



## LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDA

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | 3:00 p.m.

**Physical Location:** 5316 Birdseye Rd, Helena, Montana 59602)

### 1. Introductions

#### a. LEPC Board Members:

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| i. <i>Chairperson</i> – William Kussman, St Peters          | Present |
| ii. <i>Vice Chairperson</i> – Rocky Infanger, Wolf Creek FD | Absent  |
| iii. <i>Secretary</i> – Mike Chambers, Helena Fire          | Present |
| iv. <i>Member At-Large</i> – Sue Hawthorne, Red Cross       | Present |

#### b. County Disaster and Emergency Services:

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| i. <i>Coordinator</i> – Kyle Sturgill-Simon    | Present |
| ii. <i>Deputy Coordinator</i> – Autumn Ashdale | Absent  |

#### c. County Communications:

- |                                       |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| i. <i>Coordinator</i> – Betsy Kirkeby | Present |
|---------------------------------------|---------|

### 2. Old Business

#### a. Approval of Minutes – Will Kussman

- i. Motion – Sue Hawthorne
- ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lysa Mikes
- iii. All in Favor

### 3. Presentation

#### a. Presentation Name – Evacuating and Shelters (Sue Hawthorne, Red Cross)

- i. 12 year volunteer with Red Cross
- ii. Help mainly after house fires with displaced occupants.
- iii. They have a Disaster Action Team (DAT) to assist with large and small incidents across the country
- iv. They can shelter pets if the specific shelter allows it. Larger animals are more challenging.
- v. They have a Integrated Care Condolence Team (ICCT), for mental health and spiritual care and additional services.
- vi. Provides preparedness training,
  1. PEDRO K to 2<sup>nd</sup> for basic emergency preparedness and how to take action when needed.
  2. Home Fire Campaign – Home preparedness visit to check smoke detectors and provide safety checklist and home escape plans.
  3. Be Red Cross Ready – Teach people to be prepared with kits, etc.
  4. Ready Rating – For Schools and businesses to be better prepared for disasters and other emergencies.
  5. Hands Only CPR
- vii. The Red Cross has apps to assist with alerting family and friends across the country. It provides for 13 individual hazards.
- viii. The Red Cross can provide tools as part of the a home visit, they have the “Are You Ready” pamphlet from FEMA

- ix. No paid staff in Helena, most folks are volunteers.
- x. Only funded through donations with the national headquarters in Arlington Virginia.
- xi. Jason Grimmis – What if a dorm burned down? Can Red Cross assist with housing?  
Sue – Yes, they can open a shelter or access a hotel with those with special needs.

**4. New Business**

- a. Will signed the transportation plan for specimens for county health.

**5. Training**

- a. Travis Gilskey – With NWE
  - i. In May they will exercise their emergency action plan for a dam failure (Holter)
  - ii. It will be May 6th, 7th 2025 in Great Falls
  - iii. There will a Holter Dam tour as well
- b. May 20<sup>th</sup> MCI drill at Fort Harrison
- c. May 31<sup>st</sup> is the St. Pete's bike rodeo from 10 to 2 behind St. Pete's medical group building.

**6. Upcoming Events**

- a. May 31<sup>st</sup> is the St. Pete's bike rodeo from 10 to 2 behind St. Pete's medical group building.
- b. May 8<sup>th</sup> Quad county Emergency Plan annual meeting. 1800 hours at the Montana City fire station.
- c. April 29<sup>th</sup> MCI at Carroll College
- d. May 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> wildfire summit at the Delta Hotel in Helena. Day 1 is for NWE staff and the 29<sup>th</sup> is for local stakeholders (community impacts to power shutoff, bills that effect utilities, fire weather issues, concerns and technology, how to best coordinate with local resources)

**7. Attendance**

- a. **In Person:**
  - i. Travis Gilskey – NWE
  - ii. Michael Higgins – Helena Schools (Safety Officer)
  - iii. Jason Grimmis – Helena College
  - iv. Max Reinholtz
- b. **Virtual:**
  - i. Charles Grose
  - ii. Roy Tanniehill
  - iii. Doug Dodge
  - iv. Jenny Chambers
  - v. Brent Colbert

**8. Adjournment**

- a. Motion: Higgins
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Payne
- c. All in favor