

Carbon County LEPC Minutes—2nd Quarter 2015

The Carbon County, Montana Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting was called to order by Tom Kohley, Chairman on Tuesday, May 19 2015 at 12:00 pm at the Red Lodge Fire and Rescue Hall in Red Lodge, MT.

The following LEPC members and guests introduced themselves:

Tom Kohley – LEPC Chairman
Darrel M. Krum – Carbon County DES
Nate Anderson – LEPC Secretary
Josh McQuillan – Carbon County Sheriff
James Vokral – ExxonMobil Pipeline Co
Jeff Stockwell – US Forest Service
Wanda Kennicott – Citizen, SMIMT
Asano Otsu – Red Lodge Fire and Rescue
L. Brent Oliphant – FM99 Radio
Jon Trapp – Red Lodge Fire and Rescue
Kelly Carrington – Carbon County Sheriff Deputy
Annie Trichtinger – Beartooth Billings Clinic

Announcements:

Upcoming training:

Ennis, MT – Joint Fire Chief and EMS Training Seminar

Meeting Minutes Review and Approval

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

Old Business:

--Road Construction Efforts

The group discussed current construction efforts in the county. Tom Kohley stated a July estimate for Round-about construction near the RL Firehall. The Westfork Road is also planned for summer construction as is Broadway in Red Lodge (mill and fill) and Highway 78 west of Red Lodge. Fire and EMS reports that they have been successful in communicating needs with the flaggers on the construction in front of the RL Firehall. Nate Anderson asked about the Rockvale constructions. Fire and EMS and Sheriff indicate that they cooperate together and with the flaggers to give ambulance and fire traffic the priority when going through Rockvale construction.

Presentation:

Jon Trapp presented an information discussion on Carbon County Search and Rescue. Jon discussed how Search and Rescue used to have equipment staged at the Courthouse, but eventually moved all material to the Red Lodge Fire and EMS firehall. Jon has a portion of his wages at Red Lodge Fire and Rescue dedicated to the Search and Rescue effort.

Jon reports that to his knowledge, this is the only group in Montana who is so fully imbedded with a local fire district. Search and Rescue falls under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff. However, they share vehicles, resources, and relationships, which Jon touts as a great success for the County and community.

Jon discussed Divisions under RLFire: Fire, EMS, SMIMT, and Search and Rescue. All totaled, this attracts 120 volunteers. This connections allows for a sharing of personnel and the Fire connection allows the Sheriff to leverage the other volunteer Fire organizations throughout the County during large events, or in remote areas of the county such as the Priors and the Beartooths. Additionally, SMIMT can be leveraged for an expanding incident.

Committee Reports:

Emergency Communications:

Darrel Krum provided an update on Simulcast:

- A 4th County Repeater Location has been identified to cover the Rock Creek valley floor that is shadowed by the Palisades.
- June 15th—Equipment valued at \$360k is scheduled to arrive
- The 4th tower will have a microwave link from Dispatch for improved communications
- The 4 Simulcast repeaters are linked via microwave and 3 additional Tactical Repeaters are also available.

The Sheriffs Office discussed how Law Enforcement officers need to continue to use a protocol of informing everyone on the channel which frequency they are on so others can follow the conversation or respond as necessary. Not required, but a very good habit

Brent Oliphant asked about the location of the repeaters on Red Lodge Mountain and asked how an impending land swap with the Forest Service would effect the location of the towers. Jeff Stockwell could not comment but promised Tom Kohley he would follow up with the District Ranger.

Tom Discussed Code Red and how it could be best used. There are extra credits (pages) remaining on the contract for this contract period and Tom was asking for ideas on how to conduct some promotional pages. The recent West Fork Fire would have presented a good opportunity to send Code Red pages and that opportunity was missed.

Also discussed is I-Pause: A Federal, FEMA, based system that sends targeted texts to phones drawing a signal from specific towers/region. This is another system the County may consider adopting, but the actual release of the message is not at the County level.

Disaster Readiness:

Darrel Krum reports that the yearly Disaster Readiness drill has been met with the County's response to the West Fork Fire. Darrel solicited input concerning other drills for Public Health or the Hospital and none were mentioned.

Outreach Committee:

Tom promoted Weather Spotting Training coming up May 7th. 13 possible seats for the course.

Asano promoted "It's Your Choice" on May 13th. This is a Teen Distracted Driving demonstration and involves multiple agencies and provides a very realistic car crash scene. Chris Benton, BBC, formerly organized this and now Red Lodge Fire and Rescue would be doing so.

New Business:

Burn Permitting:

Tom Kohley and Sheriff McQuillan discussed a new County Burn Permit system that will be going into effect. The system is operated by the State and Carbon County is opting into it. Prior to the West Fork Fire, the County had no enforcement mechanism for the Sheriff's Office to cite violators of a burn-ban. A recent vote gave that authority. The County can now deny burning during Red Flag conditions and Cite violators.

The applicant pays a once per year permit fee and then goes on line to "Activate" the location each day before burning. If it is Red Flag condition the landowner is not allowed to Activate. This also provides a map display to see where burn sites are active.

New fees are \$5. \$3 goes to the State for operating the site and \$2 goes to Education, phone and credit card fees.

Emergency Operations Plan:

Tom Kohley and Darrel Krum discussed the EOP update is not required every 5 years, but rather a yearly review. Tom asked if LEPC can assist with that. Darrel asked that any change request be routed to him and it would be an easy incorporation.

Nate Anderson asked if the Public Health appendixes (SNS Plan and ChemPack Plan) submitted earlier in the year were incorporated. Darrel promised to follow up.

Jail:

Tom Kohley requested Sheriff McQuillan discuss the idea of a jail. Sheriff McQuillan discussed current process of taking violent felonies, family and partner violence, and danger to the public to the Yellowstone County facility. This policy has been in place since 2000 and is based on the danger of the crime, the lack of open capacity in Yellowstone, and overnight cost.

Yellowstone is \$100 per day and Gallatin County is currently \$65 per day, plus additional transport costs. If it makes sense, long term incarceration makes it worth the transport costs to Gallatin. Cody is not an option due to Wyoming law.

Sheriff McQuillan stated that the biggest offenders are short-term overnight incarcerations which are generally not taken at Yellowstone because of overcrowding. He also stated that the cost of actual construction plus staffing would be impractical to maintain a jail in Carbon County at this time.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Next meeting is proposed for August after fire season.