



# Local Emergency Planning Committee

Gem County LEPC  
July 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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| Bill Buttici, Gem Co. Commissioner                    | Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Dist.              |
| Quincy Chung, US Forest Service                       | Rob Feeley, Idaho Office of Emergency Management |
| Liz Gochmour, LEPC Secretary                          | Steve Kunka, Emmett Police Dept.                 |
| Tahja Jensen, Gem Co. Prosecutor                      | Joe Mayer, Member of the Public                  |
| Bev Martin, Gem Co. Sheriff's Posse/<br>Fire Dist. #2 | Len McCaulou, Gem Co. EMS                        |
| Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett                          | Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioner                 |
| Lisa Resinkin, Gem Co. Dispatch                       | Margaret Romiti, Valor Health                    |
| TJ Wilson, Southwest Dist. Health                     |  |

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

**Approval of June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 Minutes:**

- Approve of June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes differed to August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Wildland Fire Conditions/Update: Quincy Chung, Fire Management Officer for the Emmett Ranger District on the Boise National Forest:**

- The Emmett District is one of 5 districts of the Boise National Forest, it covers the Southwest to the Central Western side of the forest cover. (Garden Valley, Crouch, Sagehen, Sweet, and Ola.)
- National Interagency Coordination Center Incident Management Situation Report for July 19, 2022: Current National Preparedness Level is at 3 on a scale from 1-5, Level 1 typically in the winter and 5 means that the majority of all available resources around the nation are committed. National Fire Activity: Initial attack activity – Light (149 new fires), New large incidents – 14, Large fires contained – 18, Uncontained large fires – 24, Type 1 IMT's (Incident Management Team) committed – 3, Type 2 IMT's committed - 8
- In 2024, agencies will go toward a single complex IMT rather than a Type 1 or Type 2. This change will allow to have a pool of qualified individuals to pull from to expand or contract as an incident dictates.
- Incidents over 300 acres show up on the Situation Report Resource Summary showing Geographical location, cumulative acres burned, and resources assigned for the day.
- Alaska has had 13 incidents with 1,734,953 acres burned yesterday and all of their resources committed. Great Basin had 11 incidents with 51,040 acres burned and 1400 people committed. Great Basin is composed of Nevada, Utah, Southern Idaho, and a sliver of Wyoming.
- The 10-year average: Total Fires – 30,882; Total Acres – 2,988,186. Current year: Total Fires – 34,896; Total Acres – 5,475,833. The total acres for Alaska this year have matched the 10-year average.
- To view current wildfire incidents in the South Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center go to website: <http://www.wildcad.net/WCID-SCC.htm>

- The Wildland Fire Outlook: The Great Basin region is looking mostly normal except for an area in Northern Nevada, Southern Oregon that shows in July they may be above normal. There may be an increase in above normal fire potential for Southern Idaho in August. In September and October we should go back to normal in Idaho.
- There is a 90-day moratorium on prescribed fires nationally that will be re-evaluated and potentially lifted in September.
- Contact Quincy to get links to any of the websites he referenced.

### **Public Comments:**

- **Joe Mayer:** Please remember to include me in the invitations to the LEPC meetings.

### **General Reports:**

- **Rob Feeley, Idaho Office of Emergency Management:** They just wrapped up a state emergency declaration for flooding in North Central Idaho in support of Nez Pierce and Idaho Counties. That declaration helped to repair road damage. The grant application time frame is approaching. They will publish the opportunity to apply for those grants in August/September.
- **TJ Wilson, Southwest District Health:** COVID numbers have gone up and some agencies are asking for N95 masks. Monkey Pox has been confirmed in Idaho. SWDH is working on getting vaccinations. We are into the 100-days of summer – travel safely and be prepared.
- **Bill Butticci, Gem County Commissioners:** They are working on the Comprehensive Plan for the County and keeping the road crews going.
- **Bev Martin, Gem County Fire #2:** The engine in one of their main brush truck is in need of repairs and a refurbished engine. It may be down for three weeks, but they will back up with their other trucks on calls. They are seeing significant dry grass that will pose a hazard during lightning strikes. There will be a benefit dinner for Mike McCaulou on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm at the Syringa Hall in Sweet. Mike is our main mechanic and has been having significant illness and has had to close his shop.
- **Len McCaulou, Gem County EMS:** They have had a 40% increase in call volume last month vs the previous month.
- **Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett:** They are still in the mitigation process of accessing the damage to the City Park from Cruise Night. The City is finishing up their Comprehensive Plan.
- **Chief Kunka, Emmett City Police:** Cruise Night is the last planned event for the summer. Adjustments were made due to staffing shortages in Emmett PD and the outside agencies that help out. The South Border was changed to 12<sup>th</sup> St rather than the Highway. People were able to freely go between 12<sup>th</sup> and Highway to access those businesses.
- **Chief Christensen, Emmett City Fire:** They responded to a structure fire on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The structure was saved and 3 smoke detectors were installed the next day. Please let them know if you see any residents within City limits without smoke detectors. They had an open house on Cruise Night, providing water, Gatorade, and food for all First Responders. There will be a Car Seat Inspection drive through clinic on Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00am – 1:00 pm. It is easier to make an appointment. They will inspect and teach people how to properly install their car seats. If you know anyone that is in need of a new car seat due to a car accident, please have them call to make an appointment to get a new seat for free. They taught Fire Safety at Valor Health this past week. They have a new burn prop and taught staff how to use a fire extinguisher.
- **Margaret Romiti, Valor Health:** They have over 50 participants at the Fire Safety training. Roger will be reaching out to Fire and Law Enforcement about their annual tour for Fire and Law Enforcement. Two panic buttons were installed at their Fernlee facility.
- **Tahja Jensen, Gem County Prosecutors Office:** Courts are resuming normal activities.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 am.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 16<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.