



Local Emergency Planning Committee

Gem County LEPC
December 15th, 2020
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Will Babcock, Emmett Police Dept.
Laurie Boston, Gem Co. EM
Bill Buttici, Gem Co. Commissioner
Elbia Christensen, EOC Logistics
Tahja Jensen, Prosecutor’s Office
Bev Martin, Gem Co. Sheriff’s Posse
Fire Dist. #2
Dale Mock, Sherriff’s Posse
Gordon Petrie, Emmett City Mayor
Kandice Rembelski, Valley Family
Health Care
Donnie Wunder, Gem Co. Sherriff

Liz Bolts, American Red Cross
Jay Breidenbach, NOAA
Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Dept.
Liz Gochnour, LEPC Secretary
Steve Kunka, Emmett Police
Dave McCarville, US Bureau of
Reclamation
Lorrie Pahl, IOEM
Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioner
Lynsie Vickery, Emmett Fire Dept.
TJ Wilson, Southwest Dist. Health

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 8:31a.m.

Note: Minutes for the October 20 and November 17 meetings have been delayed because of COVID-19 complications. They will be available in January 2021.

Critical Incidence Response – Deputy Chief, Will Babcock, Emmett Police and Kandice Rembelski, Valley Family Health Care:

- Deputy Chief Will Babcock is an officer with the Emmett Police Dept. He has seventeen years of experience, fourteen have been with Emmett. He is one of the dog handlers.
- Kandice Rembelski is the Practice Manager for Valley Family Healthcare. She has been with them since May of this year. She was an EMT for fourteen years, had been and instructor for IOEM, and is trained in Incident Command.
- Deputy Chief Babcock: On December 11th, 2020 at 10:30am. A suspect with a gun at Valley Family Healthcare (VFHC) on 12th St. Gem County Sherriff’s and City of Emmett Police responded. A perimeter was set up with 12th St. closed and traffic diverted. Chief Kunka was able to get barriers to help with traffic control. Several vehicles had turned into the ball field from 12th St. until the barriers were in place. An Incident Command Center was set up at the entrance to the 12th St. ball field across the street from VFHC. VFHC did a great job of evacuating the building without alerting the suspect. An officer was able to get information on the suspect including his name and cell phone number. Initially the suspect did not answer his phone, a message was left, he returned the call. After thirty minutes to an hour the suspect walked out of the building. No gun was found on the suspect and the building was also searched and no gun was found in the building. Officers determined that financial concerns and frustrations were

contributing to a mental health crisis. The suspect was placed on a mental health hold. The suspect's vehicle was towed to the Emmett Police Department. Due to the financial stressors, no towing fees were passed onto the suspect. He later called back to thank the Emmett Police Department and stated that his medications had to be adjusted and he has been doing better since.

- **Kandice:** There were no concerns with the suspect at VFHC until the Medical Assistant started to access the patient in the exam room. The patient became agitated and threats were made in the room due to his frustration. The MA stated that her laptop needed to be charged and that she needed to leave the room to get her charging cord. The patient was left in the exam room with the door closed. The MA then went to Kandice's office to report her concerns about the patient and the police were called to report the threat. The office staff evacuated the building in under three minutes without alerting the patient. Staff used hand signals to help remove staff and patients quickly and silently out the back door. The Dental team was at the clinic that day and was told to shelter-in-place within their mobile unit. Kandice stayed on the phone with dispatch and a Detective. A neighboring business sheltered patients and staff and offered them coffee and water. There were concerns for patients continuing to arrive for appointments. The Payette VFHC clinic was able to cancel appointments and to get contact information for the suspect. After the suspect came out of the building and was taken into custody the building was searched in case the suspect had hidden a gun within the building. Each staff member took a space to search and no gun was found. A forty-five minute debrief was held with staff and the COO of VFHC present. VFHC offered counseling and staff was given the day off. The debrief also provided areas of improvement. Lighting will be added to the parking lot and better pictures will be added to the patient charts to help with identification.
- **Laurie:** There is a critical response team that is available to help with debriefing within two hours of the incident.
- **Mayor Petrie:** Staff members from VFHC and other individuals that were involved will be recognized tonight at City Hall.
- **Chief Kunka:** The Sherriff's department, ISP, Public Works, VFHC staff, EPD, EMS, City Fire, and the Emmett School District were all involved for a successful outcome. In the future, better communication with the school district is needed to ensure the safety of the students that may be in the vicinity.

COVID-19 Update:

- **Laurie Boston, Gem County Emergency Management:** SWDH has reported 262 cases and 12 deaths, 6 in the last week, for Gem County. The deaths have primarily been from long term care facilities. SWDH and Valor Health are working on an MOU for vaccination distribution. The 30-day positivity rate right now is 35.3% as of Yesterday.
- **Terry Wilson, Southwest District Health:** The vaccine should be available either Thursday or Friday and plans are in place for distribution. Wear you mask, wash your hands, and social distance.

Public Comments: No public comments.

General Reports:

- **Mark Rekow, Gem County Commissioners:** Commissioner Elliott is currently at a SWDH meeting about masking. A cooling truck has been made available to the Gem County Coroner. There have been a lot of land use hearings. The meeting room is getting ready and updated for virtual meetings.
- **Curt Christensen, City of Emmett Fire:** Tahja and Len have been working together to create a Stress Management team.
- **Steve Kunka, City of Emmett Police:** EMS calls continue to rise with COVID calls especially. Staff are receiving training to recognize when an incident is mental health related vs criminal.

- **Bev Martin, Fire District #2:** Fire 2 has gone to virtual meetings and some trainings have been canceled. Staff are trying to stay safe and healthy.
- **Laurie Boston, on behalf of Janet Monti, Friendship Coalition:** 336 families signed up for food baskets this year. There has been an increase of 30% in requests for food. Applications for the baskets have doubled or tripled. Thank you for the support with Fill the Firetruck and Stuff the Ambulance.
- **Donnie Wunder, Gem County Sherriff:** There are no inmates at the jail with COVID.
- **Terry Wilson, Southwest District Health:** Get your flu shot, they are still available.
- **Jay Breidenbach, National Weather Service:** Snow showers will be on their way this afternoon. There won't be much accumulation, but the roads will be slick. There will be more snow on Thursday.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 am. Curt Christensen moved to adjourn. Steve Kunka seconded the motion.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19th at 8:30 am. Direction will be provided at a later date on whether the meeting will be in person or remote.