



# Local Emergency Planning Committee

Gem County LEPC  
April 19<sup>th</sup>, 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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| Liz Bolts, American Red Cross  | Laurie Boston, Gem Co. EM                           |
| Bill Butticci, Gem Co. Commissioner                                    | Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Dist.                 |
| Quincy Chung, US Forest Service  | Bryan Elliott, Gem Co. Commissioner                 |
| Camille Evans, Valor Health  | Rob Feeley, Idaho Office of<br>Emergency Management |
| Liz Gochnour, LEPC Secretary   | Tahja Jensen, Gem Co. Prosecutor                    |
| Ryan Hale, Emmett Stake Church of<br>Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints | Heather Knapp, St. Luke’s Health<br>System          |
| Steve Kunka, Emmett Police Dept.                                       | Joe Mayer, Member of the Public                     |
| Bev Martin, Gem Co. Sheriff’s Posse/<br>Fire Dist. #2                  | Jessica McBride, 101st WMD CST                      |
| Len McCaulou, Gem Co. EMS  | Renee McDaniel, Valor Health                        |
| Janet Monti, Friendship Coalition                                      | Gordon Petrie, Emmett City Mayor                    |
| Margaret Romiti, Valor Health  | Dave Timony, Gem Co. Sheriff                        |
| TJ Wilson, Southwest Dist. Health                                      |   |

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

**Approval of March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Minutes:**

- Motion to approve March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 minutes as written by Bev Martin. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mayor Petrie. Motion passes.

**Non-Accidental Pediatric Trauma – Heather Knapp, St. Luke’s Pediatric Trauma Educator:**

- April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Child abuse is defined as “Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation; or an act or failure to act, which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.” Child abuse encompasses a lot of different types of abuse.
- As of 2019: 656,000 victims of child abuse and neglect were identified within the United States with 1,840 children dying of abuse and neglect. It was reported that over 4 million reports were made to Child Protective Services. Neglect being the most common form identified, followed by physical abuse.
- At St. Luke’s there was a substantial increase in visits for child abuse and neglect between 2019 and 2020. They did see an increase in abuse during COVID-19. There was also an increase in the severity of injury and admissions. In 2019, there were 8 non-accidental trauma admissions with no fatalities but in 2020, there were 19 admissions with 5 fatalities. Prior to 2020, the last death seen at St. Luke’s was in 2017.
- All children under the age of 18 years old should be screened for child abuse. Child abuse crosses all socioeconomic, educational, religion, ethnic, and cultural groups. Low-income and special needs groups tend to have more stressors that can increase the risk of child abuse.

- Red Flags for Non-Accidental Trauma include: Bruises – There is an acronym called TEN4FACESp that is used to identify bruising that is frequently seen in abuse. T=Torso (chest, abdomen, back, buttocks, genitals), E=Ear, N=Neck, 4=less than 4 years and 364 days old and 4 months or younger, F=Frenulum injury (seen in young infants when a bottle or pacifier is forced into their mouths to stop crying), A=Auricular (angle of the jaw), C=Cheek, E=Eyelid, S=Sclera (white part of the eye), p=Patterned bruising.
- Bruising of any kind in a child less than 4 months old is a concerning sign of abuse due to immobility of the child. Any bruising should be evaluated to determine the cause of the bruising. There is a quote that states, “Those who don’t cruise, don’t bruise.”
- Bruising patterns include: Loop marks – using an electrical cord; Handprint marks – the statute in Idaho states that spanking is allowed, but spanking hard enough to bruise crosses the line; Subgaleal hematoma due to hair pulling – can be seen after vaginal delivery, but is also seen when a child is pulled by their hair; Bite marks – especially if it looks larger than a child’s mouth.
- Patterned burns include: Round/semi-circular/oval patches – could be from cigarettes or cigars being forced upon the skin; Triangle shape – hot iron; Immersion burn patterns from being forced into scalding water – stocking/glove pattern, symmetrical burns of the extremities, burns on the buttocks, no or minimal splash marks; Multiple burn sites. The bottoms of the feet may be spared from burning in a tub due to the water being cooled by the bottom of the tub. When a child is held against an object to cause the burn, the burn pattern will be recognizable to the object. Accidental burns will typically not be uniform or have a pattern.
- Scald burns can be hard to evaluate whether the burns are accidental or not. A few questions to ask are: Are there splash marks? Does the story make sense? Is the action that caused the burn developmentally appropriate? Deeper burns are due more to what is in the pot. Noodles, oatmeal and other food items can stick to the skin and burn deeper.
- Does the mechanism match the injury? Skull and rib fractures from falling off a sofa – 1/1000 falls from a low height caused clinically significant skull fractures. Injuries from falls less than 3 feet are rare.
- Is the child capable of accomplishing the act the care giver is stating they completed? Can a 6-month-old turn on a faucet or climb into a bathtub?
- Does the history change or is it conflicting to fit the injuries? Also, if the family does not have a story for the trauma, it is a red flag. Keeping good notes about the history is important to see a record of the changing story.
- Neglect is the #1 cause of abuse in the Nation. This form can be harder to identify. Child neglect is the inability of a caregiver to meet a child’s basic needs, potentially placing the child at risk of serious harm. There are 5 types of neglect: Physical neglect – abandoning the child and not providing their needs; Medical neglect – delaying or denying recommended healthcare for a child; Inadequate supervision – leaving the child unsupervised (depending on length of time and child’s age), not protecting the child from safety hazards, or engaging in harmful behavior; Emotional neglect – isolating the child, not providing affection or emotional support, or exposing the child to domestic violence or substance abuse; Educational neglect – Failing to enroll the child in school or homeschool, ignoring special education needs, or permitting chronic absenteeism from school. For more information on types of neglect, visit Information Gateway’s webpage on the Identification of Neglect at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/identifying/neglect>

- It is important that First Responders report a home that shows signs of neglect or an unsafe environment that would contribute to the child’s symptoms. If a child is brought in for vomiting, the workup would be different if it is also reported that drug paraphernalia, rotting food, or feces were in the home.
- Non-physical signs of abuse can include acute complaints of: Altered level of consciousness, vomiting, seizure, or apnea and chronic complaints of: Failure to thrive, chronic poor feeding, frequent visits to the ED, and loss of milestones. Was there a delay in seeking care? When a child comes in with one of these findings and there is not an explanation for why these are occurring, it is important to consider NAT as a possible answer.
- There is State Legislature stating that Healthcare workers are mandated reporters of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect. There is similar legislature for teachers and counselors. They are mandated reporters, not mandated delegators. Child Protective Services will be the ones to make the determination of whether or not it is child abuse.
- Who to contact: Child Protective Services: Statewide: 1-855-552-KIDS (5437), Treasure Valley: 208-334-KIDS (5437), 2-1-1 or local Law Enforcement.
- St. Luke’s CARES (Children at Risk Evaluation Services) can be contacted for help, advice, or questions. CARES cannot take reports or referrals directly from the community. They do need a referral from CPS, law enforcement agencies, or the court. You can contact them by calling or faxing: Boise: phone #208-577-4460, fax #208-577-4469, Twin Falls: phone #208-814-7750, fax #208-814-7759.
- What to expect when reporting: CPS staff will not disclose caller information to the family under any circumstances. The social worker will tell the family the caller’s information is confidential and if the family requests their records the information will be redacted. All callers can remain anonymous. If you are in a healthcare setting, the caregiver should be told when and why a referral to CPS is being initiated, but do not inform them alone. If the caregiver attempts to leave, do not follow them and inform law enforcement.
- When you call, these are some of the common information they will need: Child and family names, address, and phone number. Current location of the child and if they are in immediate danger. Description of any injury to the child and when and where the incident occurred. Names of people who may also have information. Explanation of your concerns regarding the child’s safety. Any additional information you have that may be helpful. Your name, address, phone number, and relationship to the child.
- Parents can find resources and help if they are struggling by going to website: <https://idahofamilysupport.org/>
- You can contact Heather Knapp at phone #208-381-5337 or email [knapph@slhs.org](mailto:knapph@slhs.org)

### **Public Comments:**

- **Bill Butticci:** Youth Appreciation Day is Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Gem Island Sports Complex.
- **Joe Mayer:** Joe will email Laurie a link with a QR code to access a YouTube video of the “60 Minutes” segment titled “The Grid”.

### **General Reports:**

- **Quincy Chung, US Forest Service:** Prescribed fire plans have been delayed due to the recent snow and rain. They can only do prescribed fires until around May 15<sup>th</sup> due to protected species that will be migrating back in. The Southwest has already had 3 Type 1 Incident Management Command fires. By 2024, there will be 1 CIMT (Critical Incident Management Team) instead of Type 1 or Type 2 teams. It was tested in the Rocky Mountain region last season and will be tested again this season. Quincy will

send out a presentation focusing on the mental health of First Responders by Dr. Steve Nicholas called Warrior Servant.

- **Len McCaulou, Gem County EMS:** EMS is still busy. There have been more transfers from Valor Health to over the hill facilities. They have been doing trauma training. They have an opening for a Paramedic position.
- **Bev Martin, Fire #2:** The burn ban will be from May 15<sup>th</sup> – October 20<sup>th</sup>. The Ola School celebration will be on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. The ribbon cutting will be at 12:00 followed by a luncheon.
- **Bill Butticci, Gem County Commissioners:** Progress is being made on the UPS systems for dispatch. They have received the last unit needed and it is getting installed. There was a power outage last week that did not cause any problems. The comp plan is in progress, gathering the information from the public engagement and surveys. The Steering committee is planning public meetings in June and they will have hearings in August.
- **Laurie Boston, Gem Co. Emergency Management:** Laurie has been updating the Emergency Operation Plan, Emergency Operation Center Plan and working on the budget.
- **Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett:** Next week, the upgrades to Locust will start. They will be working on sewer, water, and fiber lines. This week is Volunteer Appreciation week. There will be an Arbor Day celebration at the cemetery on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.
- **Chief Kunka, Emmett City Police:** The Police Department will have a bike rodeo at Youth Appreciation Day. Chief Kunka will be doing a presentation about “See Something, Say Something” at YAD. The traffic plans for Cherry Festival will be approved at the next City Council meeting. Police, City Fire, and EMS have been working with the Road Department and the Chamber for months to make it a safer event. The traffic plan for Cruise Night will also be approved at the next City Council meeting.
- **Chief Christensen, Emmett City Fire:** During the power outage last week, there were quite a lot of calls about smoke detectors chirping and going off. Smoke detectors expire after 10 years. Look at the date and get them replaced. Call the fire department if you need new smoke detectors.
- **Margaret Romiti, Valor Health:** Margaret is the new Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for Valor Health. She worked in law enforcement for 25 years as a Mental Health Professional in the Juvenal Justice System and as an Emergency Manager. She retired right before the pandemic, then got bored and was hired on at Valor Health.
- **Liz Bolts, American Red Cross:** They have not had any house fires in Emmett for quite some time. There was a house fire on E. Main St. where their smoke detectors went off and alerted them of the fire. They will be having a Sound the Alarm event with Parma Fire and hope to install 50 smoke detectors.
- **TJ Wilson, Southwest District Health:** SWDH is re-organizing, transitioning away from COVID and preparing for the summer. They are still seeing cases of flu so get your flu shots.

Motion to adjourn by TJ Wilson. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mayor Petrie. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 am.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am. Direction will be provided at a later date on whether the meeting will be in person or remote.