

## MINUTES

April 9, 2025

### New City Hall

### 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Emergency Operations Center (EOC) & Virtual

9:04 am – 10:00 am

APPROVAL OF MINUTES as distributed [1<sup>st</sup>: Bob Lough with YARES; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tyler Wattles with Par Montana Pipeline]

#### AGENDA – DISCUSSION:

#### Quarterly Financial Report: NEXT REPORT IN JUNE

#### Member Presentation(s):

##### **Team Rubicon**

- Team Rubicon is an international, national, and local response organization.
  - Mission Statement: Support communities before, during, and after disasters.
- Founded by Marine Corps veterans following the 2010 Haiti Earthquake
  - When they saw the devastation and wanted to help. When they asked if they could respond to Haiti, they were told – they went anyways.
    - They helped as many people as they could with what they had.
  - Following their deployment, Team Rubicon was formed and now has roughly 150,000 volunteers.
    - Majority of membership are veterans or active-duty military.
    - Structure is military based/focused and helps give veterans a mission and purpose once they are discharged (helps them not feel as lost).
    - Membership is open to civilians, regardless of military service.
    - Volunteers must pass a background check and complete online training prior to being a deployable asset.
    - Team Rubicon has volunteers of all physical abilities (blind, deaf, wheelchair, etc.)
- Team Rubicon helps everybody, especially at-risk and underserved populations (elderly, poor, etc.)
- Focuses/areas where Team Rubicon volunteers and supports include:
  - Incident Management
  - Site Surveys
  - Disaster Mapping and Work Order Management
  - Debris Management
  - Hazard Mitigation (before, during, and after a disaster)
  - Expedient Home Repairs

- Volunteer Management
- Demolition
- Exercise Services
- Emergency Medicine
  - International deployments are often medically focused (supply versus personnel) as many countries don't like/want large numbers of current and former military on the ground for 'humanitarian assistance'.
- Currently, as of 4/9/25, Team Rubicon has 6 national operations underway in Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Utah.
- When a disaster has occurred is not a good time to start preparing for one, but before it happens/is warned about on the news.
- Team Rubicon uses local service projects to keep community members engaged and practice their skills.
- **Question: How many Team Rubicon members are in Billings?**
  - There are currently 74 grey shirts in Billings.
- **Question: Is Team Rubicon 100% volunteer? If not, how is Team Rubicon funded?**
  - Team Rubicon is a mix of full-time employees and volunteers. Most of their funding comes from corporate sponsors such as Ford, software companies, insurance companies, etc, as well as donations from private individuals.
- **Question: How does Team Rubicon get 'invited to the party'?**
  - Nationally, Team Rubicon is typically invited in by the local emergency manager. International operations are mostly medical operations only (such as shipping in medical supplies). International countries are leery about having large groups of former US soldiers in their country.
- **Question: Based on previous question – What would this look like locally?**
  - Yellowstone County DES and/or Area Command would likely be the ones reaching out to Team Rubicon following a disaster in Billings & Yellowstone County.

## LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

NEW CITY HALL – BILLINGS, MT 59101

JEN STATON, CHAIR

### **Subcommittee Schedule & Chair Contact:**

- Right-to-Know (RTK)
  - VACANT
- Public Education & Information
  - CCC/CAER
    - Pam Sanderson
    - [psanderson406@gmail.com](mailto:psanderson406@gmail.com)
    - 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday every month; 09:30-10:30 @ United Way or virtual
  - Crisis Communications
    - Dan Carter
    - <ENTER NEW EMAIL ADDRESS>
    - Quarterly; 11:45-1315 @ Windmill; Contact Dan for more details
- Hazardous Materials Facilities Liaison
  - VACANT
- Emergency Response and Resources
  - Exercise Design
    - Paul Totton (Email Chrissy Brese with questions)
    - [volcoord@uwyellowstone.org](mailto:volcoord@uwyellowstone.org)
    - 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday every month; 10:30-11:30 @ United Way or virtual
  - Planning
    - Annemarie Overcast
    - [aovercast@yellowstonecountymt.gov](mailto:aovercast@yellowstonecountymt.gov)
    - Every other Friday; 08:30-09:30 @ St. Vincent's Mansfield Center/virtual
- Grants
  - Dianne Lehm
  - [dianne@bigskyeda.org](mailto:dianne@bigskyeda.org)
  - Meets as needed. Contact Dianne for more details.
- Training
  - [yclepc@gmail.com](mailto:yclepc@gmail.com)
  - Email all training opportunities to LEPC Gmail.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

- ***Right-to-Know (RTK) & Hazardous Materials Facilities Liaison***
  - Both committees still need a chair
- ***Public Education & Information***
  - Meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month.
  - Summer is busy, so CCC is focusing their efforts on September (National Preparedness Month)
    - Currently planning out a month-long calendar of activities to get people informed on preparedness.
  - Group is also down 7 members due to organizational cuts.
  - No word from Dan Carter in his new position with MSU-Billings.
  - Billings PIO position is still open and remains unfilled.
- ***Emergency Response & Resources***
  - Planning
    - HAZMAT Plan
      - Waiting to hear back from the Local Emergency Response Authority aka LERA aka Billings Fire Dept
      - Derek Yeager to make another attempt to get feedback on processes from BFD
  - Exercise Design
    - Discussing what the requirement of exercising the HAZMAT Plan looks like.
      - LEPC needs to focus on meeting the required HAZMAT minimums before attempting to expand into all-hazards/health issues.
        - Consider meeting with local elected officials
    - In order to improve exercises and plans, group needs to receive AARs.
    - RiverStone Health Communicable Disease TTX Takeaways – Re-establish protocols for city and county to stay ahead of any outbreaks.
      - Possibility of needing to resume HMAG meetings?
        - Currently no – activate upon need?
      - The disaster medical health plan needs to be updated
        - It's going on 10 years old.
    - Group is still working on hospital notifications between dispatch and hospitals.
    - Currently working with TEEX, MTDES, and local refineries for training opportunities/exercises
      - FEMA EMI campus has been shut down (unknown for how long/if it will reopen)
    - Need to start considering what things might look like with a partial, significant, or complete loss of federal funding (grants? Loss of people?) – need to start thinking how we will handle/do things without that federal level of assistance than we are used to.
    - EPCRA and Gap Analysis is better handled by the larger group.

▪ **UPCOMING EXERCISES**

- Hospitals are currently planning medical response and surge exercise for medical emergency regional response/transfer issue
  - May 6<sup>th</sup> – 4-hour class in the Mansfield Center
    - Coordinate with Paul Totton if you wish to attend
      - Observation ONLY – you can participate, you just likely would not have a specific role.
- Billings Public Schools are having an internal Safe Schools Summit exercise in August (not open to the public – internal exercise only).
- Billings Airport's annual FAA required exercise to stay in compliance is in May.
- May 1 (1200-1430) MSUB and Billings Public Schools are doing a full scale 'extraction exercise', post vehicle accident extraction
  - Air National Guard will be bringing in a black hawk helicopter (landing on the City College lawn).
    - **Maybe use YCI to push out public messaging about the event??**

• **Grants**

- **SHSP applications have been ranked and Priority Ranking Letters have been sent out to applicants.**
  - Next Steps: Applications are then ranked by MTDES, assessed and recommended funding order by the SAC, then FEMA, then awarded based on allotted funding.
- Federal grant programs currently have a shaky/unclear future. Due to the constantly changing environment (start, stop, restart), recommend submitting reimbursements as often as possible to reduce risk of expenses not being reimbursed (due to cancellation or federal funds being spontaneously reclaimed and redistributed).

• **Training**

- **UPCOMING TRAINING:**
  - May 16-17 BNSF TRANCAER HAZMAT training will take place at the Laurel Railyard. Day 1 is focused on emergency management, Day 2 is Fire Department focused.
- As there is no chair, there are no meetings.
- All training opportunities should be emailed to LEPC Leadership, so they can forward them to the rest of the LEPC members.
- Training opportunities can be found at:
  - MTDES
  - DNRC/NWCG fire classes
- Betsy Ross is the state training coordinator at MTDES ([betsy.ross@mt.gov](mailto:betsy.ross@mt.gov))
  - New training opportunities are **BOLDED**.
- CISA does numerous FREE online trainings/webinars.

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- Continue pursuing NIMS/ICS training. ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800 are free and can be completed 100% online.
  - [ICS 700.B – An Introduction to the National Incident Management System](#)
  - [ICS 100.C – Introduction to Incident Command System, ICS 100](#)
  - [ICS 200.C – Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, ICS-200](#)
  - [ICS 800.D – National Response Framework, An Introduction](#)
- **IF DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES NEED ADDITIONAL CLASSES (higher level ICS) – CONTACT DES.**

End subcommittee reports

### **Continuing Discussion/Old Business:**

- LEPC Gap Analysis – Top 4 Priorities for 2025
  - We need to review the by-laws (Tweak what isn't working)
  - Publicize the availability of the Right to Know and automate the request process.
    - Also figure out where to host it for the public
  - Ability to create framework of largescale/complex incidents, especially for HAZMAT, that pushes over the threshold of day-to-day response issues.
  - Establishing a warning system with YCI.
- Upon completion of these priorities, new goals and priorities will be selected.
- ***Hazardous Release Report***
  - Standard releases/flaring events.
    - 1 very small incident involving Hydrogen Fluoride (HF). Spill was quickly contained and remained on the property – no issues.
  - No activations of the EOC or DES Personnel requested.
  - **Question: What's the smell in Lockwood? It's not the refinery...**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comments given during this time.

### **TOPICS OF NOTE/SITUATIONAL AWARENESS:**

- Paul Totton
  - Recent visit to Tennessee highlighted the issue of decreased funding/cancellation of fire service trainings/federal support.
    - All departments at Memphis Airport are very concerned (Memphis airport has 3 separate fire departments operating on its grounds: City of Memphis Fire, FedEx Fire, and National Guard Base Fire).
  - FAA funding hasn't yet been impacted yet as airport funding is funded by ticket sales.

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- National Guard and large city departments are feeling the squeeze as federal dollars and policies shift/fluctuate.
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- Measles Update
  - No cases in Montana at this time.
  - Health agencies are closely monitoring.
  - Possibility of United Health Coalition forming again?

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned @ 10:00 am. [1<sup>st</sup>: Bob Lough with YARES; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Brandon Gatlin with MSUB-Police]

### **Next Meeting:**

- **MAY 14, 2025 @ 09:00am**
  - **WE WILL BE IN THE 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC)**