



Gem County LEPC
November 21st 2023
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Bill Butticci, Gem Co. Commissioners	Chief Curt Christensen, Emmett Fire Dist.
Chad Dutcher, Gem Co. Fire/EMS	Mike Giery, Emmett Fire Dist.
Liz Gochnour, LEPC Secretary	Chief Steve Kunka, Emmett Police
Joe Mayer, Member of the Public	Chief Len McCaulou, Gem Co. EMS
Mark Rekow, Gem Co. Commissioners	Chief Mike Welch, Gem Co. Fire/EMS
Kirk Wille, Gem Co. Commissioners	

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.

Meeting called to order by Chief Christensen at 8:38a.m.

Approval of September 19th, 2023 Minutes:

- Deferred to December 19th, 2023 meeting due to unavailability of zoom meeting participation.

Public Comments:

- Joe Mayer: Will you go over this information again to those people who are unable to attend this meeting? Chief Christensen: I will check with Jeff Ulmer to see if he would like to do that.
- Joe Mayer: Will the report be available to the public? Chief Christensen: I will have to check with Tahja to see if the information in the report is public information.
- Joe Mayer: Why are we having this meeting if it is not being recorded? Liz Gochnour: Tahja stated that because there are enough LEPC partners present we can still have the meeting, but action items will need to be deferred to the December meeting.

Multi-Agency Exercise After Action Review Discussion:

- A review of the multi-agency exercise was given by Chief Christensen and Chief Kunka.

General Reports:

- **Chief Mike Welch, Gem County Fire:** In October they had 26 calls for service, 9 of those calls were for car accidents. They started their Fire Fighter 1 class with 16 new recruits, 2 have dropped out with 4 from the Sweet/Ola area. It is a total of 160 hours. Chimney and turkey fires are high on their priority list right now.
- **Chief Len McCaulou, Gem County EMS:** In October they had 174 calls. They normally run about 40 – 50 call each week, last week they had 56 calls. They have been releasing some of the newer EMT’s from their reserve program. They have 1 person that is ready to move from a student into a reserve position and then into the FTO program. They are starting to get people from the Idaho Medical Academy to get 911 experience. They are able to be more selective on applicants due to this partnership. They were able to get a \$27,000 grant from the Western Idaho Health Coalition for new EMS bags and for 9 new AEDs for here and Sweet/Ola. The same grant was used to get the SIM man used for training. We had a record-breaking

year for stuff the ambulance and fill the fire truck. It was a great turn out and thanks to everyone for their help.

- **Bill Butticci, Kirk Wille, Mark Rekow, Gem County Commissioners:** Repairs are being done to Highway 16 at John's. A culvert was collapsing underneath the road. The work is almost done and the road will need to be repaved. There will be a meeting with ITD on December 6th at the High School about their proposal for Highway 16/52. Our goal is for ITD to work the Highway work from both ends of the Highway so the work gets done faster. ITD is looking at about a 2-year time frame for their environmental study. If growth continues as projected we anticipate the Highway becoming 4 lanes. The opioid committee has been meeting and some funding requests have been filled.
- **Chief Christensen, City of Emmett Fire:** They have been working on hydrant testing. Their objective is to do testing every 5 years to help with their ISO rating. There are 60 – 70 hydrants to test around the city. They have been focusing on public education for prevention of chimney fires and have not had one in 2 years. They have put information into the newspaper, they will be putting flyers about chimney safety into the water bills and there will be a fireplace set up at City Hall with notes about chimney safety. They just had 4 graduates from the Fire Fighter 1 class and 2 more are in the program and should graduate.

The LEPC Coordinator Jeff Ulmer will be seeking nominations for The LEPC Chair and Co-Chair Positions for the elections to be held at the December 19th meeting.

2.1 Officers. Officers of the LEPC shall be The Board Chair, The Board Co-Chair, and the LEPC Coordinator. The LEPC Chair and Co-Chair shall be elected by the members of the LEPC. The LEPC Coordinator function will be carried out by the Gem County Emergency Manager. The Secretary/Treasurer role is to be served by the office of Emergency Management. An election for the Chair and Co-Chair will be held biennially in the months of November or December and new officers will take office on January 1. In the event of a vacancy, a special election will be held for the remaining term of the vacated office.

2.2.1 Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will be made up of the Board Chair, the Board Co-Chair and the LEPC Coordinator. The Board Chair shall be the Chairman of the committee. The Board Chair shall call meetings of the committee.

Motion to adjourn by Len McCaulou. 2nd by Mike Welch. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 19th, 2023 @ 8:30 a.m.