

# **CARBON COUNTY LEPC**

## **Minutes**

**Meeting: December 7, 2016**

**Attendance:** Alex Ator, Christi Brenna, Ralph Dawson, Allison Evertz, Tom Frieders, Jack Exley, John Grewell, Stephanie Hanser, Charlie Hanson, Tom Kohley, Tom Kuntz, Aaron McDowell, Josh McQuillan, Mike Nordstrom, Shawn Palmquist, Tim Ryan

### **Announcements and Training Opportunities:**

- Matt Holmstrom Presentation (Wildland Fires), Tonight, 1800, Joliet
- NWS Hosted IPAWS Webinar, January 18, contact DES for registration information
- ICS-300, January 28-29, Roundup
- ICS-400, February 10-11, Roundup
- Train Derailment TTX, March 18, 0900-1300, Fromberg School

\*The new DES Training Calendar is now online at – <http://readyandsafe.mt.gov/calendar>

### **Old Business**

A train derailment Table Top Exercise (TTX) is being planned for March 18<sup>th</sup> in Fromberg. It will involve a vehicle/train collision, hazmat release, fatalities, evacuations with sheltering for people and animals. It is being designed to include nine of the National Preparedness Goal 32 Core Capabilities: Planning, Operational Coordination; Public Information & Warning; Fire Management & Suppression; Fatality Management; On-Scene Security; Protection & Law Enforcement; Operational Communications; Public Health, Healthcare & EMS; Health & Social Services. To keep the exercise moving, there will be actors, Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) exercise and multiple props including a Simulation Table borrowed from Stillwater County. The planning team consists of Christi Brenna, Ralph Dawson, Charlie Hanson, Tom Kohley and Mike Nordstrom. John Grewell commented that perhaps a representative from the Federal Railroad Administration Safety Section could be invited. The agency has an office in Billings.

### **New Business**

Spontaneous Unaffiliated Volunteers (SUVs) in Disasters: Some characteristics of SUVs are that they: not attached to any organization (ARC, VOAD), have a wide range of skills, may have disaster training, could be individuals or groups, may be local, state, national or international and may be a disaster survivor. Some benefits can be: cost effective, broad range of experience/expertise, locals have local knowledge, fresh energy, may bring additional resources, can improve response capacity. The challenges in using SUVs include: may lack training, require supervision, may need background checks, can hinder relief work, negative publicity if not well managed, requires planning and coordination. The FEMA model for integrating SUVs in disasters is to funnel them through a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) which registers and refers the volunteers to local agencies. At the VRC volunteers are asked to complete a registration form and sign a general release of liability statement, be interviewed for skills, interest and limitations, accept a referral to an organization needing their services, receive a form of identification approved by local officials and participate in a safety briefing. As part of the shelter project, several facilities around the county have been identified as VRCs and also areas to warehouse in-kind donations.

The group discussed various pros and cons related to working with volunteers. Some themes were: the integration of volunteers that show up on the scene before the formal response begins; frustration of volunteers

without work to do; search & rescue operations and other incidents that progress for extended periods; processing of volunteers away from the incident site; and scalability of a VRC for rural communities.

National Weather Service Presentation: Tom Frieders of the NWS in Billings gave an overview of the agency and types of assistance it can provide to LEPC members. He directed the group to the features found on the local forecast page of weather.gov especially the “Weather Story” section. The main page has multiple links to all types of weather related information and is searchable from long-range outlook down to forecasts within a day. He suggested the page be used as a briefing tool. The local office can also conduct a monthly webinar for regional information. For specific weather at a location/incident, weather.gov/spot can be used to monitor spot forecasts. The NWS can also provide a meteorologist for support at an EOC. During a large event, some of the services available for first responders, emergency managers and governmental agencies are the usual 24/7 phone support (406-652-2314 unlisted), email distribution list that will relay information even before it goes public, webinars, chat and interactive NWS (iNWS) – customized text message and email alerts. To communicate non-weather emergencies to the public, the NWS can receive information from the county and relay civil emergency messages over the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

Red Lodge Fire & Rescue will be the agency presenter at the February LEPC meeting.

Text to 911: Twenty-three Montana counties have implemented text-911 systems. Carbon County is still in the testing phase with wireless carriers. The system being considered is GEM911 which is a free product and will integrate into the county system. This will be an interim solution since only text is available, not images or video. With the system, dispatch will be able to visually see the communications string, the location and move between multiple incidents. Situations where Text-to-911 is useful can be: Where there is a weak cellular signal and only text messaging is available; Caller does not want to be heard (e.g. burglar, domestic violence situation); Caller has hearing or speech impairment.

Updated Hazard and Vulnerability Assessment (HVA): Using a template Mike Nordstrom provided. Tom recalculated the Hazard and Vulnerability Assessment for Carbon County. Hazards identified were those included in the Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan and a few newer threats (see attached assessment). Weather related events continue to have the highest risk factors, followed by wildland fire and floods. The HVA is used to help guide training and exercises along with identifying areas where funding could be channeled. Tom Kuntz suggested that many high frequency/high risk events have adequate training, but maybe look to low frequency/high risk events for training and exercises. Ralph suggested a category of “Active Threat” instead of “Active Shooter/Terrorist”.

#### **Agency or Citizens Report/Comment**

None at this meeting

#### **Meeting Schedule and Adjourn:**

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 1st @ 1330; Red Lodge Fire Hall \*\* No January Meeting\*\*

Meeting was adjourned at 1500

## CARBON COUNTY HAZARD AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

EVENT	HISTORICAL EVENTS	PROBABILITY Likelihood this will occur	SEVERITY = (MAGNITUDE - MITIGATION)						RISK	
			HUMAN IMPACT	PROPERTY IMPACT	ECONOMIC IMPACT	PREPAREDNESS	INTERNAL RESPONSE	EXTERNAL RESPONSE		
<b>SCORE</b>	<b># of events in past 50 years (SHELDUS)</b>	0=N/A 1=Low 2=Moderate 3=High	Possibility of death or injury 0=N/A 1=Low 2=Moderate 3=High	Physical losses and damages 0=N/A 1=Low 2=Moderate 3=High	Interruption of services 0=N/A 1=Low 2=Moderate 3=High	Preplanning 0=N/A 1=High 2=Moderate 3=Low or none	Time, effectiveness, resources 0=N/A 1=High 2=Moderate 3=Low or none	Community/ Mutual Aid staff and supplies 0=N/A 1=High 2=Moderate 3=Low or none	Relative threat 0 - 100%	
Thunderstorm	17	3	2	3	1	2	2	2	2	67%
Winter Storm	2	3	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	56%
Wind	21	3	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	56%
Wildland Fire	3	3	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	50%
Flood, Pluvial	1	2	1	3	2	2	2	3	2	48%
Drought	N/A	2	1	1	2	3	2	2	3	44%
Earth Movement	1	2	1	2	2	2	3	3	2	44%
Active Shooter / Terrorist	N/A	2	3	0	2	3	2	2	2	44%
Flood, Fluvial	4	2	1	2	2	1	3	3	2	41%
Earthquake	N/A	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	33%
Volcano	N/A	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	33%
Dam Failure	N/A	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	33%
Terrorism, CBNRE	N/A	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	31%
Urban Conflagration / Explosion	N/A	1	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	30%
Tornado	1	1	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	28%
Civil Disturbance	N/A	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	26%
Train Derailment	N/A	1	3	3	2	3	2	1	1	26%
Utility Failure	N/A	1	0	1	3	3	3	3	3	24%
Epidemic / Pandemic	N/A	1	3	1	3	2	2	2	2	24%
Hazmat Release	N/A	1	3	1	3	2	3	1	1	24%
Terrorism, Cyber	N/A	1	0	0	3	3	3	3	3	22%
Animal Disease	N/A	1	0	0	3	3	3	3	2	20%
Vandalism	N/A	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	20%
<b>AVERAGE SCORE</b>		<b>2.25</b>	<b>2.75</b>	<b>2.81</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>3.50</b>	<b>3.63</b>	<b>3.06</b>		<b>79%</b>