

LEPC Meeting

Attendees: Carly Sands, Cavet Eaton, Dallin Baird, Braden Davis, Kathleen VonHatten, Patrick Bowden, Richard Parker, Robin Frederickson, Glenn Reinicke, Roland Smith, Shar Manzione, Taylor Palmer, Wade Francis, Scott Johnson, Jared Stenberg, Scott Horrocks, Dustin Brewer, Troy Barney, Amanda Crump, Kevin Nunn, Michael Howsden, Thomas Short, Brian White, Dan Walton

Transcript

The Tooele County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting on June 25, 2025, covered several key topics. Dan Walton provided an update on wildfire conditions, noting eight fires in Tooele County in the last week, with the most common cause being arson. The county's wildfire risk assessment portal was discussed, highlighting high-risk areas and the impact of House Bill 48 on urban interface zones. The meeting also addressed the need for interagency coordination, particularly for hazardous materials incidents, and the importance of standardized incident reporting. A tabletop exercise game was introduced as a tool for emergency preparedness. The next meeting is scheduled for August.

Action Items

- [] Establish a focus group for hazardous materials coordination to provide industry guidance on zoning, permitting, and awareness.
- [] Solidify mutual aid pre-incident agreements and mitigate vulnerability to simultaneous incidents, such as establishing a hazardous materials transportation corridor.
- [] Improve standardized incident reporting and coordinate zoning efforts across municipal governments.
- [] Increase funding for local responders to improve capabilities for higher-level hazardous materials events.
- [] Encourage industry partners to purchase the tabletop exercise game to facilitate emergency response discussions.

Outline

Introductions and Meeting Setup

- Bucky Whitehouse calls the Tooele County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting to order at 1:30 PM on June 25, 2025.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Bucky Whitehouse reviews the meeting minutes from May 31, 2025, which included a presentation by Tal Ehlers from Utah Transit Authority on UTA capabilities and risks.

- Dustin Brewer makes a motion to approve the May meeting minutes, seconded by Brian White. All in favor.

Wildfire Conditions Presentation by Dan Walton

- Dan Walton presents an internal wildfire dashboard created by interagency organizations, highlighting current wildfire activity in Southern Utah.
- Dan discusses the season summary, noting that Tooele County has been active with eight fires in the last week, none exceeding eight acres.
- Dan explains the energy release component, which measures the dryness of fuels, and the burn period, which indicates how long a wildfire can burn before cooling off.
- Dan shares a lightning map showing recent lightning activity in Eastern Utah and a national forecast predicting below-average risk for large wildfires in the next seven days.

National Fire Threat and Local Resources

- Dan discusses the national fire threat, noting that Alaska and the Southwest are currently the priority areas for national resources.
- Dan explains the critical fuel status in Utah, particularly in Zone 478, which includes Tooele and Box Elder counties.
- Dan highlights the importance of national coordination for large wildfires and the potential for international assistance if needed.
- Dan shares the Great Basin Coordination Center's monthly fire predictive services map, which predicts increased fire potential in Southern Utah for June and July.
- Dan encourages attendees to subscribe to the Great Basin Predictive Services on YouTube for daily updates on fire danger.

Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal and House Bill 48

- Dan introduces the Utah Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal, which allows users to see their wildfire risk based on their address.
- The portal includes information on wildfire hazard potential, burn probability, and damage potential.
- Dan explains House Bill 48, which categorizes urban interface areas based on risk and sets fees for high-risk areas.
- The bill also requires insurance companies to reference risk scores when raising rates or dropping coverage.
- Dan discusses the structure exposure score, which considers various factors to categorize wildfire risk.

Local Wildfire Incidents and Response

- Dan shares recent local wildfire incidents, noting that eight fires were reported in the last week, with the most common cause being human started.
- Dan discusses the challenges of target shooting and the use of exploding targets, which have led to several wildfires.

- Dan emphasizes the importance of public awareness and response to wildfire risks, particularly in urban interface areas.

Hazardous Materials Assessment and Focus Group

- Bucky Whitehouse introduces a large-scale hazardous materials assessment for the county, which identified gaps in interagency coordination and response capabilities.
- The assessment recommends forming a focus group for hazmat coordination, involving representatives from various industries.
- The focus group will help develop better zoning, permitting, and overall awareness of hazmat issues.

Tabletop Exercise and Emergency Response

- Bucky Whitehouse introduces a tabletop exercise game designed to facilitate discussions about emergency response scenarios.
- The game involves rolling dice and drawing cards that pose various emergency scenarios, encouraging participants to think about their response plans.
- Bucky Whitehouse reads off cards related to different types of hazard incidents and the partners and resources needed for each.
- Participants discuss their emergency response plans, including communication with local authorities, public engagement, and mitigation practices.

Local Incidents and Response

- Bucky Whitehouse asks if there are any local reportable incidents related to hazmat.
- Chief Nunn reports a recent incident at the Lake Point truck stop involving a trailer with hazardous materials.
- The incident was managed effectively, with no significant impact on the surrounding area.
- Bucky Whitehouse emphasizes the importance of standardized reporting for hazmat incidents to improve response coordination.

Closing Remarks and Next Meeting

- The next LEPC meeting is scheduled for the last week of August.
- Bucky Whitehouse encourages attendees to consider purchasing the tabletop exercise game to support the local response network.
- The meeting concludes with a reminder to stay informed about wildfire and hazmat risks and to continue collaborative efforts to improve emergency response capabilities.