



Gem County LEPC
July 18th 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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| Ricky Bowman, SW Dist. Health | Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Dist. |
| Liz Gochnour, LEPC Secretary | Tahja Jensen, Gem Co. Prosecutor |
| Walter Jukes, Church Of Jesus
Christ of Latter-Day Saints | Bev Martin, Gem Co. Fire #2/Sheriff's
Posse/Ola Community |
| Steve Kunka, Emmett Police Dept. | Joe Mayer, Member of the Public |
| Len McCaulou, Gem Co. EMS | Janet Monti, Emmett Friendship Coalition/
Health Connections |
| Heidi Novich, IOEM | Katy Quinn, Saint Alphonsus Health System/
Western Idaho Healthcare Coalition |
| Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett | Margaret Romiti, Valor Health |
| Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioners | Jeff Ulmer, Gem Co. Emergency Mgr. |
| Lisa Resinkin, Gem Co. Dispatch | Mike Welch, Gem Co. Fire/EMS |
| Dave Timony, Gem Co. Sherriff | Kirk Wille, Gem Co. Commissioners |
| Trudy Wadsworth, Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter-Day Saints | |

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

Approval of June 20th, 2023 Minutes:

- Motion to approve June 20th, 2023 minutes by Len McCaulou. 2nd by Dave Timony. Motion passes, minutes approved.

Gem Community Health Coalition: Katy Quinn MHS, CHSP, SASHE, Coordinator; Western Idaho Healthcare Coalition, Safety Officer; Saint Alphonsus Health System:

- The Western Idaho Healthcare Coalition was started around the year 2000. It is supported through Federal Grant funding throughout various programs within the US Health and Human Services Department. It hits every jurisdiction across the Country so if you have ever worked outside the County or in another State you have probably experienced the Healthcare Coalition in a different shape or form.
- The Western Idaho Healthcare Coalition covers 10 Counties in Southwest Idaho. There are 3 Healthcare Coalitions in Idaho. They are governed by an Advisory Council of volunteer members. Saint Alphonsus helps facilitate the grant activities. Katy is currently the primary contact for the Coalition until the position of Coalition Coordinator is filled.
- The Coalition membership is any agency that would need to engage with a healthcare related response or activity in support of community. The core members are hospitals, EMS, public health, county emergency management, etc. There are many other healthcare providers and related agencies that can support: primary care offices, surgery centers, mental / behavioral health agencies, etc.
- The Coalition’s purpose is: Develop regional healthcare / medical response capabilities to support events occurring in our community. Active shooter, HAZMAT decontamination, utility outage, etc.
- Grant Funding Opportunities: Their grant year is 07/01/23 – 06/30/24. The purpose of grant funding is to support development of regional healthcare-related response capabilities. Examples: Multi-agency

exercises (with healthcare-related objectives, such as MCI) & EMS training resources (particularly volunteer agencies). Grant applications will be available soon.

- Margaret: Is grant application information online? Katy: There are two opportunities for the application. One is an excel file and one is a web link. We will send both options out and agencies are welcome to pick whichever is easier for them to complete. Joe: I will be showing some portable battery-operated cooling stations. Would that funding be available for that? Katy: That might be a better conversation between Jeff and yourself. If it is a community event where the organization is expected to provide that resource, I'm not sure that would be applicable. It could be a possibility for an emergency scenario with a temperature heat advisory.
- The Coalition tries to approve grants for sustainable supplies and equipment options. They are hesitant to approve grants for supplies or resources that need to be restocked or that will expire quickly. They are also cautious of funding availability from other sources. They don't want to impact other funding opportunities or have "double dipping".
- For additional information or questions reach out to Katy at Kathryn.quinn@saintalphonsus.org

Public Comments:

- Joe Mayer: Presentation on portable battery-operated cooling stations: The Seventh-Day Adventists have been using a similar setup for their drive-thru food bank on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. It is a portable battery-operated mister fan attached to a 5-gallon bucket of water or ice water. This fan is a Ryobi unit and it is recommended that you use an 18-volt Ryobi battery. Each of the Ryobi fans costs approx. \$99 with the battery included. Curt: From a fire-safety stand-point, I recommend using the equipment as is. Do not do any re-wiring.
- Joe Mayer: Recommended reading: "The Heat Will Kill You First" (Life and death on a scorched planet) by Jeff Goodell
- Walter Jukes: Emergency Preparedness Training Workshop Announcement - Emergency Communication – Amateur Radio License Preparation and Exam: This training workshop will be presented by volunteer members of the Emmett Idaho Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in partnership with volunteer members of the Emmett Amateur Radio Society. It will be conducted over 6 separate evening sessions. The purpose of this activity is to enable individuals that are interested in emergency communication with the knowledge and motivation to become FCC licensed amateur radio operators holding a Technician Class license. There will be discussion, lecture, activities and study materials centered on helping learn the regulations, principles and practices covered in the 35 question FCC exam. Anyone is invited to attend. There is no age restriction. You may attend as many sessions as you like or just come to take the exam if you want to self-study the materials. Location: 980 W Central Road, Emmett, Idaho – Under the Outdoor Pavilion. Dates: 2nd and 4th Thursdays starting July 27th through October 12th. Time: 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Please call, text, or email if you would like to attend: Wally Jukes, K6LDS, South Slope Ward Emergency Communications Specialist, phone # 916-947-8503, email: wnjukes@gmail.com

General Reports:

- **Jeff Ulmer, Gem County Emergency Management:** Jeff has been monitoring wild land fire. Last year at this time the Four Corners Fires were burning.
- **Gem County Commissioners:** The Gem Co. Fair and Rodeo will be August 2nd through August 5th. They are continuing the budgeting process. The Road Department has been extremely busy. They have completed the bridge project on South Slope around Don's Meats. They saved a lot of money by completing it in house rather than contracting the work out. The road is straighter now so speeding complaints have increased. There was also a dump truck that was involved in an accident during that work. It was an older truck that was totaled and the money received was not enough to pay for a new dump truck. They have been looking at options to replace it. They continue to have land use hearings and expect to have applications on the old rule until the end of the year rather than the new comp plan.

- **Dave Timony, Gem County Sheriff's Department:** If you do hear complaints about speeding, we do have a mobile radar trailer available anywhere within the County. City also has one available. Contact the Sheriff's Department for an area of need.
- **Ricky Bowman, Southwest District Health:** This is the time of year that they see a lot of illness tied to gastrointestinal diseases. These can be linked to irrigation water that can be mitigated by proper hand hygiene.
- **Chief Kunka, Emmett City Police Department:** There were minimal issues that were reported during Cruise Night this past weekend. Thank you to the Fire Department that hosted the free meal to the officers that assisted. There were a total of 37 officers: 16 from the Emmett, 21 from Valley County, Caldwell, Nampa, ISP, and Probation and Parole. Gem County also assisted along the exterior of town. There were UTV and bicycle officers.
- **Chief Christensen, City of Emmett Fire:** We had one of our volunteers go to the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. It is free for First Responders. He took a class on Plans Review for Fire and Life Safety and said it was very challenging and is now certified. Emmett Fire responded to a fire last Sunday on one of the hottest days so far this summer. They learned a lot and will be modifying their deployment during the heat and excessive cold. They were able to save the structure and a cat. They have a rehab trailer with an air conditioner that they will be adding insulation to have a cool place to rest.
- **Mayor Petrie, City of Emmett:** The City has completed their budgeting process. There was not too much damage done to the City Park from The Show and Shine / Cruise Night after almost being back to normal after the Cherry Festival.
- **Bev Martin, Gem County Fire Dist. #2:** Communications are also an issue when we are in the upper country. I just wanted to re-integrate that confirming the location of the call via text in a timely manner is extremely important because it is not always clear over the pager.

Motion to adjourn by Chief Kunka. 2nd by Dave Timony. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 15th at 8:30 a.m. We will be meeting in person, and via zoom. Please see reminder email for more detailed direction.