



Local Emergency Planning Committee

Gem County LEPC
April 20th, 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:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Liz Bolts, American Red Cross | Laurie Boston, Gem Co. EM |
| Bill Buttici, Gem Co. Commissioner | Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Dept. |
| Quincy Chung, US Forest Service | Rob Feeley, IOEM |
| Liz Gochmour, LEPC Secretary | Tahja Jensen, Prosecutor’s Office |
| Steve Kunka, Emmett Police | Barbara Loeding, Member of the Public |
| Bev Martin, Gem Co. Sheriff’s Posse/
Fire Dist. #2 | Joe Mayer, Member of the Public |
| Janet Monti, Friendship Coalition | Dale Mock, Sheriff’s Posse |
| Lorrie Pahl, IOEM | Heidi Novich, IOEM |
| Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioner | Gordon Petrie, Emmett City Mayor |
| Mollie Smith, SWDH | Kandice Rembelski, VFHC |
| Barbara Weber, American Red Cross | Denise Sorenson, Emmett City Councilman |
| Donnie Wunder, Gem Co. Sherriff | Craig Woods, Emmett School District |

Meeting called to order by Curt Christensen at 8:31a.m.

Approval of March 16th Minutes:

- Motion to approve March 16th minutes as written by Mayor Petrie. 2nd by Bev Martin.

American Red Cross of Idaho – Barbara Weber, Disaster Program Manager:

- Barbara’s previous experience: Marketing and sales for corporations Hewlett Packard and Simplot.
- Mission Statement: The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.
- The American Red Cross was founded in 1881 by Clara Barton, who provided nursing care and aid to soldiers during the Civil War. She was known as the “Angel of the Battlefield”.
- The Red Cross is an independent, non-profit organization funded entirely by donors. Volunteers make up 90% of the workforce.
- There are Five Lines of Service: Biomedical Services, Preparedness Health & Safety Services, International Services, Services to the Armed Forces, and Disaster Cycle Services.
- The region that Barbara services are Greater Idaho (including four Counties in Oregon) and Montana.
- They received a Federal Charter in 1900 to provide Disaster Services. The Disaster Cycle Services Core Mission Areas are: Preparedness/Prevention, Emergency Response, and Recovery.
- The Red Cross responds to an average of more than 60,000 U.S. disasters every year. This includes house fires that devastates a single family to a hurricane that impacts millions. They are there to provide immediate relief, to assist in long-term recovery, and then to help them better prepare for emergencies.

- Disaster Action Teams (DAT) provide 24-hour immediate emergency response to local disasters, particularly house fires, ensuring that those effected have access to resources for basic necessities such as food, shelter, and clothing.
- Call 1-800-853-2570 to report a house fire to have them help with assistance.
- Large-scale disaster relief activities include: Sheltering, Feeding, Distribution of Emergency Supplies, Reunification, Government Operations Liaisons, and Community Engagement and Partnerships.
- Since 2014, volunteers have made more than 850,000 households safer and better prepared by: Installing free smoke alarms, helping families make escape plans, and targeting high-risk neighborhoods.
- Home Fire Campaign: Make homes safer and minimize fire fatalities by installing smoke alarms and educating families in fire prevention. Once a year in the Spring a Sound the Alarms event is held to offer free smoke alarm installation to residents in at-risk neighborhoods.
- Community Preparedness Education Programs: Be Red Cross Ready – Helps people prepare for and respond to disasters, Ready Rating – Free membership program for businesses, schools and organizations, and Hands Only CPR – 30-minute training teaching hands-only technique for CPR.
- Youth Preparedness Programs: Prepare with Pedro – Engages children to learn how to be prepared (Kindergarten – 2nd Grade), Pillowcase Project – Covers local hazards, coping skills, and personal and family preparedness (3rd – 5th Grade).
- Contact Information: Barbara Weber, Disaster Program Manager Western Idaho/Eastern Oregon, email: Barbara.weber@redcross.org, phone #208-510-7323. Liz Bolts, Local Volunteer Leader, email: Liz.bolts@redcross.org, phone #208-869-0397.
- To sign up as a volunteer find the link on the website: <https://www.redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer.html#step1>

Public Comments:

- Joe Mayer: Were there any comments regarding the Cascadia subduction zone preparedness? Laurie: We are not prepared to speak about that at this time. In the future we would have a presentation from the Idaho Office of Emergency Management. Joe: Is the Senior Center/Friendship Coalition able to get grant money for a generator? Laurie: To apply for a FEMA grant, 25% of the total funds would need to be raised by the Senior Center/Friendship Coalition to apply. Applications would need to be submitted in September of this year and if approved, grant dollars would not be available to spend for two years. FEMA will not reimburse purchases that are made before grant money is approved. Chief Kunka: Please attend a Senior Center board meeting to present additional questions.

General Reports:

- **Quincy Chung, USDA Forest Service:** The Ranger Station in Emmett is still closed to the public with a focus on tele work. Call the office number and leave a message for inquires, messages are being checked daily. Fire season is right around the corner. The great basin area is still very dry. The grass crop is not coming in like it usually does and they are anticipating a busy fire season in regards to dry fuel. Fire crews should be coming on within the next week or two to prepare for fire season. They are narrowing the window for prescribed fire with some in Boise County, above Garden Valley and Crouch, Cascade, and in Idaho City. There has already been a large influx of people out on public grounds. Please help to educate people about fire dangers. There has already been a fire started by hot briquettes left in a standing grill.
- **Rob Feeley, Idaho Office of Emergency Management:** IOEM is also looking into the upcoming fire season. If there is a need for assets or financial assistance, the Governor can make a State disaster declaration or there is the fire management assistance grant from FEMA. The COVID-19 response has

shifted to assistance with vaccines. They have deployed the National Guard to help support the efforts of the public health districts.

- **Bill Butticci, Gem County Commissioner:** Go-live training for the conversion to the new Spillman records system is today. Youth Appreciation Day will be Saturday with a drive-in movie at the Mill, the Mitchell Complex.
- **Laurie Boston, Gem County Emergency Manager:** The Emergency Declaration will likely be extended next week by the County Commissioners to the end of the year due to the COVID-19 activity. Just over 31% of the 19 + age group has been vaccinated. Confirmed/probable cases are down, but please continue with precautions. Use of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine has been paused. Valor Health will have a Saturday vaccination clinic rather than Friday from 10am to 1pm. Go to their website to find the link to get scheduled. There was a good attendance for the Critical Incident Stress Management training that was held last week. Thank you to everyone that was involved in the response from the difficult events of last week.
- **Donnie Wunder, Gem County Sherriff:** Mock go-live training with the new Motorola system is this week. April 27th is the go-live date. Next month, the Sherriff's department will start patrols for the Forest Service, BLM, and Black Canyon Reservoirs. The Disaster Coordinator is now under the County Commissioners.
- **Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett:** Another contractor has been selected for the bid to complete work on South Johns. Diamond construction has 15 days to respond. The City is recommending that work start at 4th Street. Clint at Public Works is coordinating a plan with Shauna at the school district and Lisa at dispatch for school bus and emergency response routes.
- **Steve Kunka, City of Emmett Police:** Thank you to all of those that brought the CISM training to our area. The training was to help equip our staff to be better handle mental health issues within our agencies. They are creating a team that will include medical, mental health, law enforcement, legal, Fire, and EMS professionals to help better respond to mental health issues within their staff to offer them help. This month is distracted driving month. The State offers grant money for agencies that are willing to participate in distracted driving mobilization. The "Hands Free" code came into effect in July of last year, but was not enforced until January.
- **Denise Sorenson, Emmett City Council:** This week is National Volunteer Week. Our community is blessed to have so many great volunteers. Please thank those volunteers.
- **Curt Christensen, City of Emmett Fire:** The City Fire Department also participated in the CISM training. Valor Health, Heart & Home Hospice, and ServePro all provided lunch. The Fire Station and Emmett Police will have an open house for safety education from 5 – 7pm at the Fire Station tonight.
- **Bev Martin, Gem County Fire District #2/Ola Community:** Fire #2 is preparing for the fire season with maintenance and training. There is quite a bit of residual fuels creating a potential for fires.
- **Craig Woods, Emmett School District:** There are about 6 weeks left of school. They are still waiting for the State Legislature to release funds to that they can complete the Ola project. Assessment testing is being done in the next couple of weeks.
- **Molly Smith, Southwest District Health:** All tiers are open for anyone that is eligible to get the COVID vaccine. SWDH is offering walk-in vaccine clinics on Saturdays. The National Guard is still on-site to help. No appointment needed. Strike teams are going out to long-term care facilities. They are coordinating vaccines for home-bound individuals. Call the COVID hotline at 208-455-4511 to arrange a vaccine for those that are home-bound. An after-action report is being prepared into three different reports: The build up to before the pandemic was declared, once the pandemic was declared, and then after the vaccination was available. The Preparedness programs may be reaching out to get more information on plans and MOUs to get more information. May 12th there will be a table-top exercise. It will be a small in-person exercise for a Rabies scenario. If Dispatch or Animal responders would like to be involved, contact Molly via email: Molly.Smith@phd3.idaho.gov to get an invitation. SWDH has hired additional environmental health staff to keep up with growth. SWDH can coordinate with the crisis center in Caldwell for anyone over the age of 18 that is having a mental health crisis. Contact State Communications and ask for SWDH to have them respond.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 am. Commissioner Butticci moved to adjourn. 2nd by Mayor Petrie.

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