 16th that went around to Assisted Living Facilities around town. Emmett Police and other agencies participated. **Chief Wunder:** Driver's licenses are being done through the ITD website or by appointment only. Jail visitation will begin again on June 15th. Patrols are getting back to normal. **Chief Christensen:** Emmett Fire call volume is down. There has not been as much need for EMS assistance. They have been doing hydrant testing within the City to prepare for their ISO evaluation.
- **Dispatch: Lisa:** There has been an increase in calls in terms of the types of calls. Calls for service has been down, but there has been an increase in calls for more explanation of the different Stages of opening. They have been referring callers to the website: <https://rebound.idaho.gov/> for more information and as appropriate sending calls on to officers or administration. Citizens have been cooperative, understanding and appreciative.
- **Valor Health: Beth:** Valor Health continues to participate in the Healthcare Coalition. There seems to be a lot of capacity for patients at the regional hospitals. They have stepped back their surge plan. They had two rooms allocated for COVID-19 patients. Those rooms have been converted back into OB rooms. The screening tents are still up five days a week outside of the Urgent Care. Volume has been down for those tents as well as the Emergency Department related to respiratory issues. They are starting to work on restoration plans for services including telehealth visits and more patients coming back into the clinic. Universal masking is in place for patients, visitors and staff. This week they started reprocessing N95 masks through the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System anticipating supply chain issues for the next year or so for N95 masks.
- **EOC: Laurie:** The EOC has been reducing hours physically in the EOC. Laurie is still available 24/7 by cell phone. EOC is still providing a Situation Report three times a week to City and County public officials and department heads. One of their goals during this emergency has been to keep communication as fluid as possible. **Curt:** If any City or County agency has any PPE needs or questions please contact Elbia Christensen. For an emergency, contact Laurie.
- **IOEM: Dale:** IOEM continues to receive shipments of PPE. Demand is down for outside agencies at this time. Local vendors have been supplying PPE. IOEM is anticipated a second wave of need and continues to build their stock. Dale will be retiring on May 29th. He was thanked for everything he has done to support Gem County!
- **Gem Co. EMS: Len:** There was a decrease in calls last month. The Treasure Valley EMS meeting that was taking place every Monday is now down to once every 2 weeks. EMS has decreased the amount of PPE worn during calls where COVID is not suspected. N-95's, glasses, and gloves will be worn for non-suspected calls and full PPE will be worn for any COVID symptoms. EMS calls are increasing this month. EMS week is May 17th – 23rd this year, so say "Thank you" if you see an EMT or Paramedic. They are preparing for their 1st in person drill on May 26th.
- **National Weather Service: Jay:** This shower pattern will continue with some gusty winds. They have been monitoring sites with testing tents. Next week will be warmer and dryer.

General Reports:

Laurie Boston, Gem County EM: The Cherry Festival has been canceled for this year. The Gem County/Emmett City/Community video has over 1.3k views and is posted on the City of Emmett website.

<https://www.cityofemmett.org/>

Washington County has seen a significant increase in cases. On May 12th, they had 2 cases and as of May 18th, they had 23 cases including confirmed and probable. There was a party that occurred within the county that is the likely source. As a result, there have been a few businesses has closed and the City and County offices will remain closed for another week to see if the cases stabilize.

The DMV in Emmett opened for registration on May 18th for new registration and title work. Tape has been placed on the sidewalk outside to ensure distancing while waiting. Renewals will be done online only.

The School Board decided to end the school year a week early so that teachers could have a week of training for the upcoming school year. The last day of school for the Emmett School District will be May 22nd.

The County Commissioners extended the Disaster Declaration for Gem County until August 31st, 2020. The reason is to make sure that funding can be reimbursed if possible.

Walmart in Caldwell at 5108 Cleveland Blvd. is doing free testing for COVID-19. They are testing from 7:00 am – 9:00 am by appointment. Testing is available to anyone who meets the CDC and state and local guidelines on who should get tested. The test is self-administered. You can sign up to get tested here:

www.DoINeedACOVID19test.com.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 am. Donnie Wunder moved to adjourn; Steve Kunka seconded the motion.

Next Meeting is scheduled for June 16th at 8:30 am. Direction will be provided at a later date on whether the meeting will be in person or remote.