

LEPC AGENDA for December 3, 2025

LEPC Mission: Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC's) work together with all emergency response agencies to understand chemical hazards in the community, develop emergency plans in case of an accidental release, and look for ways to prevent chemical accidents.

Meeting called to order: by Chairman Don Steveson at 12:04 pm held at the Country Club

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

- Motion: Angela Phillips
- Second: Scott Beachler

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes for October 29, 2025.

- Additions/Corrections:
- Motion: Gilbert Nelson Second: Chris Kenney

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Power Outage Discussion on 11/13/2025
 - a. We should evaluate the last scenario we submitted in the THIRA. Observed about nine (9) improvement actions. Will need to evaluate what other locations may need back up generators (Homeland Security, Police, Public Health, Elderly Homes). What transportation may be needed for those needing assistance. Do we have current list of vulnerable people that need O2 or other services?
2. Chrissie Lipp
 - a. Will attend next month
3. Back-up paging for Fire Department
 - a. Smart 911, Rave can do some things for this. Dispatch can use IAR. Daniel can also send via radio from pickup. Maybe send Daniel or Gilbert a message to create the IAR message, the issue is keeping the group updated.
4. County Commissioner – Attendance
 - a. Invited but no attendance

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Back up Dispatch location.
 - a. Nothing to report, Upton Chief is still reviewing location.
2. Generator for Dispatch.
 - a. Pillars are poured and generator set should be ready to install in about two weeks, then ready for Ricks Electric to connect.
3. Active Shooter/Hostage Drill at the Hospital and Clinic After Action Review.

- a. Completed, found a few issues. Looking at changing protocol for notification of active shooters. Had phone issues, and communications to personnel. Need to evaluate the panic button notifications delay to dispatch.
4. Grants:
 - a. Nothing at this time.

TRAINING:

1. Training options sent throughout the month.
 - a. None

Next LEPC Meeting Scheduled for December 31st , 2025.

ADJOURNMENT: _____ 12:50 _____ P.M.

Motion: James Curren

Second: Meritt Pederson

Motion Carried

Name	Agency	Email
Don Steveson	LEPC Chairman	dsteveson@parpacific.com
Daniel Tysdal	WCFPD	wcfire@rtconnect.net
Lester Richmann	WCFPD	wshop@rtconnect.net
Chris Kenney	WRC	ckenney@parpacific.com
Meritt Pederson	NVFD	nvfdasst@rtconnect.net
Derek Thompson	Newcastle Police Department	npdthompson@rtconnect.net
Mandy McDade	Weston County Public Health	amanda.mcdade@wyo.gov
James Curren	NVFD	nvfdchief@rtconnect.net
Gilbert Nelson	Weston County Emergency Management	gnelson@westongov.com
Angela Phillips	Weston County Public Health	Angela.phillips@wyo.gov
Scott Beachler	Weston County Search and Rescue/ Weston County Corners Office	sbnwy@outlook.com



Weston County LEPC Activity Sign in Sheet

Date: 12-3-2025

Event: LEPC Meeting

	Name (Print)	Name (Signature)	Organization	Email
1.	Daniel Tysdal	Daniel Tysdal	WCFFD	wcfire@rtconnect.net
2.	Lester Rixbyman	lt Rix	WCFFD	WCshop@rtconnect.net
3.	Chris Kenney	Chris Kenney	WRC	CKenney@perpacific.com
4.	Meritt Pedersen	Meritt Pedersen	NUFD	nufdasst@rtconnect.net
5.	Gilbert Nelson	Gilbert Nelson	WCEM	gnelson@westcounty.com
6.	James Curran	James Curran	NUFD	nufdchief@rtconnect.net
7.	Scott E. Beachler	Scott E. Beachler	WCSSR/WCCO	sbnwy@outlook.com
8.	Jerek Thompson	Jerek Thompson	NPD	npdthompson@rtconnect.net
9.	Mandy McDade	Mandy McDade	WCPH	amanda.mcdade@wyo.gov
10.	Angela Phillips	Angela Phillips	WCPH	Angela.phillips@wyo.gov
11.	Dan Staresa	Dan Staresa	LEPC Chairman	dstaresa@perpacific.com
12.				
13.				

Summary:

The discussion focused on the recent power outage, highlighting significant challenges such as ineffective communication and outdated infrastructure that hampered response efforts. Robby provided a detailed overview of the incident, noting the limitations of the power grid and the impact on multiple facilities. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive assessment of power systems and the establishment of a Continuity of Operation Plan (COOP) to improve future responses. Bree raised concerns about the effect on emergency services, particularly regarding backup battery functionality, while Robby reflected on a recent drill that revealed deficiencies in emergency procedures and communication among staff.

The conversation also addressed the need for better identification and support for community members with functional needs during outages. Brad discussed the limitations of the Empower data system in providing timely patient information, while Tamie highlighted the hospital's role in addressing oxygen supply issues. Robby mentioned the establishment of an assistance center for individuals reliant on oxygen concentrators and the importance of backup generators.

The group acknowledged the necessity for improved communication between law enforcement, dispatch, and the fire department, suggesting the implementation of a notification system to enhance coordination during emergencies. Overall, the meeting underscored the importance of collaboration and proactive measures to strengthen organizational readiness for future power outages.

Chapters & Topics:

Power Outage Response and Infrastructure Concerns

Robby addressed the complications arising from a recent power outage, emphasizing the lack of effective communication and the outdated infrastructure that contributed to the situation. He mentioned that backup systems failed, which impacted operations at various facilities. Robby also pointed out the need for a thorough review of the power grid's reliability.

Discussion on Power Outage Response and Communication

Robby Gallob discussed the challenges faced during a recent power outage, highlighting the lack of timely information from Black Hills Energy and the miscommunication from third-party alarm systems. He noted that the fire department was not adequately informed about the situation, which could have impacted their response. Gallob suggested improvements in communication protocols to enhance safety for schools and senior centers.

* Community preparedness and improvement plans for future incidents.

Lessons Learned from the Power Outage Drill

Robby highlighted the power outage drill as a beneficial exercise that revealed gaps in clarity and action plans. He compared the experience to a potential terrorist situation, suggesting that the lessons learned will enhance the organization's preparedness for future emergencies. Robby expressed gratitude that no one was harmed during the incident.

Discussion on Functional Needs and Data Access

Robby Gallob highlighted the necessity of knowing how many individuals in Upton require assistance during emergencies, particularly those with medical needs. Brad McKee shared insights on the Empower data system, noting its limitations in accurately identifying patients' addresses. Ashley Paulsrud added that the data retrieval process can be slow and often arrives after the immediate need has passed.

* Resource management for individuals with functional needs during emergencies.

* Documentation and analysis of the power outage incident.

- * Power outage response strategies and protocols.

Power Outage Response and Planning

Tamie Dowding confirmed that the hospital had power during the outage and worked with home health to manage oxygen supply concerns. Brad McKee discussed the lack of backup facilities in the community and proposed using the hospital as a resource for those needing power. Robby Gallob added that they set up an assistance center to help individuals with oxygen concentrators and highlighted the importance of identifying backup generators.

Power Outage Analysis

Robby provided insights into the power outage, mentioning the collaboration with Chance to manage the situation effectively. He reflected on previous power issues in the area and the installation of surge arrestors that mitigated damage during the recent incident. Robby also highlighted the challenges posed by the recent switch to voice over IP phones, which were affected when the internet went down.

Communication and Coordination Challenges During Power Outage

Robby raised several issues regarding the power outage, including the lack of communication between emergency services and the need for a system to identify individuals who may require help. Shane noted that their EMS base locations lack backup generators, which complicates their ability to respond to emergencies during outages. Both emphasized the importance of having clear protocols and awareness of each other's resources to improve coordination in future incidents.

- * Communication challenges between emergency services and dispatch.

Action Items:

- * Robby Gallob will build a forum for everyone who registered to discuss the power outage situation.
- * Robby Gallob will provide background information regarding the power outage to the participants.
- * Robby Gallob will document the issues and responses related to the power outage for future reference.
- * Gilbert will ensure that the emergency management plan includes a protocol for notifying the fire department about school dispatches.
- * Shane Kirsch will work on establishing backup generators at EMS base locations to ensure operational readiness during power outages.

Key Questions:

- * How can communication be improved between dispatch and emergency services during power outages?
- * What resources are available for individuals with functional needs during power outages?
- * What are the deficiencies identified during the power outage response?

Notepad:

- * No notes