



Local Emergency Planning Committee

Gem County LEPC
February 15th, 2022
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 | Jay Breidenbach, National Weather Service |
| Bill Buttici, Gem Co. Commissioner | Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Dist. |
| Quincy Chung, US Forest Service | Shauna Davis, Emmett School Dist. |
| Bryan Elliott, Gem Co. Commissioner | Liz Gochour, LEPC Secretary |
| Ryan Hale, Emmett Stake Church of
Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints | Steve Kunka, Emmett Police Dept. |
| Joe Mayer, Member of the Public | Bev Martin, Gem Co. Sheriff's Posse/
Fire Dist. #2 |
| Len McCaulou, Gem Co. EMS | Dale Mock, Gem Co. Sheriff's Posse |
| Kevin Nguyen, American Heart Assoc. | Gordon Petrie, Emmett City Mayor |
| Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioner | Dave Timony, Gem Co. Sheriff |
| Barbara Weber, American Red Cross | TJ Wilson, Southwest Dist. Health |

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

Approval of December 21st and January 18th Minutes:

- Motion to approve December 21st and January 18th minutes as written by Chief Kunka. 2nd by Mayor Petrie. Motion passes.

Potential Operational Delineations – Quincy Chung, Fire Management Officer for the Emmett Ranger District on the Boise National Forest:

- Last Month in January a Potential Operational Delineations (PODS) workshop was held. Last week they worked with the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute out of Colorado State University that was established by Congress in 2004. They focus on areas including wild fire risk assessment and decision support for fire managers. They also look at the socioeconomic and ecological monitoring, so how that impacts the partners that are in and around wild fire risk areas and the federal lands. Then they look at post-fire restoration, how do we make sure there are no land-slides by planting adequately to get the vegetation back into the area. The bread and butter of their work is working collaboratively and acting as a bridge between researches, fire managers and stake holders so that they are all working on a common operating picture.
- The POD Development Process: Workshop participants use analytical products and expert knowledge to identify effective control lines on base maps (Potential Control Locations, Suppression Difficulty Index, and Reference Layers) which are then digitized in GIS to create a final POD map. The workshops looked at areas within forest ownership and responsibilities to identify good locations to stop or slow fire spread if funding was available for fuels treatments. Actions by Fire Managers, private land owners and natural barriers do assist in stopping wildfire. The recordings from the POD workshops will be sent out after this meeting for review.

- This gives a common picture for pre-planning, identifying areas where they can contain a fire before it grows. This also allows them to go out and ground troop to identify holding areas for mechanical thinning, commercial harvesting, and prescribed fires to help prevent a catastrophic fire. Timber sales are scheduled out until 2026.
- The Boise National Forest in Region 4 is the #1 fire shed and water shed identified within the region. Region 4 is made up of Utah, Nevada, Southern Idaho, and a sliver of Western Wyoming.
- The Infrastructure Bill is looking at investing \$100 million into PODs for pre-planning and the fire response workshops and another \$500 million for developing or improving potential control locations.

American Heart Association – Kevin Nguyen, Community Impact & Health Strategy:

- February is Heart Health Month.
- What is hypertension? Hypertension is when the pressure against the arteries in our heart increases due to a variety of issues. Systolic: The pressure when your heart beats to get your blood out to your body. Diastolic: The pressure that brings your blood back to your heart. High blood pressure is called the silent killer. 120/80 is the normal range. 130-139/80-89 is stage 1 hypertension. 140/90 is stage 2 hypertension. Higher is a hypertensive emergency.
- Cholesterol can get caught in the lining of our arteries and over time can build up creating plaque. If the plaque breaks up and travels to our heart, lungs or brains it will result in a heart attack or stroke.
- The American Heart Association is trying to improve the way you take your blood pressure. A full bladder, resting a few minutes and not eating and drinking will all effect your blood pressure.
- Diet and exercise are ways to improve your blood pressure. Lowering your LDL cholesterol, lowering your sodium intake, and moderating alcohol will lower your blood pressure. Exercise will expand your arteries which will lower your blood pressure. It will improve the elasticity in your arteries to improve your blood pressure.
- They are working with 911 operators to instruct callers on performing CPR before First Responders arrive to improve the victim's chances of survival.
- Please reach out to Kevin at email address: Kevin.nguyen@heart.org if you have any organizations or clinics that need help with nutrition security, blood pressure cuffs, or other community outreach opportunities.

Public Comments:

- **Bill Buttici:** Youth Appreciation Day (YAD) will be held at the Gem Island Sports Complex on April 30th.

General Reports:

- **Jay Breidenbach, Nation Weather Service:** We have had a dry spell for the last month and a half. We should be moving into an active weather pattern. We need more moisture to improve the Snow Pack.
- **Quincy Chung, US Forest Service:** The Forest Service will be hiring to get people on board before fire season. They have been sending more people to Region 8 and 9 (SE Florida, Missouri, Arkansas, Alabama) to do prescribed fires, anticipating a busy fire season there.
- **TJ Wilson, Southwest District Health:** COVID cases are going down but they are continuing their relief efforts. They are having staffing shortages and are unable to send out strike teams at this time. The Federal Government has provided N95 masks. Contact TJ if masks are needed.
- **Dale Mock, Gem County Sheriff's Posse:** Gem Co. Posse is active, but they need new members. ISSAR (Idaho State Search and Rescue) is having a meeting tomorrow night in Weiser about lost person behavior.

- **Bev Martin, Gem County Fire District #2:** They have been preparing for the upcoming fire season with a focus on communications. Phone lines were down on Sat. and Sun. in Ola. They are looking at a reliable cell phone service to get alerts. More volunteers are needed who would be available during working hours.
- **Laurie Boston, Gem Co. Emergency Management:** Laurie has started working on the Emergency Operation Plan. There will be a contractor here on March 15th after our next LEPC meeting. She will be setting up appointments with some of the First Responders and Public Officials to meet with them to get information. COVID cases are going down, including the school district.
- **Bill Butticci, Bryan Elliott, Mark Rekow, Gem County Commissioners:** The County is working on their Comprehensive plan. Their public engagement/open forums will be held on March 14th and March 15th. They are still working on the backup system for Dispatch. A tech will be sent out to work on the damaged unit. There are big pot holes on the Black Canyon highway towards Horseshoe Bend. That road belongs to the State and they will be reaching out to them about it.
- **Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett:** The City is also working on their Comprehensive plan. Their first public workshop will be on the 23rd. The City will also be starting significant survey operations on the road systems and boundary/fence lines.
- **Dave Timony, Gem County Sheriff:** Jail visitation is still being suspended due to illness.
- **Len McCaulou, Gem County EMS:** No staff are currently out due to illness. They are still transporting COVID patients and following precautions. EMS is back to the normal run volume after going down a little in December and the first part of January.
- **Chief Kunka, Emmett City Police:** The police department have begun a reorganization and moved some positions around. Heather Rohr has been moved to the School Resource Officer position. The Police department, City Fire, and other organizations are working on a Cherry Festival plan to make it safer.
- **Chief Christensen, City Fire:** The Fire Department has been installing a ton of car seats and changing out smoke detectors. They are training like crazy with the warmer weather.
- **Barbara Weber, American Red Cross:** There continues to be a blood shortage. Please donate blood. They are working on disaster preparedness. Let them know if more smoke detectors are needed.

Motion to adjourn by Mayor Petrie. 2nd by Barbara Weber. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:44 am.

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