



**LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDA January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026 | 3:00 p.m. Physical Location:**  
Rocky Mountain Emergency Training Center, 3425 Skyway Dr.

**1. Introductions**

- a. LEPC Board Members:
  - i. *Chairperson* – William Kussman, Retired Present
  - ii. *Vice Chairperson* – Rocky Infanger, Wolf Creek FD Present
  - iii. *Secretary* – Mike Chambers, Helena Fire Present
  - iv. *Member At-Large* – Sue Hawthorne, Red Cross Present
- b. County Disaster and Emergency Services:
  - i. *Coordinator* – Kyle Sturgill-Simon Present
  - ii. *Deputy Coordinator* – Autumn Ashdale Present
- c. County Communications:
  - i. *Coordinator* – Betsy Kirkeby Present

**2. Old Business**

- a. Approval of Minutes – Will Kussman
  - i. Motion – Rocky Infanger
  - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Al Simons
  - iii. All in favor

**3. Presentation**

- a. Presentation Name – Sarah Sandau and Shelly Maag (Lewis and Clark Public Health)
  - i. Speciman transport plan – Designed to facilitate immediate laboratory analysis.
  - ii. Main state lab is in the DPHHS building in Helena in the Cogswell Building
  - iii. Important to maintain the Chain of Custody and seal and secure it, utilize Law Enforcement as needed.
  - iv. Drinking water emergency sampling kit (DWES Kit) located at specific locations and agencies around Helena
  - v. Chemical Biological agent transport kit located in multiple locations around Helena.

**4. New Business**

- a. Homeland Security Grant update
  - i. No update from Homeland Security on direction for grant.
  - ii. Applications need to be completed by next meeting in February.
- b. Hazardous Materials update – E-Plan
- c. Wind Event AAR – Autumn
  - i. December 17<sup>th</sup> there was a wind event that impacted the entire community.
  - ii. We had a good early notification through NWS
  - iii. Many locations in the county went days without power.
  - iv. Shelter was opened for a night for those affected by the wind event.
  - v. Kevin Horne – Wind hit Augusta first but Lincoln and Wolf Creek were hit the worst. Many areas had access issues due to downed trees. Efforts were made cut trees and clear roads. In the afternoon the winds were increasing so staff was pulled from certain areas for safety reasons. Many roads were blocked until the next day.

Many trees were caught up in power lines. The next day they created a task list and worked to clear roads and increase safety.

- vi. Helena Schools had an early release.
- vii. Autumn – Take aways
  - 1. Many agencies were doing their own thing with no much broader coordination.
  - 2. Could have had a more organized group effort, ie. Public notification, consolidation of effort.
  - 3. Consider using a broader ICS effort for future events.
  - 4. Emergency declaration? County did one but not the city. Could open doors for mutual aid and get resources and information flowing early.
  - 5. Areas for back up power needs have been identified from the event.
  - 6. Fuel mitigation was a big help in the Grizzly Gulch area for downed trees. As well as the city properties.
  - 7. Rocky – Could consider setting up the fire coordinator to assist as well.
  - 8. EOC was not officially stood up but Kyle/Autumn were present and communicating with responding agencies.
- d. Lincoln County Mutual Aid – Autumn
  - i. Early in December there was a flooding event that heavily affected infrastructure and the community.
  - ii. They asked for mutual aid and assistance from the rest of the state.
  - iii. Used a consolidated command structure.
  - iv. Two teams in state, CAT team and Team out of Missoula. But can build own team based on needs and availability of specifically trained folks.
  - v. Pathway for request typically runs through state DES from the local EM. This needs to be improved through the state and they are working on it. Eastern part of MT has some better MAs in place.
- e. Al Simons – Any update on the EOP? Kyle – nothing to report at this time.

**5. Training**

**6. Upcoming Events**

**7. Attendance**

a. **In Person:**

- i. Jayson Zander
- ii. Al Simons
- iii. Kevin Horne
- iv. Jenny Chambers
- v. Chris Mulberry
- vi. Michael Higgins
- vii. Greg Holmland
- viii. Rob Hooper
- ix. Randy Middlebrook

b. **Virtual:**

- i. James Thomas
- ii. James Driscoll
- iii. Neal Murray

**8. Adjournment**

- a. Adjourned by Kyle Sturgill-Simon

b.