



Local Emergency Planning Committee

Gem County LEPC
May 18th, 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:

Ryan Bertalotto, Emmett Police
Laurie Boston, Gem Co. EM
Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Dept.
Jason Kinley, Mosquito Abatement
Joe Mayer, Member of the Public
Dave McCarville, USBR
Gordon Petrie, Emmett City Mayor
Lisa Resinkin, Gem Co. Dispatch
Barbara Weber, American Red Cross

Liz Bolts, American Red Cross
Bill Butticci, Gem Co. Commissioner
Tahja Jensen, Prosecutor’s Office
Bev Martin, Gem Co. Sheriff’s Posse/
Fire Dist. #2
Janet Monti, Friendship Coalition
Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioner
Denise Sorenson, Emmett City Councilman
TJ Wilson, Southwest Dist. Health

Meeting called to order by Curt Christensen at 8:32a.m.

Approval of April 20th Minutes:

- Motion to approve April 20th minutes as written by Mayor Petrie. 2nd by Bev Martin.

Cherry Festival Preparation – Ryan Bertalotto, Administrative Sergeant and Detective Sergeant for the City of Emmett Police Department:

- Ryan has been with the Emmett Police Department since 2011. His previous experience includes Directory of Public Safety for the University of Idaho, overseeing campus security and emergency management operations for University, and as Deputy Sheriff for Payette County.
- Ryan is presenting for Chief Kunka, who is in Virginia attending an FBI training.
- The Cherry Festival will be held Wednesday, June 16 – Saturday, June 19th.
- Cherry Festival will operate with Stage 3 precautions. They are working with the health department to set guidelines.
- Signage will request masks and social distancing, but will not be required.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided and will require those riding rides to sanitize. Rides will be sanitized after every 4 uses.
- Goff’s Plumbing will provide hand washing stations.
- There will be a beer and wine tent inside the park. ID’s will be checked.
- Emmett PD will have increased patrols. There is also a traffic control plan for the parades.
- We could see higher than normal visitor numbers.
- Laurie has requested the weather report for this time frame in case of thunder storms.
- The police department has not determined a non-emergency phone number to report lost children.

Public Comments:

- June 5th there will be a Brave Heart Motorcycle Ride fundraiser event at the City Park from 2 –4 pm. The Sheriff's Posse will be helping with the event and the Fire Department will be doing a Flag ceremony. There will be approx. 200 bikes on the Pavilion side of the park.
- Cruise Night will be held on July 17th.

General Reports:

- **Quincy Chung, USDA Forest Service:** The Forest Service has already responded to a few fires in the Salmon/Challis and Stanley areas. Please caution the public about fire dangers. Fire Prevention will be setting up a Smokey Station booth at the Cherry Festival.
- **TJ Wilson, Southwest District Health:** The health district is busy with normal activities. They are seeing lower COVID numbers. Restrictions are now up to businesses and individuals. SWDH has strike teams vaccinating at schools and food processing plants. They are still doing vaccination appointments at SWDH. Please continue to be diligent about washing your hands and use social distancing precautions as needed as you can.
- **Mark Rekow, Gem County Commissioner:** The Commissioners continue to address land use matters and will be starting the budget process. Last week and this afternoon they will be touring roads throughout the County to check on conditions and upcoming projects. Commissioners Elliott is at a SWDH Board Meeting.
- **Bill Butticci, Gem County Commissioner:** Youth Appreciation Day held in April went extremely well with a drive-in movie at the Mill Complex. The County is in the process of moving the DMV out of its current office to an office off of the highway. They are hoping this will alleviate traffic concerns around the jail and the area around the current office.
- **Lisa Resinkin, Gen County Dispatch:** They have completed the Spillman project. There are a few hiccups and some of the challenges are around paperwork.
- **Laurie Boston, Gem County Emergency Manager:** The CDC announced that masks are no longer required for those who have been vaccinated. This does not include healthcare settings or Long-term Care Facilities. Retail and food establishments have the choice to decide if they require masks or not. Currently, 34% of Gem County Residents, 16+, have received at least one-dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Gem County has seen a slight increase in cases this week, with 15 reported and no additional deaths. The Sweet Elementary was closed on Friday with a few positive cases and others isolating. Due to the decrease in demand for vaccinations, Valor Health will be conducting the last drive-thru vaccination clinic on Friday, May 21st for the 2nd dose Pfizer and some Johnson and Johnson. From this point, Valor Health will offer vaccinations on Mondays and Fridays with appointments in their clinic. FEMA has announced a Funeral Assistance program to provide financial assistance for COVID-19 related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020. The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to or caused by COVID-19. Contact Laurie if you need more information.
- **Tahja Jensen, Prosecutor's Office:** The Idaho Supreme Court has issued a temporary shut-down of jury trials because of the increase in COVID cases.
- **Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett:** June 5th from 2-4pm there will be a Motorcycle Veteran Ride. Flag Day will be June 14th. City Fire's Flag Corp will present colors at Noon. Cruise Night will be July 17th. The City is working on the budget. Legislature did not do local governments any favors with Senate Bill #389. There are several City attorneys and the AIC attorney determining if this Bill is even constitutional. The Transportation Bill that was signed last week will provide the City with \$79,000 additional dollars into the general fund that will be ear marked for Roads.
- **Ryan Bertalotto, Emmett Police Department:** Heather Mason has joined Keith Aamodt as a 2nd School Resource Officer and Detective. They are hiring 2 new officers to fill vacancies in the department. The Police department appreciates the joint efforts from everyone during the hazmat call last week. There were no accidents reported due to the traffic control efforts.

- **Curt Christensen, City of Emmett Fire:** The Fire Department has been able to test 68 hydrants. Every year they test 1/5 of the hydrants in the City of Emmett. The inspections are going very well. They have inspected health care facilities to make sure clients are safe. Please take a look at your dryer vents and vents in your bathrooms to help prevent fires. Car seat inspections will be held on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Friday of every month by appointment. They will be inspecting the food trucks that will be at the Cherry Festival. It is National EMS Week this week. Please thank those that work in Emergency Services.
- **Bev Martin, Gem County Fire District #2/Ola Community:** Fire #2 is publishing their burn ban. It has started and will continue until October 20th. It is very dry in the Sweet/Ola area. Driveway inspections have indicated that there has been quite a bit of growth. They are trying to keep up with equipment repair to be ready for the upcoming fire season.
- **Jason Kinley, Mosquito Abatement:** Mosquito season is here and they have been out working since April. The weather has been dry & warm causing a slower snow melt. A slower snow melt helps them identify and treat mosquito production areas. Even with that, they cannot identify and treat all areas. Drought conditions tend to bring animals together which makes it easier for mosquitos to transmit diseases. Staffing has recently improved and will help with the mosquito control work. Fogging applications will be starting soon with the fogging trucks to treat the adult mosquitos.
- **Barbara Weber, American Red Cross:** They are launching into new shelter surveys and need to re-contact with facilities that they have had contracts with in the past that have agreed to be shelter locations.
- **Dave McCarville, US Bureau of Reclamation:** They are doing their best to trap all the water they can to help provide those that irrigate with the water they need.
- **Liz Bolts, American Red Cross:** Please be sure to test your smoke alarms.
- **Joe Mayer, Member of the Community:** Clarity on April minutes: It was Joe's understanding that Chief Kunka would present the generator information to the Senior Center Board. Joe has also sent information about the Colonial pipeline outages and how generators would be a benefit. Email him if you would like more information.
- **Janet Monti, Friendship Coalition:** They can help provide food for any big event, like a fire, that has people out working for an extended period of time within an hour or hour and a half.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 am. Mayor Petrie moved to adjourn. 2nd by TJ Wilson.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 15th at 8:30 am. Direction will be provided at a later date on whether the meeting will be in person or remote.