



Gem County LEPC
January 16th 2024
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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| Rick Applegate, American Red Cross | Chief Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire |
| Mike Giery, Emmett Fire Dist. | Liz Gochnour, LEPC Secretary |
| Heather Gregory, Gem Co. Just Serve | Tahja Jensen, Gem Co. Prosecutors Office |
| Chief Steve Kunka, Emmett Police | Bev Martin, Gem Co. Fire #2/Ola Community |
| Joe Mayer, Member of the Public | Len McCaulou, Gem Co. EMS |
| Heidi Novich, Idaho Office of
Emergency Management | Glenn Olson, Member of the Public |
| Jeff Ulmer, Gem Co. Emergency Mgr. | Molly Smith, Southwest Dist. Health |
| Trudy Wadsworth, Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter-Day Saints | Dave Timony, Gem Co. Sheriff |
| Chief Mike Welch, Gem Co. Fire | Jeff Walker, Gem Co. Just Serve |
| | Barbara Weber, American Red Cross |

Motion to start meeting by Mike Giery. 2nd by Chief Mike Welch. Motion approved. Meeting called to order by Chief Christensen at 8:30a.m.

Public Comments (3 Minutes):

- Joe Mayer: Information given about the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Why should we be concerned in Idaho? Idaho may receive survivors from California, Oregon, and Washington if a tsunami hits the coastline of those states. (See link information on handouts and email attachments.)

Approval of December 19th, 2023 Minutes (3 Minutes):

- Motion to approve by Chief Steve Kunka. 2nd by Chief Mike Welch. Motion passes.

JustServe Presentation – Heather Gregory and Jeff Walker (20 Minutes):

- Jeff Walker: Jeff took over as the Gem County Coordinator of Just Serve in December. He has been speaking to organizations in Emmett to sign up and utilize the website. He will be speaking to the Gem County Senior Center about posting projects needed for Seniors in the community and Heather will be speaking to the Emmett Library about what kind of volunteer opportunities they can ask for.
- What is JustServe? JustServe.org is a free website and app used by faith, nonprofit, community, and government organizations to post service opportunities that allow the entire community to find voluntary opportunities to assist those in need. Organizations will create an account and post a one-time event or continuous needs for volunteers. It is sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, but it is not a platform for religious or political advertising or campaigning. There are no adds or commercials.
- Cherry Ridge, Meadow View, PALS, and the Gem County Recreation District have all started accounts for Emmett. Once the organization has created an account you can submit a project. The website will ask

questions about the date, time, volunteers needed, contact information, etc. The projects need to be approved by Jeff before they are posted. No monies are collected. Item donations are accepted.

- Volunteers can search for opportunities by zip code, mile radius, interests, etc. An email will be sent to the requestor about their interests. Thirteen and older can create their own accounts, younger children will need their parents permission.
- Jeff's email is jdwalker010@gmail.com. He is available on Fridays to meet to help create an event or to do a presentation to a group. Here is a link to the website: [JustServe](#)

General Reports (10 Minutes):

- **Chief Mike Welch, Gem Co. Fire Dist. #1:** They are trying to wrap up their Firefighter 1 class, they have had to reschedule some things due to weather. They have 12 students going through the class. They are looking to wrap up the 1st or 2nd week of February and should have those students ready to go after that. They are getting information ready for the new AFG (Assistance to Firefighters Grants) grant that is coming up and hoping to submit for new equipment.
- **Mike Giery, City of Emmett Fire:** Prevention has been hitting target hazards and then working through local businesses. They have a group of interviews this week for new candidates.
- **Len McCaulou, Gem Co. EMS:** They broke a records last month with 236 calls for service, typically they run between 140 – 170. They had 4 ambulances out at one time. They have had multiple 2nd out calls, calling in volunteers. They are not currently accepting applications for EMTs until they live in Gem County, but are accepting applications for Paramedics.
- **Heidi Novich, Idaho Office of Emergency Management:** They are slowly getting up to full staffing.
- **Trudy Wadsworth, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Emergency Preparedness:** They will be having an Emergency Preparedness Fair on February 24th from 9:00am – 3:00pm with lunch provided. She would like to invite any First Responders to participate or attend.
- **Chief Curt Christensen, City of Emmett Fire:** Emmett had it's first chimney fire and more prevention information will be sent out. McCall had a home fire that was started from hot coals taken out of a stove left on the patio. Move them into a fire-resistant bucket with a lid and move it far away from your house in a safe place to prevent a fire from starting.
- **Dave Timony, Gem Co. Sheriff:** Please watch out for other community members to make sure they are protected from the cold and being safe with their heating methods.
- **Barbara Weber, American Red Cross:** We are grateful for the Fire Department for replacing smoke alarms. They are also manning some warming shelters in Oregon. Contact them if one is needed.
- **Molly Smith, Southwest Dist. Heath:** She is the Coordinator for their regions Medical Reserve Corp. They are a group of volunteers that can deploy to events and various responses. On Friday, the Health District released a press release related to flu and the first flu related death in Gem County. The peak for flu season is usually from December to February and they are expecting that peak in the next few weeks.
- **Bev Matin, Gem Co. Fire Dist. #2/Ola Community:** They are experiencing more structure fires this year and this has created a need to create a winter water source. The Sweethearts dinner in Ola will be February 10th and will be befitting the library. Contact Judy McCaulou for tickets.
- **Jeff Ulmer, Gem Co. Emergency Manager:** There will be an ICS 300 class here on February 7th, 8th, and 9th. He will be working with IOEM to figure out certifications of law enforcement personnel. Contact Jeff about certifications and training records. He has also been working on grants.

Motion to adjourn by Chief Mike Welch. 2nd by Dave Timony. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 20th, 2024 @ 8:30 a.m.