



Local Emergency Planning Committee

Gem County LEPC
June 15th, 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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| Laurie Boston, Gem Co. EM | Bill Babcock, Emmett Police Dept. |
| Bill Butticci, Gem Co. Commissioner | Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Dept. |
| Susan Cleverley, IOEM | Liz Gochmour, LEPC Secretary |
| Adam Gonzalez, Payette Co. EM | Tahja Jensen, Gem Co. Prosecutor’s Office |
| Mike Knittel, City of Emmett | Steve Kunka, Emmett Police Dept. |
| Bev Martin, Gem Co. Sheriff’s Posse/
Fire Dist. #2 | Jessica McBride, 101st WMD CST |
| Len McCaulou, Gem Co. EMS | Dave McCarville, USBR |
| Lorrie Pahl, IOEM | Dale Mock, Sherriff’s Posse |
| Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioner | Gordon Petrie, Emmett City Mayor |
| Denise Sorenson, Emmett City
Councilman | Jake Silvester |
| Donnie Wunder, Gem Co. Sherriff | Barbara Weber, American Red Cross |
| | TJ Wilson, Southwest Dist. Health |

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

Approval of May 18th Minutes:

- Motion to approve May 18th minutes as written by Chief Kunka. 2nd by Bev Martin.

Building Resilient Communities – Susan Cleverley, Mitigation Section Chief, Idaho Office of Emergency Management:

- Why build resilient communities? To protect our residents against hazards. Examples are: 1976 Teton Dam failure: One of the most significant dam failures in U.S. history. \$2 billion in today’s estimates. The 1910 fire: Idaho experienced the most significant wildfire even in U.S. history. \$3.5 billion in today’s estimates. The 1983 Borah Peak earthquake: \$26 million in today’s estimates.
- The Gem County Hazard Mitigation Plan has estimated earthquake, flood, landslide, and other hazard losses. Thank you to all who helped with the plan update.
- FEMA put on a Building Safety Month in May. The international building code emphasizes the importance of modern building codes. FEMA sent out weekly messages. Week 1 – Energy and Innovation, Week 2 – Training the Next Generation, Week 3 – Water Safety – FEMA Mitigation Program, Week 4 – Disaster Preparedness
- Free online courses for fire and building code officials at website: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/blog/cb-060118.html>
- The International Code Council (ICC) provides Public Outreach Resources – Educate your community: Use the Code Council’s campaign toolkit to connect with your local community and to run your own social media campaign. Issue a Proclamation: Show your support of Building Safety Month by asking your city official to sign a proclamation. Promotional Materials: For print copies of brochures and more,

visit the ICC store. Safety Tips: Our free safety tips for the backyard, pool, electrical appliances, and classes are available here. Kids Corner: Download fun and educational materials for elementary school-aged children. More information at website: <https://www.iccsafe.org/advocacy/building-safety-month/2021-building-safety-month/>

- Idaho adopted Idaho Building Code 2018 as of January 1, 2021. If you go to website: <https://inspecttoprotect.org/> to enter your zip code and find out what building code level your community is at.
- A Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) score (range is from 0-10) is a required field on certain grant applications. Obtain a score from Idaho Surveying and Rating Bureau, Inc. by emailing Leland Boekweg at lboekweg@isrb.com.
- Going back to the question: Why build resilient communities? Today's codes are designed to help structures be disaster resistant. Save citizens' suffering. Facilitate community recovery.
- After a disaster is also a good time to re-evaluate building codes. Building code projects are eligible for FEMA mitigation funding. They are considered a planning type of application. For any questions, please contact Susan.
- You can always go for a higher standard on the codes to help protect your community.
- As you look at mitigation actions in your County's mitigation plan we encourage you to consider building codes as well as any priority projects. The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant will be announced in August. They are estimating 1 billion dollars for mitigation projects. Go to website: <https://webserver.imd.idaho.gov/arcgisportal>. Login with your WebEOC username and password. Select jurisdiction. Select action. Scroll to the bottom of the action screen. Select Create a New Project Application, complete form, and submit. You can submit a pre-application at any time of the year.
- For any questions or technical support, you can contact: Susan Cleverley, Mitigation Section Chief, phone #'s 208-258-6545 or 208-559-8478 (cell), Lorrie Pahl, Mitigation Planner, phone #'s 208-258-6508 or 208-901-2461 (cell), Traci Stewart, Mitigation Program Assistant, phone # 208-258-6581, Mary Mott, Mitigation Program Assistant, phone # 208-258-6521
Group email: 2018MitigationGrants@imd.idaho.gov

Public Comments:

- No public comments at this time.

General Reports:

- **Cpt. Jessica McBride, 101st WMD CST:** There was a training with the Region 3 Response Team at the Ford Idaho Center on June 1st. There was also a training at the Nampa Fire Training Center on June 4th.
- **Susan Cleverley, IOEM:** We have been fortunate to be awarded multi-million-dollar mitigation project grants within the state, but it is not a simple process. Please get started as soon as possible.
- **Lorrie Pahl, IOEM:** Start your applications early. Reach out if you have any questions or would like samples. With the new BRICK, there is a little bit more time, but there is a lot to the application process.
- **TJ Wilson, Southwest District Health:** SWDH is still going into the community to provide vaccines to food processing plants and schools. We are in the "100 days of summer". Please prepare and plan ahead during travel and have a car kit if you should break down or need to assist someone else. There have been a couple of bat bites reported. Due to the population growth, their Environmental Health employees have been very busy.
- **Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioner:** The fairgrounds have installed new aluminum bleachers. The Road department has been extremely busy. The Commissioners have been taking road tours with Neal Capps to address and access issues. There are approx. 120 miles of dirt roads that are on a rotating

schedule for grading. Increased ATV use on those roads has caused problems with the road conditions. They are continuing with the budget process. The Development Services office has been very busy. They have multiple applications for various land use matters that are pending. Former Prosecutor Dick Linville is retiring.

- **Bev Martin, Fire District #2/Ola Community:** Fire District #2 is standing by for the upcoming fire season.
- **Dale Mock, Sheriff's Posse:** The Posse is having regular meetings and trainings to be ready for a call out.
- **Len McCaulou, Gem Co. EMS:** They had 202 calls in May of this year compared to 158 calls in May of 2020, a 21% increase in calls. 65% of all calls are Advanced Life Support calls requiring a Paramedic level service. They have seen a 31% increase in Paramedic level calls. Last year they had 2041 total calls and are projecting 2300 calls this year. They are seeing 70 – 80 second out calls a month. Trainings are in house now with staff. They are expecting a new ambulance in the next couple of weeks. They are ready for Cherry Festival.
- **Donnie Wunder, Gem Co. Sheriff:** All departments within the Sheriff's department are seeing increasing activity and they are very busy.
- **Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett:** There was a great joint operation Flag Day ceremony on Monday which included the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, American Legion, Emmett Fire Department Color Guard, and the VFW. Work on S. John's has continued.
- **Chief Christensen, City Fire:** The Fire Department will be doing Community Risk Reduction inspections in the Albertsons and Bi-Mart areas this month. They will be doing Food Vendor inspections during the Cherry Festival. They have a checklist that is shared with other Fire Departments in the area. After passing inspection, the vendor receives a sticker to place on their truck. They are then checked off for other events in the area. They have completed phase 1 of the new training facility. The Hazmat trailer has been reorganized to include relief services. Car seat inspections are being done on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Friday of the month by appointment. They are also installing free smoke alarms. Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.
- **Barbara Weber, American Red Cross:** They are now able to do in-person responses again. They are ramping up for fire season. The Red Cross is completing shelter surveys and identifying new locations. They can also do in-person presentations for their "Be Red Cross Ready" program.
- **Adam Gonzalez, Payette Co. Emergency Manager:** Payette County is working on their after-action review of their COVID response. They will be doing a kick off of their Emergency Operation Plan update in the near future. They are also looking at enhancing their drone program with a training program.
- **Dave McCarville, US Bureau of Reclamation:** They are getting ready for fire seasons. They do have policies and procedures in place for fire season regarding infrastructure. They can provide help with resource advisement.
- **Laurie Boston, Gem Co. Emergency Manager:** (Via notes due to technical difficulties.) She will start distributing the Emergency Response Guides. Valor Health has reported in the Messenger Index that they have plenty of vaccines available. They will not be conducting any more drive thru clinics. They held more than 23 drive thru clinics and administered over 3200 doses. Volunteers donated over 1000 hours. They averaged 138 vaccines given at the clinics with the largest being 500 doses. Vaccines will now be available at the Family Medicine Clinic by appointment. Almost 35% of Gem County's population have been vaccinated. There has been 16 COVID + cases since 5/28/2021 with 1 death, a male in his 70's.

Motion to adjourn at 9:24 am. by Mayor Petrie. 2nd by TJ Wilson.

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