



Local Emergency Planning Committee

Gem County LEPC
March 16th, 2021
Meeting Minutes

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.

In Attendance:

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|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Will Babcock, Emmett Police Dept. | Liz Bolts, American Red Cross |
| Laurie Boston, Gem Co. EM | Jay Breidenbach, NOAA |
| Bill Butticci, Gem Co. Commissioner | Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Dept. |
| Quincy Chung, US Forest Service | Rob Feeley, IOEM |
| Liz Gochnour, LEPC Secretary | Tahja Jensen, Prosecutor’s Office |
| Bev Martin, Gem Co. Sheriff’s Posse/
Fire Dist. #2 | Gordon Petrie, Emmett City Mayor |
| Kandice Rembelski, VFHC | Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioner |
| Lysie Vickery, Emmett Fire Dept. | Denise Sorenson, Emmett City Councilman |
| TJ Wilson, Southwest Dist. Health | Barbara Weber, American Red Cross |
| | Donnie Wunder, Gem Co. Sherriff |

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

Approval of February Minutes:

- Motion to approve February minutes as written by Bev Martin. 2nd by Mayor Petrie.

Spring Weather Overview and Potential Flooding Outlook – Jay Breidenbach, National Weather Service:

- Things are looking pretty good for Gem County for this time of year. Weather this week looks good with a cold front on Friday with gusty winds and a chance of rain. Spring Equinox occurs at 3:37 am on Saturday, March 20th. The vaccination clinic at Valor Health has been changed to Thursday due to the weather forecast for Friday.
- LaNina conditions are still present in the Pacific Ocean. This would generally create cooler and wetter than normal conditions. Our winter as a whole has been close to normal.
- The snow in Emmett and Boise has melted off. Cascade and McCall still have snow on the ground with about 10 inches of water in the snow. SNOTEL sites measure the amount of water in the snow packs. The closest SNOTEL site to Emmett is the Van Wyck site West of Smith’s Ferry.
- Reservoir storage indicates the potential for flooding. Current reservoir storage is showing Cascade at 64% and Deadwood at 53%. There is still space available in the reservoirs continuing into March.
- The Payette River gauge for Emmett is just below Black Canyon Dam. It is currently measuring at 3.33ft and is forecasted to reach a high of 4.67ft in the next 10 days. This is well below flood stage at 10.5ft.
- Jay’s power point presentation will be sent out with the minutes.

Public Comments:

- **Curt Christensen, City of Emmett Fire:** Texas recently experienced extended power outages due to winter storms. This raised some concerns with members of the public regarding resources available within our community. Perhaps those moving in from warmer communities or larger cities do not know how to

prepare for different weather events. We could write a letter to the newspaper discussing preparedness in a Rural community. If you have any information you would like to provide, please contact Laurie.

General Reports:

- **Jay Breidenbach, National Weather Service:** The Ready Weather Nation Ambassador program has good preparedness information on weather hazards that can be used for emails or a newspaper article. You can look up the information on the website <https://www.weather.gov/wrn> or contact Laurie, who is an Ambassador.
- **Quincy Chung, USDA Forest Service:** They may be doing some Spring and Fall burning in the next couple of months depending on the weather and fuel.
- **Rob Feeley, Idaho Office of Emergency Management:** If the IOEM can help with preparedness please reach out to them with requested information.
- **Bill Butticci, Gem County Commissioner:** Development services continues to be busy. There is a job opening for IT Director for Gem County. Wade Ray has stepped back in to give support until the position is filled.
- **Donnie Wunder, Gem County Sherriff:** The Sherriff's department went through training on the new Spillman records system last week. Things at the Jail are going well. The Boat Idaho class on Saturday was the largest they have had with nineteen students.
- **Laurie Boston, Gem County Emergency Manager:** Valor Health will hold a 200 Johnson and Johnson Covid vaccine clinic on Thursday. There have been 4 reported cases this week. Medical professionals are anticipating an increase in cases as precautions have eased. There was a drive thru clinic on Friday and vaccinated 496, which is the most they have vaccinated in one clinic. Valor Health has vaccinated over 2000 people to date.
- **Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett:** The pump station on 12th will be completed after the final checks and hook ups are done this week. John's will be resurfaced near Albertson's once the weather corporates and they get an asphalt contractor. Work will continue on John's later this Spring.
- **Will Babcock, City of Emmett Police:** Things are running normal right now. The police department also went through the Spillman training.
- **Curt Christensen, City of Emmett Fire:** There is a volunteer firefighter survey going out right now to help with recruitment and retention. There was a fatality fire in McCall about 2 weeks ago. There were no working smoke detectors in the structure. Smoke detectors need to be replaced every 10 years. Contact the Fire Department if you need to have your smoke detectors replaced or know a volunteer that could fill out the survey.
- **Bev Martin, Gem County Fire District #2/Ola Community:** Fire #2 have had no fires and have had 5 EMT assists. The Chief has 5 new drive-way inspections in progress.
- **TJ Wilson, Southwest District Health:** SWDH in continuing to have vaccine clinics. Saturdays they have had clinics of about 150 vaccines. The above 40 age group is getting ready to open. Strike teams are going out to local food processing plants and reconfiguring things to reach the different tier levels as they open.
- **Liz Bolts, American Red Cross:** The American Red Cross has not responded to fires in Gem County but have had fires in Ada and Canyon Counties. Contact them if a new smoke detector is needed.
- **Barbara Weber, American Red Cross:** April 8th – May 8th the American Red Cross will be focused on home fire safety. Due to being virtual and not being able to go into homes they can provide door-step education for smoke alarm that can then be installed by the Fire Department if the Fire Department would like to partner up. They will be offering Emergency Preparedness education via Zoom. One is called "Be Red Cross Ready" for the general public to provide information about basic emergency preparedness and home fire safety. There is also a session for businesses and organizations called "Ready Rating". This will make sure businesses are OSHA compliant with an emergency preparedness plan. Please reach out if you are interested in any of those sessions.

- **Kandice Rembelski, Valley Family Healthcare:** (Update via email) Valley Family Emmett did about 80 Covid vaccine last Thursday with our mobile unit. We are doing this every Thursday for the next month or so. We have given out around 500 doses from just the Emmett clinic of Valley Family.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 am. Mayor Petrie moved to adjourn. 2nd by TJ Wilson.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20th at 8:30 am. Direction will be provided at a later date on whether the meeting will be in person or remote.