



Gem County LEPC
January 17th, 2023
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 Butticci, Gem Co. Commissioners | Rebecca Brockman, Idaho State Comm. |
| Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Dist. | Quincy Chung, US Forest Service |
| Jeremy Elliott, Idaho State Comm. | Liz Gochnour, LEPC Secretary |
| Tahja Jensen, Gem Co. Prosecutor | Steve Kunka, Emmett Police Dept. |
| Bev Martin, Gem Co. Sheriff's Posse/
Fire Dist. #2 | Joe Mayer, Member of the Public |
| Heidi Novich, Idaho Office of EM | Len McCaulou, Gem Co. EMS |
| Melanie Patterson, SW District Health | Lorrie Pahl, Idaho Office of EM |
| Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioners | Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett |
| Jeff Ulmer, Gem Co. Emergency Mgr. | Margaret Romiti, Valor Health |
| Dennis Weaver, Ola Community | Trudy Wadsworth, Emmett Stake Church of
Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints |
| Barbara Weber, American Red Cross | Mike Welch, Gem Co. Fire/EMS |
| Rick Welch, Gem Co. Fire/EMS | Kirk Wille, Gem Co. Commissioners |
| TJ Wilson, Southwest Dist. Health | |

Meeting called to order by Curt Christensen at 8:32a.m.

Approval of December 20th, 2022 Minutes:

- Motion to approve December 20th, 2022 minutes by Chief Welch. 2nd by TJ Wilson. Motion passes, minutes approved.

Jeremy Elliott & Rebecca Brockman – Idaho State EMS Communications Center (StateComm):

- StateComm is a 24/7 emergency communications and coordination center located in Meridian. Anyone is invited to come and take a tour.
- StateComm is a component of the Bureau of Emergency Management Services (EMS) and Preparedness, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Welfare. State Comm is one of the oldest agencies under the EMS Bureau starting in 1977.
- StateComm provides emergency dispatch and communications for EMS, Idaho Transportation Department, Hazardous Material Incidents, public health emergencies, AMBER Alters, and many other situations and scenarios.
- History: Prior to StateComm, EMS reports were done over land line phone. StateComm was started to be a communication hub between ambulances and the hospitals to provide patient reports. A grant was obtained by the former EMS Bureau Chief, Paul Anderson, to put up 15 radio sites around the state. It was staffed by a Paramedic and a Nurse and was also Poison Control. The original Poison Control phone number is still their current phone number of 1-800-632-8000. Their location started at Saint Alphonsus

in Boise, moved into the Emergency Department a few years later, then moved in the 90's to a location on Elder street with Idaho State Police Dispatch and in 2000 they moved to their current location on the Idaho State Police campus.

- Current Capabilities Include: Radio/paging communication statewide, 42 EMS mountaintop bases with 16 staff members certified as EMS dispatchers. All their calls that are done as an EMD are graded and scored. No more than 10% of their calls can be in the non-compliant rating. They do monthly required training/education in house and through the International Association of Emergency Medical Dispatchers. They dispatch for Boise, Bruneau, and Lemhi counties. They also dispatch for air medical crews.
- Primary notification point for the National Alert Warning System (NAWAS)
- Primary activation point for the Idaho Emergency Alert System (EAS) to disseminate emergency alerts, or AMBER Alerts via radio and television: There is now missing endangered person alert and there will soon be a Blue Alert. The information is received from the Idaho State Police. Once the information is confirmed and verified, StateComm will send out an alert. AMBER Alerts will be sent out state wide and missing/endangered person alerts will go regionally or locally. The Blue Alert is for a situation where a law enforcement officer has been injured, killed, or abducted while in the line of duty and they have a suspect. Information identifying the suspect will be sent out statewide.
- Hazardous materials and weapons of mass destruction contact point: StateComm is the main reporting point for Hazmat for the State of Idaho. They have 6 teams available around the state and have been recognized by FEMA for their Hazmat response.
- Railroad incident response coordination
- Logging incident response coordination: StateComm has been identified as nationwide best practices for their partnership with the Associated Logging Contractors of Idaho. Anytime there is a medical emergency with a Logger they will radio StateComm who will dispatch the closest air medical and ground medical crew simultaneously. The Logging Contractors will register their job sites with StateComm. StateComm is the only state that is coordinating for logging incidents. Last year there were no calls, but there has already been one call for this year. Since the program has started there has been a drop in the number of on-scene fatalities.
- Status monitoring of hospital bed availability and diversions: During the Mall shooting incident StateComm was involved to get a count of available hospital beds in the area. It was 8 minutes from the time the Ada Co. Incident Commander contacted StateComm and StateComm called and coordinated a conference call with all the Boise area hospitals, West Valley, and Saint Alphonsus Ontario.
- Status monitoring of state highway conditions and dispatch of the Idaho Transportation Department: 24-hour coverage. Law enforcement or IDT staff will contact StateComm to send out snow plows, maintenance crews, etc. If StateComm is contacted about an incident along the Highway, they can put the incident information into the 511-notification system to alert drivers about traffic delays in the area of the incident.
- Coordination with multiple local, state, and federal agencies during emergency incidents: They will coordinate a conference call with all needed agencies when an Incident Commander initiates a call. State Comm was the main notification point for all Counties and Hospitals during COVID.
- Direct contact with 44 county sheriff's offices in Idaho and Idaho State Police
- Prehospital tissue referral coordination
- They are staffed 24/7 365 days a year. They have a minimum of 2 staff members on at all times, with up to 4 staff during the day until midnight.
- Call volumes for the year: Total calls including ITD, Hazmat, and EMS/EMD: about 50,000 Hazmat: 300. EMS/EMD: over 500. Winter (Nov. – April) is the busiest time for ITD calls.
- Joe: Nationally there seems to be issues/concerns about substations. Is that outside of your jurisdiction?
Jeremy: Yes, we have nothing to do with power substations at all.

- Chief Kunka: If I need a K9 unit or Hazmat team I would tell dispatch. Does my dispatch contact StateComm? Jeremy: Yes, to get those agencies to respond they need to go through StateComm to get the authorization to activate those teams. We like to refer to ourselves as 911's 911.
- Chief Christensen: Have any fire agencies contacted you for assistance on more complex fires? Jeremy: It hasn't progressed to requests from fire agencies. We typically do not monitor fire agency traffic.
- Commissioner Buttici: Do you prefer to be contacted through local dispatches? Jeremy: We would prefer the local entities to get the resources needed first. If they are having difficulty locating it we do prefer the dispatches contact us. For Hazmat the Incident Commanders will contact us.
- Contact Jeremy to schedule a tour of the StateComm facility.

Public Comments:

- No public comments.

General Reports:

- **Len McCaulou, Gem County EMS:** EMS ran 187 calls last month. They are currently teaching an EMT class with 6 people from the Sweet/Ola area.
- **Chief Welch, Gem County Fire/EMS:** Fire District #1 has 13 calls for service last month.
- **Melanie Patterson, Southwest Dist. Health:** Melanie will be helping to facilitate the Health Coalition for Gem County and they are looking for more community partners to take part. The main focuses right now are mental health services access, safe and active community, and nutrition insecurity. She also is the opiate overdose prevention coordinator. She can give Narcan training and provide opioid rescue kits to EMS and Fire.
- **Dennis Weaver, Ola Community:** The Valentines Sweetheart fundraiser dinner will be on Feb. 11th in Ola. There will be a 5:39pm social hour followed by a prime rib dinner at 6:00pm.
- **Bev Martin, Gem County Fire District #2:** Fire District #2 appointed a new Commissioner, Tracy Irish and a new Secretary, Poppy Darby. January 21st at 6:00pm there will be a Chili cookoff fundraiser for Fire #2. Tickets are \$10 for dinner. The Sherriff's Posse will be attending ISSAR training on January 25th. All First Responders are welcome to attend.
- **Quincy Chung, US Forest Service:** The Forest Service have been doing modules in the Southeast and will continue into March. Their window for prescribed fires is usually April 15th – May 15th. They are hoping to burn more than one unit a day with the assistance from Region 8. Seasonal hiring closes on the 19th. They have 2 slots available in the Emmett Ranger District.
- **Chief Kunka, Emmett Police Dept.:** The Health Coalition did a traffic study that helped with the creation of the round-abouts. They have also helped getting food to the schools to help with the summer feeding program. The Health Coalition also helped with the drug take back program through the Police Department. Emmett Police was able to get more officers on the patrol teams in 2023 due to the population increase.
- **TJ Wilson, Southwest Dist. Health:** RSV counts are going down, but flu is going up. They have seen some deaths associated with the flu. IDHW sent out a query to all the pharmacies for Tamiflu. SWDH does have Tamiflu available if needed and will send out a message to all hospitals and pharmacies if they have a need.
- **Commissioner Buttici, Gem Co. Commissioners:** Road crews have been trying to keep roads intact with the wet weather. The Tom's Cabin bridge will be replaced. The Opioid committee will be meeting to get recommendations on how to spend the settlement money.
- **Jeff Ulmer, Gem County Emergency Manager:** A group has been formed called: The Regional Information Technology and Emergency Management Team. It will focus on cyber security incidents and how to pool resources when something happens. They are creating an Incident response and structure. It

includes representatives from Rural Counties in the area. The training for Elected Officials will be scheduled for February.

- **Chief Christensen, Emmett City Fire:** City Fire has been transitioning to batteries for equipment rather than running off of generators. The Snake River Valley Fire Chiefs will be bringing in Mike Gagliano to talk about “Go or No Go” (determining whether or not to go into a structure fire), teaching “This House Rocks” (how to create a winning culture inside your firehouse), and in the evening will be talking about Firefighter marriage with his wife. These classes will be on Feb. 11th. City Fire had 11 calls last month. A lot of them were about smelling gas. On one of the calls, they found a business that had high carbon monoxide gas readings. They worked with the business to mitigate that for their employees. There have been two similar incidents that were mitigated by prevention. The Fire Department has a Car Seat Replacement program. If someone has been in an accident, they have car seats to replace the old one and can help people properly install them. An appointment is needed. Call the Fire Department to schedule an appointment.
- **Margaret Romiti, Valor Health:** (update via chat) “On Friday, January 13th, we held a mass casualty TTX for all our Charge nurses and office management staff for the clinic and hospital. This was an extension from our active shooter TTX done in Nov. Next we will be holding a PIO specific training in Feb./March.” Chief Christensen: Officer Leatherman has been holding Active Shooter Training. He has been reaching out to Churches to train. Reach out to Officer Leatherman for training.

Motion to adjourn by TJ Wilson. 2nd by Chief Welch. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21st at 8:30 a.m. We will be meeting in person, and via zoom. Please see reminder email for more detailed direction.