

Carbon County LEPC Minutes—2nd quarter 2014

The Carbon County Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting was called to order by Tom Kohley, Chairman on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Joliet Fire Hall, Joliet, MT.

The following LEPC members and guests introduced themselves:

Tom Kohley – Carbon County LEPC Chairman
Darrel M. Krum – Carbon County DES – Fire Warden
Charlie Hanson – Montana DES District 5
Doug Tucker – Carbon County Commissioner
Josh McQuillan – Carbon County Sheriff Department
Quentin Thompson – Carbon County Sheriff Department
Nathan Anderson – Carbon County Public Health
Tom Kuntz – Red Lodge Fire Rescue
Asano Otsu – Red Lodge Fire Rescue
Roger Jackson – Southern Montana Incident Management Team
Charlie Buechler – Joliet Fire
Mike Nordstrom – Beartooth Billings Clinic
Ralph Dawson – Fromberg PD

Announcements:

Upcoming training:
All Hazard IMT Symposium, Ft Worth, TX
ICS-400, Libby MT
Gallatin County Leadership Seminar, Bozeman, MT
Safety Council, Billings, MT

Meeting Minute Review and Approval

Secretary Nate Anderson read the previous minutes. Minutes were accepted.

Old Business

-Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD)

Tom Kuntz explained that EMD is becoming the “expected standard” for Dispatch. Discussion was held concerning liability and how it may become a liability not to provide EMD as part of dispatch. Tom expressed concern about the manning level of the county Dispatch Center and that additional manning would be required to provide lengthy EMD while additional calls were fielded.

Sheriff Josh McQuillan indicated that the first hurdle is manpower and the second is training. All of which means an increased budget. Currently dispatch is manned approximately half of the day with two personnel during the highest demand times. EMD would likely increase this level of manning.

Commissioner Doug Tucker agreed and stated it was a matter of manpower and training.

Guest Speaker—Southern Montana Incident Management Team (SMIMT):

Guest Speaker Roger Jackson presented on behalf of the Southern Montana Incident Management Team, which is a Type 3 All-Hazard Incident Management Team based out of Carbon County. The team is loosely tied to the Southern Land Office of the DNRC, both in name and rough geographic area. Despite this relationship, the team could be deployed anywhere, however, most deployments would be in the Carbon and Stillwater county region.

The team is intended to assist State Law, County Fire, Mutual Aid, etc. The team is All-Hazards, not just Fire. The team can assist with Flood, Tornado, Weather, Large gatherings such as the Sunshine Group, Missing Persons, Hazmat, etc.

The group is NIMS based and follows a State provided Qualification Guide. SMIMT and County Assistance Team (CAT) are very intertwined, i.e., they share personnel and share trainers.

7:50 Break

Committee Reports:

Emergency Communications Sub-Committee Report:

Tom Kohley reported on the “Code Red” automatic message system or “Reverse 911.” He has offered to the group the chance to test it out.

Sheriff Josh McQuillan provided an update on the Simulcast project: a Feedback Request was sent to local jurisdictions. Red Lodge and Joliet responded. The Red Lodge Police Chief, Josh McQuillan, Aaron McDowell and Industrial Communications got together to troubleshoot. It appears that most of Red Lodge was being blocked by the Palisades. Industrial Communications has proposed setting up a 4th repeater site on the East Bench to reach into town.

Commissioner Tucker did indicate that Industrial Communications is being fined \$200 per day of delay on this project. However, Public Safety needs to be addressed, so the County is working with Industrial to complete the job.

Tom Kohley asked the group how has Simulcast improved communications throughout the County. Bridger reports that communications are much improved. Deputy Quentin Thompson stated that Deputies used to have to switch channels on their handhelds when exiting their patrol cars. This could present difficulties when exiting quickly during an emergency and could leave them without communications if they were not able to hit the right channel. Not having to switch channels on their hand-helds has made Officer safety much better. An additional comment was made that radio communications in the pass is still not available after the first switchback.

Commissioner Tucker indicated that there are still issues to work out, but that the County is prioritizing for public safety: Law, EMS, Fire, and the County Road channel may have to take a hit.

Disaster Preparedness Sub-Committee Report:

Tom Kohley asked the question about next year's drill. Should it be a table top or a functional exercise.

Outreach Sub-Committee Report:

The Outreach committee discussed marketing in the county. A billboard on 212 was discussed to recruit Fire, EMS, First Responders.

The idea of "spontaneous volunteers" was discussed and how to manage the potential large number of untrained or previously unaffiliated volunteers during an emergency. Nate Anderson noted this is especially important to Public Health as a capability evaluated by the CDC. Roger Jackson indicated this could be a good project for the SMIMT Planning Section.

New Business:

Tom Kohley noted the County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is due to be revised in 2015. This needs to be a priority for the LEPC committee.

Nate Anderson discussed that the State DPHHS maintains several caches of medical supplies referred to as the ChemPak. These medicines can be reached by dispatch contacting Billings Clinic or via DPHHS.

Nate Anderson also reviewed the County's preparations for Ebola in light of the ongoing issues in West Africa. No cases have been reported in Montana, but hospitals, clinics, and the Public Health Department are working to be prepared. Nate also mentioned that Influenza season is upon us and that Flu Shots are available at multiple clinics throughout the county, at Public Health, and your health care provider.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm

Next LEPC Meeting:

The next Carbon County LEPC Quarterly Meeting is planned for first quarter 2015 in Red Lodge. Date and time will be determined and forwarded to participants.