

LEPC Meeting 4-30-2025

Transcript

The Tooele County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting covered several key points. Bucky Whitehouse introduced the meeting and highlighted the hybrid format. Wade Skinner from Rocky Mountain Power detailed their wildfire mitigation plan, including enhanced safety settings, emergency de-energization, and public safety power shutoffs (PSPS). The hot, dry, windy index (HDWI) was discussed, with PSPS triggered at the 95th percentile. The meeting also touched on the importance of community engagement, training opportunities, and the ongoing hazardous materials assessment. The next LEPC meeting is scheduled for May 28.

Action Items

- [] Distribute flyer for the May 16th household hazardous waste cleanup event.

Outline

LEPC Meeting Introduction and Attendance

Introductions

Wade Skinner, Nic Jenkins, Thomas Short, Michael Howsden, Kathleen VonHatten, Tal Ehlers, Brandon Foil, Kurt Cottrell, Ben Creelman, Cavett Eaton, Jesse Wilson, Kevin Nunn, John Jorgenson, Taylor Palmer, Richard Parker, Dalton Boyles, Scott Horrocks, Jed Colovich, Lauara Lisk, Josh Cordova, Robert Curfew, Jared Stenberg, Kim Clausing, Jennifer Matthews, Patrick Myers, Braden Davis, Dustin Brewer, Wade Francis, Bucky Boekweg, Bucky Whitehouse

Review of March Meeting Minutes and Cert Class Postponement

- Bucky reviews the March 26 LEPC meeting minutes, highlighting the presentation from the Utah State Fire Marshal's Office on hazardous materials traffic. Nic Jenkins makes a motion to approve the March meeting minutes. Second by Kathleen VonHatten. All in favor.
- Bucky mentions the importance of the information for the hazmat assessment.
- Cavett Eaton announces the postponement of the May CERT class to September.
- Bucky informs new members that the meeting minutes will be sent electronically and reminds everyone about the AI assistance recording and note-taking of the meeting.

Rocky Mountain Power's Wildfire Mitigation Plan

- Bucky introduces Wade Skinner from Rocky Mountain Power to discuss their wildfire preparedness and response campaign.

- Wade explains the legislative requirement for Rocky Mountain Power to file a wildfire mitigation plan in 2018.
- Wade discusses the increased risk of wildfires in the western United States since the 1990s and the need for mitigation efforts.
- Wade outlines the wildfire mitigation approach, including situational awareness, modeling, operational practices, system strengthening, and engagement.
- Wade mentions the establishment of the wildfire Intelligence Center to monitor hazards in real-time.

Wildfire Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies

- Wade explains the hot, dry, windy index (HDWI) used to assess wildfire risk, with a focus on the 95th percentile.
- Wade describes enhanced safety settings and emergency de-energization policies to reduce the risk of wildfire ignition.
- Wade discusses the public safety power shutoff (PSPS) process, including preemptive notifications and community resource centers.
- Wade highlights the importance of situational awareness and collaboration with local emergency managers.
- Wade provides examples of system resiliency efforts, including vegetation management and infrastructure hardening.

Community Engagement and Response to Wildfire Risks

- Wade emphasizes the importance of community engagement and providing accurate information about PSPS events.
- Wade discusses the role of emergency management teams and the hiring of fire emergency management responders.
- Wade highlights the need for coordination with local wildland fire teams and the training of emergency responders.
- Wade mentions the ongoing inspections and corrections of energy release risks in high fire consequence areas.
- Wade provides contact information for Rocky Mountain Power's emergency management team and encourages questions from the audience.

Local Reports and Training Opportunities

- Bucky asks for any local reportable incidents or noteworthy events from fire standpoints.
- Bucky mentions the ongoing hazardous materials assessment by an independent group and the upcoming capabilities assessment.
- Bucky discusses the importance of accurate reporting of residential and commercial hazardous materials incidents.
- Bucky highlights the upcoming community wildfire event on May 7 and the regional Fire School training on advanced extrication on May 3rd.
- Bucky mentions the ongoing Recruit Academy for firefighters and the importance of volunteerism in addressing response challenges.

Roundtable Discussions and Closing Remarks

- Bucky opens the floor for roundtable discussions, allowing each agency to share updates and ask questions.
- Cavett Eaton mentions training on evacuation center setup and the importance of community involvement in wildfire protection.
- Tal Ehlers discusses the role of transportation infrastructure in disaster response and the availability of warming and cooling buses.
- Tal Ehlers highlights the challenges of responding to incidents involving electric buses and the need for federal guidance.
- Bucky thanks everyone for their participation and reminds the audience of the next LEPC meeting on May 28.