

BIG HORN COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

121 3rd St W
First Floor Meeting Room
Hardin, MT 59034



Members

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

1. Introductions

The Big Horn County Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting began at 1:13pm on December 8th, 2025.

Introductions:

LEPC Coordinator: Sylvan Covers Up - BHC DES Director

Step in for LEPC Co-Coordinator: Nicholas Spadt - BHC Undersheriff

Dale Butori - MT DES SE District Field Officer

Kelly Prettyweasel - Crow/Northern Cheyenne IHS Director of Public Health Nursing

Bailey Chalfant - Crow/Northern Cheyenne IHS Environmental Health Specialist

Dione Pretty On Top - Crow/Northern Cheyenne IHS Safety Officer

Meighan Barnes - Big Horn County Elections Clerk

Alyssa Pitsch - Big Horn County PHEP Coordinator/Admin. Assistant

Paula Small-Plenty - Big Horn Hospital Association Emergency Preparedness/HR

AJ Espinoza - Big Horn County Roads Superintendent & Fire Chief

2. Approve Minutes and Supporting Documents

Sylvan Coversup motioned to approve minutes as presented; Paula Small-Plenty seconded the motion. Motion approved by committee as of 1:17pm.

3. Communications / Mail Slot

No Communications / Mail. Looking at setting up another repeater at radio hill.

4. Reports of Subcommittees

Kelly Prettyweasel - Crow/Northern Cheyenne IHS Director report:

LG PHN reviewed all of Lodge Grass school records. Crow PHN reviewed all of Pretty Eagles school records. Another Crow PHN worked on reviewing Pryor school records. All schools have been checked not associated to Hardin school district. Working on flu shots at multiple clinics across the reservation. Going to hold clinics for Pneumonia vaccinations at THIP and the Elders Christmas Feed.

Sylvan Covesup - Big Horn County DES Director report:

Working on getting more membership participation. Public Health continues to keep up on reporting and alerts. They are doing flu shots now. Ordered Quick Series pamphlets and checklists for winter advisory as travel conditions worsen during this season; will hand them out during events. Lodge grass school has requested Active Shooter training. Contaced Middlestead to conduct the training. Requested SOP. Continuing on with updating the EOP. Dulcie and Sylvan working on a

cybersecurity plan for the county. Will send off to Dale after completed and approved. Would like to see more people involved in Big Horn county search and rescue. Will have a meeting on the 15th with Staley to get GIS going.

Nicholas Spadt - Big Horn County Undersheriff report:

Shorthanded and working on interviews. Currently have 14 staff members but need 2 more for full staff.

AJ Espionza - Big Horn County Roads Superintendent / Fire Chief:

A couple of car fires and house fires. Red Cross has requested to help with the house fires. Will send fire reports to rep. Offered a hand with search and rescue efforts.

Paula Small-Plenty - Big Horn Hospital HR / Emergency Preparedness Director report:

Next HERT training is scheduled for February. Was canceled in September due to funding cutbacks. Law Enforcement and Fire Department walk-through completed in September and October.

Alyssa Pitsch - Big Horn County Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator / Admin.

Assitant report:

Three new measles cases in Montana. No cases in Big Horn county as of today. COVID and Influenza numbers are going up as it is the season. Kelsey is continuing to report weekly influenza case numbers to the State. Will submit the Communicable Disease plan to the BHC Health Board on Friday 12/12/25 for annual review and approval. Just completed train the trainer HEART course at CDP in Alabama.

Megan Spry - Big Horn County Environmental Health Director: submitted by email and read by

Alyssa P

"Had one truck wreck that neither DES nor I were called on. It contained 80,000 pounds of food product and judging by the aftermath of the accident, there was quite a bit of chemical spillage. Even though MHP took over the call, the Sheriff's Office was there redirecting traffic and was first on scene. We need to make sure that the County is notifying at least Sylvan who can notify myself if needed. Sylvan was in Helena at a training, but I was in Big Horn at the time of the accident and could have documented what DES needed. As a result, I put that MHP and Big Horn County Sheriff's Office as responsible for the entire load of food product which is a liability that County should not have/does not want. But without the information I need, I am forced to do that as we weren't contacted."

Bailey Chalfant - Crow/Norther Cheyenne IHS Environmental Health Specialist &

Dionne Pretty On Top - Crow/ Northern Cheyenne Safety Officer reports:

Update for Dionne and her; still dealing with the after effects of mold in the facility. Currently in a large scale sewer pipelining project throughout the entire hospital. Have had to redirect a lot of staff due to this project. There is signage posted and it will happen in multiple phases. Submitted a pre-construction risk assessment. Has added more fire watches and drills during the quarters of the project. Looking at another two years for the project.

5. Hazardous Materials Discussion

Discussion of truck wreck: dispatch did not notify Megan (Environmental Health Director) or Sylvan (DES Director) of wreck. Contained 80,000 pounds of food product and quite a bit of chemical spillage. Listed MHP and BHC Sheriff's office as responsible for load. Hansors cleaned up aftermath. Minor derailment of coal. Request to Burlington Northern for notification of heavy hazardous materials coming through Big Horn county. Will need dispatch present at meetings. Looking at creating a hazmat team for Big Horn County. Currently, using Billings Fire HazMat team. Sylvan will

contact Betsy Ross at the State to see if she can bring some HazMat training to Big Horn County. Bailey Chalfant reports that IHS has provided multiple trainings and exercises for hazardous materials deconstruction and highly infectious disease. They have staff that is trained, a HazMat trailer for response and negative pressure rooms for inpatient.

6. Special Presentations

No special presentations.

7. Old Business

Adoption of Bylaws for BHC LEPC

Adoption of the BHC LEPC Bylaws was tabled pending greater membership participation.

8. New Business

Discussion of County Active Shooter Drill

No discussion.

Incident Command System (ICS)

No discussion.

9. Public Comments

No public comment.

10. Details of Next Meeting

Membership has set the next meeting for January 5th, 2026 at 1:00pm in the conference room of the Big Horn County Sheriffs office.

11. Adjourn

Sylvan Coversup motioned to adjourn the BHC LEPC meeting; the second was made by Alyssa Pitsch. BHC LEPC meeting adjourned on December 8th, 2025 at 2:09pm.