



Local Emergency Planning Committee

Gem County LEPC
October 19th, 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
Ricky Bowman, SW Dist. Health
Wade Carter, Emmett School Dist.
Quincy Chung, Emmett Ranger Dist.
Bob Hyde, Emmett School Dist.
Steve Kunka, Emmett Police Dept.
Joe Mayer, Member of the Public
Janet Monti, Friendship Coalition
Gordon Petrie, Emmett City Mayor
Denise Sorenson, Emmett City
Councilman

Laurie Boston, Gem Co. EM
Bill Butticci, Gem Co. Commissioner
Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Dist.
Liz Gochnour, LEPC Secretary
Tahja Jensen, Gem Co. Prosecutor
Bev Martin, Gem Co. Sheriff’s Posse/
Fire Dist. #2
Christina Nava, Emmett School Dist.
Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioner
Craig Woods, Emmett School Dist.

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

Approval of September 21st Minutes:

- Motion to approve September 21st minutes by Bev Martin. 2nd by Liz Bolts. Motion passes.

School Safety Changes – Superintendent Craig Woods and Principals:

- Bob Hyde, Principal of Emmett High School: He was born and raised in Emmett. Bob graduated from Boise State University in the late 1990’s. He started teaching at Emmett High School where he taught Social Studies and coached basketball, baseball, and football. After receiving his Master’s degree, he served as the Vice Principal at Emmett Middle School. After serving five years as the Principal of Eagle High School he returned to Emmett High School as Principal. Bob has two sons that graduated from Emmett High School.
- Christina Nava, Principal of Shadow Butte Elementary School: This is her twenty-first year in education. She has taught at Oregon and Idaho schools. She was raised in Ontario, Oregon. Her background is in curriculum & instruction, literacy, and administration. She spent six years at the State level as well.
- Wade Carter, Principal of Emmett Virtual Academy, Butte View School, & Ola/Sweet Schools: He has been in the Emmett School district for twenty-three years, eleven years at Emmett Middle School and twelve years at Emmett High School.
- Bob Hyde: In 2008, he put together a Mitigation Plan for his Superintendency degree. It focused on emergency evacuation, and mitigation. At Eagle High School, Bob revised the evacuation plan to have students go to different, designated areas lead by area leaders. The plan in Emmett is to re-write the Emergency Plan to include the ISCRS (Idaho Standard Command Response for Schools) curriculum,

update technology (walkie talkies, etc.), designate central locations, exit routes, and area leaders, and collaborating with Chief Kunka and Chief Christensen.

- Using the ISCRS curriculum will allow us to have common language between school districts. Staff and students that come into the Emmett School district will be familiar with the verbiage. All schools in Ada and Canyon Counties are using the ISCRS curriculum. It has also been adopted state-wide. Shawn Harper with the Community Services Division of Ada County will come over to provide training in November.
- Chief Kunka: ISCRS is not something new. The Chief and Emmett Police SRO's have attended multiple trainings. The goal is to have the entire Emmett School District trained on the ISCRS curriculum and have plans in place. When you were at Eagle High School, what was the transition process like?
- Bob Hyde: They transitioned five to six years ago starting with all the SRO's attending several large district trainings. The language was then brought into the schools with classroom posters and trainings school staff. It takes constant review and drills to make sure everything is still moving smoothly and that everything is standard and consistent.
- Chief Christensen: I would like to compliment the Emmett Schools, especially the High School for working on adopting the ISCRS system. The High School recently had one of the best fire drills I have seen. The State Fire Marshall's office is going to re-instate monthly fire drills. Please let me know when you will be holding them so I can put them on my calendar and participate.
- Craig Woods: I've got a really good team here. We give them an umbrella and they work well underneath it. Thanks to all of you for the help during the power outage. Chief Christensen and Chief Kunka. I called Chief Kunka from Boise about the lights and he said, "Don't worry about it. I'll get it taken care of." It feels good to know that there is a whole team here that will step up to the plate when it's needed.

Chair/Co-Chair Elections:

Laurie: Chair Nomination: Curt Christensen. Co-Chair: Dave Timony. Term is for two years. Motion to approve appointment of Curt Christensen to Chair and Dave Timony to Co-Chair by Steve Kunka. 2nd from Bev Martin. Motion passes.

Public Comments:

Joe Mayer, Member of the public: I was curious about the power outage last Thursday. Chief Christensen: There was a downed power line on 12th Street and Lincoln that cause a power outage in the City of Emmett. Joe: It seems like the Sparklight internet service went down. There was an outage at Albertsons. Was there an outage at Dispatch? Chief Christensen: Dispatch was able to stay up and keep continuity of operations going. Sparklight shares the same power poles. They were on site and did not indicate they had any real issues.

Janet Monti, Emmett Valley Friendship Coalition: We appreciate the on-going support from our Emergency Responders and the rest of the community. We are already in Christmas Cheer Basket mode and Stuff the Ambulance is coming up on November 19th and 20th. Shelly Tilton should be getting ahold of everyone to help.

General Reports:

- **Ricky Bowman, Southwest District Health:** SWDH is still handling their COVID response. They continue to maintain situational awareness with their State partners and County Emergency Managers. They now have a self-reporting tool for COVID-19 investigations. An automated phone call will go out to individuals directing them to an online questionnaire. They are putting more resources toward a syphilis outbreak statewide. There have seen a few bumps in cases of RSV.
- **Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioner:** They are continuing to deal with land use matters. They are preparing to accept bids for a new canopy to cover the grandstand at the fair-grounds. Last Wednesday, they had an open house to kick-off a re-write of the Comprehensive Plan at the Middle School auditorium. 75-100 people attended. They continue to work with Dispatch and other IT matters in the

County. Parts are hard to come by due to shortages. They purchased a new John Deer tractor to clean up some road hazards.

- **Bev Martin, Fire District #2:** It is business as usual for Fire #2.
- **Laurie Boston, Gem Co. Emergency Manager:** The AWR148 Crisis Management class scheduled for November 4th will be held remotely. Hospitals are still seeing large numbers of COVID. One of the Northern Idaho hospitals stated on a conference call that they had 450 staff openings, 150 of which were RN's and that they had 14 deaths in 7 days due to COVID. IOEM received a grant to create a confidential COVID help now hotline, also called Idaho Strong available 8am – 8pm Mon-Fri. Call or text number (986) 867-1073 or toll free at (866) 947-5186. Governor Little has declared October Healthcare Worker Appreciation Month.
- **Tahja Jensen, Gem Co. Prosecutor's Office:** The Idaho Supreme Court has come down with an order suspending all jury trials until the first week of December at the earliest. All Court will be conducted via Zoom with very few exceptions.
- **Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett:** The City is in the midst of re-writing their Comprehensive Plan. They are moving forward with impact fees. The asphalt will be down on John's by the end of the month. The round-a-bout at 4th and John's is being used without asphalt. Vehicles of all sizes have been able to get through, including a fire truck and school bus. It is designed to slow vehicles down to the speed limit of 20mph and keep traffic moving. Mr. Alexander and his 3rd grade class at Carberry Elementary were the first class asked by the League of Idaho Cities to participate in their Readers become Leaders program. On November 2nd, members the League, the AIC, Law Enforcement, and Fire will be here to do a reading from a book called, "Friends of the City" in which Emmett is featured on page 8.
- **Chief Kunka, Emmett Police:** The annual Prescription Take back will be held this Saturday, October 23rd in the back parking lot. It is a service that they provide every day via a drop box in the lobby of the Police Station during office hours.
- **Chief Christensen, City Fire:** They have been working with the school district and teaching fire safety to their classes. The program is called, "Get Low and Go", how to respond to a household fire. They have been replacing smoke detectors daily.
- **Liz Bolts, American Red Cross:** The Red Cross is not currently going into people's homes. Let us know if you need more smoke detectors. We appreciate the partnership with agencies that are willing to go into people's homes to get those replaced.

Motion to adjourn at 9:25 am. by Mayor Petrie. 2nd by Chief Kunka. Motion passes.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16th at 8:30 am. Direction will be provided at a later date on whether the meeting will be in person or remote.