



**LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE AGENDA**  
**September 19th, 2023 | 3:00 p.m.**

**Physical Location:** Rocky Mountain Emergency Services Training Center,  
23425 Skyway Drive Helena, MT 59602

**1. Introductions**

- a. LEPC Board Members:
  - i. *Chairperson* – William Kussman, St Peters Present
  - ii. *Vice Chairperson* – Rocky Infanger, Wolf Creek FD Present
  - iii. *Secretary* – Mike Chambers, Helena Fire Present
  - iv. *Member At-Large* – Doug Wheeler, BSA 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
    - 1. *County website update is live, she posts minutes from LEPC as they get approved.*

**2. Old Business**

- a. Approval of Minutes – Will Kussman
  - i. Was not sent out and will get approved next month
- b. EOP Update – Will Kussman
  - i. Discussion on how to move forward with update
  - ii. Sue H. thinks we should create work groups to break it up
  - iii. Kyle is looking at updating options, layout, flow, accessing a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to write/update.
  - iv. Kyle suggests sending out chapters or effected areas or groups to edit
  - v. More to come for a work plan

**3. Presentation**

- a. Introduction of new Deputy DES coordinator
  - i. Kyle Sturgill-Simons introduces Autumn Ashland
  - ii. Autumn introduced herself and proudly stated she is from Los Angeles
  - iii. Al Simons – Who is in charge of what in DES? Kyle – “TBD”
- b. Presentation Name – Al Simons, HAM radio (ARES)
  - i. Have between 20 to 30 folks that are active and check in to regular meetings.
  - ii. Varying levels of training throughout the group
  - iii. Can be backup to internet or radio communications or provide backup radio channels
  - iv. ARES – Amateur radio emergency service or CCARC – Capital city amateur radio club
  - v. Has repeaters throughout the area some with backup power and some are linked through the internet
  - vi. If repeaters go down they can go simplex which has shorter range

- vii. They have pre stationed radio equipment at the RMETC, DPHHS, St. Petes,
- viii. They have a comm. Trailer with a generator that can travel as needed
- ix. They practice setting up remotely and utilizing their system and communicate in challenging environments
- x. Can send information too, not just voice. Just a much smaller volume due to system capabilities
- xi. Can help with status monitoring and other needs operationally
- xii. 5 OXCOM folks locally that can work within the ICS system in an incident
- xiii. They cannot encrypt, no med or personal information sent
- xiv. They are looking to be involved and participate in trainings and other comms opportunities in the community.
- xv. How do they maintain relationships and contacts with folks?
- xvi. Sue H wonders if they are connected with the 83<sup>rd</sup> CST, will help to connect.
- xvii. Paul R. wondering if they troubleshoot radio that they have at the VA.
- xviii. Kyle S. says we could build radio freq. in EOP as Comms plan.
- xix. Discussion about encryption and interoperability in the system and how best to accomplish this
- xx. Rocky wonders how many HAM folks would be need to standup comms if current radio system/internet goes down. Lynn – Pretty much all the folks they have with their group and would have to work in shifts over time. They have other folks to access in other cities.
- xxi. Montana Mutual Aid is online as well and has a section about HAM radios that is in need of updating. Al has accessed them with that information.
- xxii. PSLibrary is a public safety spot to find and download information from across the country.

**4. New Business**

- a. Communications update – None

**5. Training**

- a. Amy Geiger - Stop the Bleed class is available with St. Petes

**6. Upcoming Events**

- a. Will K. - Let Freedom ring concert on September 23<sup>rd</sup> in the North Valley
  - i. Paul R. – Says they can assist at the VA with larger incidents in the community needing care or if someone shows up to their ER.
- b. HRAA tri-annual drill – Mike Chambers
  - i. The drill is at 1800 on September 28<sup>th</sup>
  - ii. 6 patients signed up for now
  - iii. Lifeflight and an Ambulance or 2 along with HPD, HFD and other agencies.
  - iv. Lysa could use some more volunteers, Sue H could help

**7. Attendance**

- a. **In Person:**
  - i. Al Simons
  - ii. Paul Reyes
  - iii. David Knoepke
  - iv. Kevin Horne
  - v. Lysa Mikes
  - vi. Neal Murray
  - vii. Jayson Zander

viii. Lynn Wagner

ix. Amy Geiger

**b. Virtual:**

i. Jenny Chambers

ii. Jason Grimmis

iii. Trevor Peterson

iv. Spencer Gilcrest with Civil air protro

v. Emily McVeigh

vi. Eric Spangenburg

vii. Doug Dodge

viii. Jess H

**8. Adjournment**

a. Motion to Close – Betsy K

b. 2<sup>nd</sup>. – Neal M

c. All in favor