

CARBON COUNTY LEPC MEETING MINUTES

Date & Time: Tuesday, October 16, 2012

Location: Red Lodge Fire Rescue, 801 N. Broadway

PRESENT:

Thomas Rieger, CCSO; **Gina Bruner**, Public Health; **Chris Benton**, BBC; **Dan McJunkin**, CCSO; **Darrel Krum**, DES; **John Prinkki**, County Commissioner, **Aaron McDowell**, EMS.; **Barb Beck**, Beck Consulting; **Jill Washburn**, Montana Red Cross; **Drew Brown**, USFS; **Tom Kuntz**, Fire Chief.

CALL TO ORDER:

Tom Kohley called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There were no announcements.

OLD BUSINESS:

LEPC Bylaws. The bylaws still need more work. Tom, Aaron and Gina will meet before the next regular LEPC meeting and complete a final draft for adoption. Tom submitted a draft letter to invite members/agencies to become active LEPC partners. Discussion regarding how to define a quorum resulted in a proposal that a quorum be defined as the *majority of those present with a minimum of 6*. It was suggested that military personnel be included, perhaps interface with the Civil Support Team.

AGENCY REPORTS:

- 1. Fire/EMS:** (See Rosebud Fire evaluation in New Business.)
- 2. Law Enforcement:** Nothing to report other than the radio switch to narrow band this month.
- 3. Montana Red Cross:** Montana Red Cross. Jill announced that there are now 6 volunteers for Carbon County. She is also working with the Coordinated Assistance Program through ARC which will be a great tool for accessing and sharing resources.
- 4. DES:** John Grewell and Doug Tucker (County Commissioners) attended the DES Floodplain meeting and will report at the next LEPC meeting.
- 5. Public Health:** Gina would like to review each section of the Emergency Medical Countermeasures Plan (EMC/formerly SNS) with the LEPC as it is revised into the Yellowstone/Carbon cross-jurisdictional plan. She will bring the first chapter next week.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Tom distributed a draft form of committee functions for the 3 committees identified. He would like to include committee participation in the membership invitations that will be sent out to potential partners. The 3 committees were posted and those present signed on to the committees they would like to work with. Some additional people, not present, were added as suggestions as well.

Emergency Communications

Tom Kohley
Tom Kuntz
John Prinkki
Drew Brown
Darrel Krum
Kelly Carrington

Disaster Readiness

Jill Washburn
John Prinkki
Aaron McDowell
Dan McJunkin
Darrel Krum
Gina Bruner

Outreach

Tom Kohley
Gretchen Nolan
Barb Beck
Asano Otsu
Chris Benton
Gina Bruner

Communications Committee

The narrow band switch is in progress. CCSO set up a meeting with Red Lodge Mountain and EMS has already spoken with them about getting switched over as well.

Tom Kuntz voiced a concern that there has not been a good system for communication between EMS, Fire and Law. It was suggested that color channels be used. During the band switch would be a good time to establish a working plan. AMS/Fire is going to Tac channel as a naming system for communicating between districts. This issue can be addressed by the communication committee which will meet briefly following this meeting. Tom Kuntz reported that Red Lodge Fire has applied for a grant for radio equipment that would help be very helpful.

Tom Kohley reported that a vendor has been selected for the emergency mass communications software and that project continues to move forward.

Disaster Readiness Committee

A representative from Beartooth Billings Clinic will be meeting with Absarokee EMS to determine training needs. Absarokee would like to do a Stillwater Mine bus crash exercise.

Outreach Committee

Tom is still working on an invitation letter.

Gina and Tom will work together to pull together a workable contact list for LEPC contacts and information sharing.

NEW BUSINESS:

The remainder of the meeting addressed the Rosebud Fire and the discussion included what took place, what went well and identified areas for improvement. Tom Kuntz provided a timeline of events, contacts, who arrived when and from where, as well as what equipment was dispatched from different locations.

Things that went well:

- A Hot Shot Crew showed up at just the right time, prior to the fire blowing up and this crew protected homes.
- Because of projected wind reports, some equipment/personnel were requested that might not have been needed, but then proved to be essential.

- Some additional resources were brought in that preceded the fire's push out, and that made a big impact on controlling the fire.
- Law enforcement was ready with reserves to assist with evacuation had it been needed.
- A large part of the success was the preparedness work done throughout the county all season to respond quickly and be prepared. The goal was to hit hard and fast.
- County resources were instrumental in getting control and worked well with fire crews.

Things that could be improved:

- There isn't a good feedback mechanism for follow-up and evaluation of response.
- Carbon County and Stillwater County would like to have a unified AAR after each group does their own.
- Very little public information actually went out. Concern that the information piece could have been managed better.
- CCSO would like better protection for deputies. This should include some training addressing where they should and should not go during a wild fire.
- County would like more protection for heavy equipment.

Additional evaluation points:

- Drew reported that the Forest Service monitored fuels all summer and feels that we really dodged a bullet with this fire. Conditions were historically extreme and the potential for a

disaster was immense. He felt that early restrictions helped. There were actually less fires this season than normal, also possibly due to less lightning as well.

ADJOURNMENT: The next regular meeting will be November 20. Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.