



LEPC Local Emergency Planning Committee

Gem County LEPC
July 21, 2020
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

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| William Babcock, Emmett City Police | Liz Bolts, American Red Cross |
| Laurie Boston, Gem Co. EM | Bill Butticci, Gem Co. Commissioner |
| Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire | Elbia Christensen, EOC Logistics |
| Quincy Chung, USDA Boise
National Forest | Liz Gochnour, LEPC Secretary |
| Steve Kunka, Emmett Police | Tahja Jensen, Prosecutor's Office |
| Len McCaulou, Gem County EMS | Bev Martin, Sheriff's Posse/Fire Dist. #2 |
| Janet Monti, Friendship Coalition | Dale Mock, Gem Co. Sheriff's Posse |
| Lorin Price, Indian Meadows Home
Owner's Association | Gordon Petrie, Emmett City Mayor |
| Molly Smith, SWDH | Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioner |
| | Lisa Resinkin, Gem Co. Dispatch |

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 June minutes:

- Motion to approve June minutes after grammatical errors are corrected by Gordon Petrie. Second by Dale Mock.

Cruise Night Overview – Emmett Police:

- Deputy Chief Babcock: The crowd was lower than anticipated for the Show and Shine at the park and the Cruise. The Closed Cruise ended at 9:00 pm and then opened to the public with only a few more cars joining from the public. There were a few arrests, but no major incidents.
- Chief Kunka: The Cruise has ended earlier in the past few years. The crowds have dispersed between 10:00 – 11:00 pm. Activities at the Mill the last two years have attributed to the crowd dispersing early. This year there were two events at the Mill, an arm drop race and also a drive-in movie that started at 10:30 pm.
- Deputy Chief Babcock: The Emmett police department reaches out to Treasure Valley law enforcement to assist with Cruise Night. There were fourteen officers outside of the Emmett Police Department to help this year. Every officer from Emmett Police is worked on Cruise Night in addition to the outside assistance.
- Chief Kunka: They have had officers from the Gang Task Force, Bike Patrol, the DUI Task Force, and other specialty areas to help focus on certain things during Cruise Night. This was the first year that the Lions Club organizers have not slept in the park for the security of the Show and Shine. This year one of the Emmett Police officers was at the park for security.

- Chief Christensen: Hats off to law enforcement and all the collaborators for a well-organized and controlled event. Deputy Chief Steve Donahue, Caldwell Fire, was very complimentary of how professional and organized Cruise Night was. Steve formerly lived in Emmett and is still an active member of the Lions Club.

COVID-19 Update:

- Molly Smith, SWDH: All of Southwest District Health's focus has been on their COVID response. Their EOC has remained at Level 2. They are working directly with IOEM for PPE. If there are any agencies or facilities that need PPE, there are resources available and they have a process to place for requests. SWDH is looking at possibly supplying PPE to schools. Within the health district they are tracing all of the COVID cases. Contact tracing and case monitoring are the two facets to SWDH's epidemiology program. Contact tracing is identifying a positive case and then determining who may have been in contact with that case. They are behind in contact tracing, but prioritizing those in vulnerable populations like long-term care facilities and those cases that pose high exposure risks. Case monitoring is a positive case where they are monitoring their symptoms and making sure they are self-isolating. Case monitoring is current. SWDH is expecting to continue their EOC operations until the end of the year.
- Curt Christensen: Could SWDH help with testing in the smaller communities like Emmett? Valor Health has stated that COVID testing results are taking up to 8 days to get back. Molly Smith: SWDH has been seeing a variation of the timing for test results to come back depending on the lab that is being used. Those facilities doing in-house testing are getting results back within 24 hours. Those that are sending tests out of state are coming back between 8-10 days. SWDH does have a testing machine available. It has been having calibration issues with being moved to different locations. There is a team working on it and they need to find a fixed location for it. They are testing first responders and high exposure professions. Those tests can be prioritized at the State Lab. Contact Laurie if a test needs to be prioritized and she will contact SWDH. Tahja and Laurie will work on the HIPAA issue of expediting first responders tests.
- Laurie Boston: The City Emergency Manager and Laurie participate in a conference call twice a week with the other five EM's in SWDH's coverage area, SWDH, and IOEM. The purpose of these calls is to collaborate, exchange best practices, and make plans on how best to address the current situation. They have been working well together and there has been a good response from SWDH and the State.
- Chief Christensen and Laurie worked with Gem County Recreation District and SWDH to give them ideas on how to handle the Youth Soccer season coming up in the fall.
- Laurie, Tahja Jensen, and Rebecca Mills from the 4H extension office have been working together with SWDH to come up with a plan for the upcoming Fair. Rebecca will provide a letter to the 4H parents instructing them on how to reduce their risk and continue to participate. The Gem County Fair and Rodeo will go forward with plans to practice social distancing and sanitizing. The carnival has been canceled.
- As of July 20th, there are 101 COVID cases. Twenty of those have improved and there is no listing for recovered. There have been 42 new cases from Sunday – Sunday of last week. Some testing locations will do a rapid test. A rapid test will provide results in approximately 20 minutes. The challenge with the rapid test is that there are a high number of false-negative results. In some cases, a second test is recommended for those that have a negative rapid test. The results for the second test will take longer to result.
- Valor Health Update -Laurie: They have transferred from the respiratory tent to a trailer with air conditioning and heat. They are planning for more long-term testing. They have some employees that have tested positive from community exposure and some that are self-monitoring. They are estimating

that Gem County has about an 8% positive rate. They are still testing asymptomatic and state that approximately 80% of those that request testing are symptomatic. (Call ahead to ask if a testing site will test asymptomatic before going.) They are okay on PPE, but cleaning supplies have become limited.

Public Comments:

- **Janet Monti – Friendship Coalition:** The Friendship Coalition can provide food for first responders in the case of an incident. Keeping in mind for the upcoming fire season. Meals can be provided within 45 minutes to an hour.

General Reports:

- **Quincy Chung, USDA Boise National Forest:** The Sage Hen closure has been extended to the end of August based on an increase in beetle kill activity. Crews have been responding to fires across the nation. A few members have tested positive in different counties across the West. All those tested in the Emmett Ranger District have come back negative. State to state, agency to agency, testing policies are different with no uniform response. There is a fire weather watch for the next couple of days.
- **Mark Rekow, Gem County Commissioner:** The board continues to meet weekly to discuss COVID and general business. They have received a number of emails objecting to mask wearing. They are in the middle of the budget process. There are concerns about revenue sharing and funding from the Federal Government. Next year's funding is really an unknown. There have been a number of complaints about ATV/UTV usage on the roads and the damage they are causing. Road and Bridge projects have been delayed due to the budget.
- **Len McCaulou, Gem County Fire/EMS:** Calls in April were down, but there has been a huge increase in calls for the last few months. July 1st – 6th there have been 59 calls so far this month, compared to 27 calls in July 2019. They are now transporting COVID positive patients from the field. Crews are wearing full PPE and the ambulances must also be decontaminated after each transport of a positive patient.
- **Lisa Resinkin, Gem County Dispatch:** Dispatch is continuing to ask COVID screening questions for all calls.
- **Bev Martin, Fire #2/Ola Community:** Fire #2 responded to a violation of the burn ban which resulted in the loss of the owner's shop and all the equipment inside. EMS did a great job of monitoring the fire fighters in the high heat. An additional line to the sewer system drain field is being added for the Ola Community Center which will be used as the school facility for the upcoming year.
- **Liz Bolts, American Red Cross:** The American Red Cross has changed their response protocols to single family home fires. They are practicing social distancing and wearing gloves. They will not go out initially, but will contact the victims over the phone. They are still providing a debit card and a packet of information. Please call the phone #800-853-2570 to report any house fires. A family was assisted last month in Emmett from a dwelling fire.
- **Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett:** They are doing everything they can to keep their employees healthy. They are finishing up the budget process. A traffic study is being done on curb extensions to help keep pedestrians and drivers safe.
- **Curt Christensen, City Fire:** The City has been able to get reimbursements through the CARES Act. Receipts were submitted for PPE, sanitizer, thermometers, IT pieces to facilitate the COVID response, etc. The City also received around \$34,000 that will go back to the City. The ISO rating came back and was very favorable. The Emmett Fire department went up substantially and Dispatch stayed about the same. They were working on a few questions on the water system based on upgrades that were

done. They came through as a 4, but are hoping for a 3, which is the same as a larger city like Meridian. Hats off to Laurie and the other Emergency Managers for seeing issues and addressing those issues.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28am. Mayor Petrie moved to adjourn. Liz Bolts seconded the motion.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18th at 8:30 am. Direction will be provided at a later date on whether the meeting will be in person or remote.