

BIG HORN COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

317 N Custer Ave
BHC Sheriff's Office -
conference room
Haridn, MT, 59034



Members

BIG HORN COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES September 8, 2025 1:00 PM

1. Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes and Supporting Documents

Bylaws of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) of Big Horn County

Motion made by Alyssa Pitsch to present adopted bylaws before the committee with revisions to meeting details and coordination. The second was made by Sylvan Coversup on 9/8/2025 at 2:13pm. Review of these bylaws will be made by Heather (deputy county attorney). After adoption of bylaws, they will be signed by the Coordinator and Co-Coordinator.

BHC LEPC minutes from 6/18/2025

Motion was made to approve minutes as is by Alyssa Pitsch with second by Megan Spry. Minutes were approved as of 9/8/2025 at 1:11pm.

3. Election of the BHC LEPC officers

Official voting of officers started at 1:12pm on 9/8/2025. Voting ended at 1:24pm.

Officail elected officers:

BHC LEPC Coordinator : Sylvan Coversup

BHC LEPC Co-Coordinator : Jeramie Middlestead

BHC LEPC Secretary/Treasurer : Alyssa Pitsch

BHC LEPC Coordinator

Members Kelsey Roebling and Jeramie Middlestead moved to assign Sylvan Coversup as the BHC LEPC Coordinator. Official motion made by Kelsey Roebling and second by Paula Small-Plenty. Motion passed by members on 9/8/2025 at 1:15pm.

BHC LEPC Co-Coordinator

Member Kelsey Roebling moved to assign Jeramie Middlestead as the BHC LEPC Coordinator. Official motion made by Alyssa Pitsch and second by Kelsey Roebling. Motion passed by members on 9/8/2025 at 1:22pm.

BHC LEPC Secretary / Treasurer

Members Jose Figueroa, Sylvan Coversup and Jeramie Middlestead moved to assign Alyssa Pitsch as the BHC LEPC Secretary/Treasurer. Official motion made by Sylvan Coversup and second by Jeramie Middlestead. Motion passed by members on 9/8/2025 at 1:23pm.

4. Communications / Mail Slot

No Communications. Mail slot is set up as the county: P.O. Box 908 in Hardin MT.

5. Reports of Subcommittees

Big Horn Hospital Association report: Paula Small-Plenty:

Hospital Emergency Response Team training was scheduled for September. It has recently been canceled due to funding. The annual HVFD walk-through has been scheduled for 9/18/2025 in the evening. Request for Law Enforcement Offices to do a walk-through with new deputies/officers. Jeramie will send deputies from both shifts that week. Jose Figueroa will possibly send one person per shift. Paula will ask Kevin Cain to reach out and make a schedule.

BIA report: Jose Figueroa:

During Crow Fair with assistance from BHC Sheriffs office; there were 137 arrests made and 27 citations. Jose is moving to the Missing/Murdered Unit under BIA, which began in 2019 under the Trump Administration. BIA will hear of official cuts to funding as of 10/1/2025.

Big Horn County Environmental Health: Megan Spry:

X2 Truck Wreck: most recent: a load of eggs: notified by the USDA

X1 Train Derailment: load of coal by Toluca: one rail car turn flipped and spilled. Clean up: removed the coal and placed a layer of dirt over the area in which the coal had spilled. Assist from Sylvan Coversup.

Big Horn County Sheriff report: Jeramie Middlesead

Multiple car crashes and runaways. Will join two other Law Enforcement agencies at the Powder River Security Analysis. May bring this Security Analysis program to Big Horn. The power plant has requested the Sheriff's office to provide an active shooter exercise. DES and EMS are included in this exercise.

Big Horn County Public Health report: Kelsey Roebling

One positive West Nile case reported in Big Horn. Received a discount on bug spray and dunks from Harold for pest control to help with prevention of bug bites. Still sitting at zero cases of Measles in Big Horn county. August 3rd was the last reported case in Montana. There has been two reported cases in Yellowstone county, but there is no concern of others exposed. Currently have two COVID hospitalization cases. FDA and CDC did approve COVID vaccines for individuals with underlying health conditions. CMS has updated their vaccine pricing list for the 2025-26 respiratory season. Currently waiting on ACIP to meet this month and standing orders. So we may order COVID vaccine. Flu clinics are scheduled. Will start scheduling in office after September 29th. Jeramie offered to help with Public Notifications on the Big Horn County Sheriff's Office Facebook page.

Superintendent of Schools report: Meighan Barnes

Nothing to report.

National Weather Service report: Nick Vertz

Going through a current dry spell. Working on spot forecasts the last two weeks. Offering his assistance in providing this service to our area for any events scheduled. Doing weekly forecast briefings that are 3–5 minutes that discuss what to expect for the week.

Big Horn County Attorney's Office: Heather Ready

Nothing to report.

Big Horn County Disaster and Emergency Services: Sylvan Coversup

Working on grants for and EOC. Rosebud & Stillwater are assisting. The mitigation grant is being

pinched. Working on other grants to help supplement funding. Workin on Emergency Operations Plan for the county. Would like to have Annexes built into plan. Once complete, will send off pick points to all departments that are included in the plan. Working on sharing responsibilities between departments. Would like to have all items approved by the LEPC go before the Commissioners. Received a call for chemical spill. It turned out to be two buckets of human feces. Megan gave Sylvan phone numbers of licensed septic disposal sites in Billings. Discussion between all members of approved dumping sites and land farms in Billings. Would like to have a site in Big Horn county. Suggestion was made to bring a contract to local septic pumper for future incidents. Alyssa requests the name and number of the PHEP coordinator for Crow tribe as there is H5N1 funding opportunity. Red Cross has changed to a new director. Austin is still on call at Red Cross for the time being. Small hazmat incidents will be sent to local fire. Large hazmat incidents will be sent to Billings Fire Station Five Haz-mat Crew, as they have the ability to provide special operations on large incidents. Will plan to have a ICS 400 class in March of 2026, put on by DES. The secretary will hold certificates of LEPC officers on file.

6. Hazardous Materials Discussion

7. Special Presentations

8. Old Business

No Old Business.

9. New Business

Sylvan found and is updating a resource list for all county departments. Bylaws will be sent to Heather for review, before being adopted by the BHC LEPC. Paula would like to have items (Unified Command & Crisis Management) added to the agenda. The LEPC agrees that as of 2:16pm these items shall become a permanent agenda item. Discussion of restricted carry in voting polls. This is at the discretion of the Commissioners to decide. Discussion was made that current federal regulation for schools restricted carry within school zones is 1,000 ft from zones (GFSZA - Gun-Free School Zones Act of 1990). Reminder that county planning board is working on growth policy.

10. Public Comments

No Public Comment.

11. Details of Next Meeting

LEPC members agreed: the next LEPC meeting will be November 8th, 2025 at 1:00pm in the BHC Sheriff's Office (317 N Custer Ave in Hardin) conference room.

12. Adjourn

BHC LEPC meeting adjourned by LEPC Coordinator: Sylvan Coversup at 2:24pm on 9/8/2025.