



Gem County LEPC  
May 16<sup>th</sup>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:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Dist.            | Jeremy Elliott, Idaho State Comm.               |
| Mike Giery, Emmett Fire Dist.                  | Liz Gochnour, LEPC Secretary                    |
| Tahja Jensen, Gem Co. Prosecutor               | Steve Kunka, Emmett Police Dept.                |
| Joe Mayer, Member of the Public                | Len McCaulou, Gem Co. EMS                       |
| Heidi Novich, IOEM                             | Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioners               |
| Sarah Serta, IOEM                              | Dave Timony, Gem Co. Sherriff                   |
| Cody Trosky, Region 3 Hazmat/<br>Caldwell Fire | Jeff Ulmer, Gem Co. Emergency Mgr.              |
| Kyle Welch, Gem Co. Fire/EMS                   | Lynsie Vickery, Region 3 Hazmat/<br>Emmett Fire |
| Kirk Wille, Gem Co. Commissioners              | TJ Wilson, Southwest Dist. Health               |

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

**Approval of April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Minutes:**

- Motion to approve April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 minutes by TJ Wilson. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Timony. Motion passes, minutes approved.

**Public Comments:**

- Joe Mayer: Why go into Executive Session? It's kind of related to an issue I've brought up before. I've been trying to get a LEPC email sort of like the Commissioners have. So that in an emergency if someone is looking for a porta potty or an extra tractor or backhoe that you can send an email and people can find it. I was told there was a cost issue.
- Chief Christensen: We have an EOC (Emergency Operations Center) that is tasked with that. We have a Logistics person that is assigned to find out what the needs are from the Incident Commander. Logistics and Planning will work together to find the resources needed.
- Joe: Why shouldn't there be an email in addition to the EOC process?
- Chief Christensen: We would have too many people/volunteers involved with no ability to keep span of control over those people. The City and the County have adopted an organizational template which is the ICS (Incident Command Structure). If we don't follow that ICS structure, we lose funding for the City and County. Lynsie and myself have both have been out to Maryland for two weeks of classes on ICS command structure. Part of Jeff's job is that we do have a master plan of all these resources that we can draw upon.
- Joe: Okay, thank you.
- Lynsie Vickery: Why do we go into Executive Session?
- Chief Christensen: Some of the reasons why we go into Executive Session are when we are going to discuss something that we don't necessarily want everyone to know our plans or how we are going to

conduct a process. For this one we want the planners here to know or see behind the curtain of how this ultimately works, but we would not want that known to the general public.

- Tahja Jensen: Or something as simple as network plans within a system, how to access computers or what a phone system may look like. All those things could potentially create a threat if someone was trying to take down an agency. Those communications plans are exempt under Idaho code from public disclosure. Anything that is exempt from public disclosure could qualify for Executive Session if those plans or that process is being discussed within a body.
- Joe: I'm wondering then as a private citizen if there is a better organization to be involved in than the LEPC if that's where you would be looking for porta potties or other services?
- Chief Christensen: One of the key aspects in the ICS command structure through the EOC is how to engage volunteers. Someone is assigned to organize those volunteers.
- Joe: So that would be an ad-hoc activity after the disaster has started?
- Chief Christensen: Yes
- The majority of those involved have been through ICS 300 and 400 courses.

### **General Reports:**

- Jeff Ulmer: River flow situation: We are currently around 8 feet, which is up a foot from last week. The probably charts do not get up over the 10-foot mark until around May 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>. We will continue monitoring it. If things go as they are now there is a 5% chance of going over the 10-foot mark. This is based on snow melt and movement of precipitation at this time.

### **Tabletop/Planning Exercise: Executive Session – IC 74-206(1)(d) Consideration of Records Exempt from Disclosure per IC 74-105(4)(b).**

- Motion to go into executive session by Jeff Ulmer. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chief Kunka and roll call initiated. Jeff Ulmer – “aye”. Dave Timony – “aye”. Heidi Novich – “aye”. Sarah Serta – “aye”. Len McCaulou – “aye”. Mike Giery – “aye”. Mark Rekow – “aye”. Kirk Wille – “aye”. Chief Kunka – “aye”. Lysie Vickery – “aye”. Chief Christensen – “aye”. Cody Trosky – “aye”. Jeremy Elliott – “aye”. TJ Wilson – “aye”.
- Motion to go out of executive session by Chief Kunka. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Len McCaulou. Motion passes.

Motion to adjourn by Lysie Vickery. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chief Kunka. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. We will be meeting in person, and via zoom. Please see reminder email for more detailed direction.