

LEPC Meeting 1-28-26

Attendees:

Bucky Whitehouse, Beckie Boekweg, Braden Davis, Carly Sands, Cavett Eaton, Christy Montierth, Dustin Brewer, Glenn Merrill, Jalynn Christensen, Jen Matthews, John Jorgensen, John Witt, Justin French, Chief Nunn, Mayor Manzione, Matt Lazinich, Nick Wilberger, Sarah Kay, Scott Johnson, Tal Ehlers, Tracy Frailey, Laney Riegel, Shaun Summers, Mike Abdo, Jesse Wilson, Jed Colovich

The Tooele County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting covered several key updates. The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) provided an update on the SR 36 I-80 project, highlighting the construction progress and anticipated lane openings. The National Weather Service (NWS) reported above-normal precipitation but below-normal snowpack, raising concerns about the upcoming fire season. The LEPC discussed a proposed amendment to designate truck routes as hazardous materials routes to improve emergency response planning. The meeting also included updates from various local agencies and a reminder about the upcoming state LEPC conference.

Action Items

- [] Propose and seek LEPC endorsement of a resolution supporting the designation of hazmat transportation routes at the February LEPC meeting
- [] Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training (online portion and in-person class at the EOC on Saturday, February 21)

Outline

Introductions and Meeting Setup

- Bucky Whitehouse welcomes everyone to the Tooele County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) January meeting, the inaugural meeting for 2026.

UDOT Presentation on SR 36 I 80 Project

- Sarah Kay and Matt Lazinich from UDOT present an update on the SR 36 I 80 project.
- Sarah provides a high-level schedule of the project, including design work from summer 2023 to winter 2024 and construction on SR 36 and I 80.
- Matt discusses specific traffic impacts, including the anticipated opening of I 80 with three lanes and the temporary pause in day work on SR 36.
- Matt explains the emergency work area and access for emergency services behind the temporary barrier.

NOAA Federal Presentation on Winter Weather Conditions

- Glen Merrill from NOAA Federal presents an update on the winter weather conditions.
- Glen highlights the above-normal precipitation in Tooele County and the record-warm temperatures across the West.
- He discusses the current state of the snowpack, noting the lack of snow in the valleys and the high snow levels.
- Glen predicts dry conditions in the short term, with a potential for more active weather later in February and March.

Tooele County Hazardous Materials Routes Update

- Bucky Whitehouse introduces a proposed change to the Tooele County Road Policy to designate truck routes as hazardous materials routes.
- The policy aims to control where hazardous materials facilities are placed and the transportation routes they use.
- Bucky mentions the policy will be voted on by the Tooele County Council and may be introduced into municipal policies in the future.
- The policy includes provisions for enforcement and compliance, with the intention to improve planning and response to hazardous materials incidents.

Local Events and Incidents Reporting

- Bucky asks for any local events or incidents to be reported under the Community Right to Know Act.
- Bucky shares an update on the abandoned barrels found on Stansbury Island, which were determined to be non-hazardous and disposed of at the Wasatch Regional Landfill.
- Bucky encourages members to report any unknown substances or spills to the dispatch center for proper handling.

Review of LEPC Bylaws

- Bucky reviews the Tooele County LEPC bylaws, noting the need for an annual review and potential amendments.
- The bylaws outline the mission, purpose, membership, voting privileges, meeting frequency, and officer roles of the LEPC.
- Bucky mentions the need for a formalized vote to approve or make revisions to the bylaws in the future.
- The current co-chair of the LEPC is Dustin Brewer, with Scott as the alternate.

State Updates and Legislative Tracking

- Carly Sands from the Utah Division of Emergency Management provides updates on the state legislative session, the LEPC conference, and various bills being tracked.
- Bucky encourages members to attend the state LEPC conference and mentions the registration details.

Roundtable Discussions and Updates

- Bucky opens the floor for roundtable discussions and updates from various representatives.
- Dustin Brewer and Scott from Rio Tinto discuss the lack of snow and its impact on security issues.
- Kevin Nunn from North Tooele Fire shares information about a continuity of operations plan template available on the Utah Department of Health and Human Services website.
- Cavett Eaton from Tooele County Responds announced a community emergency response team training session and a name change to Tooele County Responds.
- Veneta from the Tooele County 911 dispatch center and other representatives provide brief updates and express support for the LEPC.

Closing Remarks and Next Meeting

- Bucky thanks everyone for their participation and attendance.
- Bucky mentions the next scheduled LEPC meeting on February 25, which will be held in person at the EOC training room.
- Bucky encourages members to review the meeting minutes and attached documents, and to reach out with any questions or concerns.
- The meeting is adjourned, and Bucky wishes everyone a good day.