

BIG HORN COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

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



Members

BIG HORN COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES April 6, 2026 1:00 PM

1. Introductions

The Big Horn County Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting began at 1:08pm on April 6th, 2026.

Introductions:

LEPC Coordinator: Sylvan Covers Up — BHC DES Director
LEPC Co-Coordinator: Jeramie Middlestead - BHC Sheriff
Paula Small-Plenty - Big Horn Hospital Association Emergency Preparedness/HR
Alyssa Pitsch - Big Horn County PHEP Coordinator/Admin. Assistant
Dionne Pretty On Top - Crow/Northern Cheyenne IHS Safety Officer
Heather Ready — Big Horn Deputy County Attorney
Kelsey Roebling - Big Horn County Public Health Director / Nurse
Caroline Chavers - Heorot Power Compliance/Safety Support Manager
Glenn Madler - Phillips 66 North Region Field Technician

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87675507310?pwd=P6lBMnrRdcv6C547viwuTVlp1TlBYK.1>

Meeting ID: 876 7550 7310

Passcode: 093437

One tap mobile

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2. Approve Minutes and Supporting Documents

A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Sylvan Coversup and seconded by Jeramie Middlestead. The motion carried at 1:16 p.m.

3. Communications / Mail Slot

No Communications / Mail.

4. Reports of Subcommittees

Sylvan Covers Up - Big Horn County DES Director report:

The County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is complete and will be submitted to the Big Horn County Attorney's Office for review. The State is updating the Emergency Alert System, and those updates will be incorporated into the EOP. Additional emergency preparedness pamphlets will be ordered for distribution through the library and outreach events, and Everbridge materials will be needed for public engagement. A request has been submitted to the National Weather Service for public safety information. GIS services are currently down; Stahley's will complete a system reboot.

Work is underway on a flood response plan, which will be distributed to LEPC members upon completion. Coordination with BNSF is planned to schedule a HazMat training. Heather Ready is developing an MOU with the Crow Tribe; upon approval, work will begin on a BRIC grant focused on flood mitigation in vulnerable areas, including Lodge Grass, Wyola, and Busby. At this time, no immediate flooding concerns have been identified, though debris accumulation in the river is being monitored due to potential blockage risks. The State is also considering a title change for DES. Sylvan will attend the NASTTPO conference and encouraged others to participate if able. ICS 400 training has been canceled.

Jeramie Middlestead - BHC Sheriff report:

The Everbridge system is now operational, and informational materials have been posted on the Big Horn County Sheriff's Office Facebook page. Ongoing water main issues in Lodge Grass have delayed water and sewer connections to the new substation. A new trunking system will be installed on Radio Hill in Hardin, extending the tower height by approximately 100 feet. Work continues on the lease agreement for the Pryor substation. Upcoming regional events include the 150th anniversary of the Little Bighorn Battlefield, expected to draw 10,000–15,000 attendees, followed by the 150th anniversary of the Rosebud Battlefield, with anticipated attendance of 100,000–115,000. The Sheriff's Office will host a DEA Take Back Day on April 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the former Flying J parking lot (315 13th St W, Hardin). Community members may safely dispose of unused prescription medications at that time.

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

Hospital Emergency Response Team (HERT) training is scheduled for June and will include one-day training and exercise. The Medical Response Surge Exercise (MRSE), held February 19 in the hospital boardroom, was successful. Local law enforcement assisted with crowd control during the Annual Fish Fry on March 27.

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

Ongoing construction planning activities, including multiple project meetings and pre-construction risk assessments. Interim life safety measures are being implemented as renovations and sewer pipeline projects continue.

Heather Ready — Big Horn Deputy County Attorney report:

Currently reviewing the 289-page County EOP.

Kelsey Roebling - Big Horn County Public Health Director / Nurse report:

Upcoming trainings and events. Family Fun Day will be held May 16 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Big Horn Center in Hardin, in partnership with Big Horn Hospital and focused on injury prevention. A bike rodeo will be included. A request for National Weather Service support will be submitted by Sylvan Covers Up. Public health updates included 12 influenza B cases reported last week, increasing RSV activity, and two hospitalizations. A Health Alert Network (HAN) notification was issued regarding the extension of the RSV vaccine.

Caroline Chavers - Heorot Power Compliance/Safety Support Manager report:

Work is underway to transition the power plant into cold idle status. Updates will be provided to LEPC members regarding the removal of ammonia from the site.

Glenn Madler - Phillips 66 North Region Field Technician report:

No updates at this time.

5. Hazardous Materials Discussion

Sylvan Covers Up will coordinate a HazMat training with BNSF for County Fire and will share details with the LEPC.

6. Unified Health Command & Incident Stress Management

Hospital and CISA offers a debrief session to anyone who may need it. Rosebud county also offers debrief sessions.

7. Special Presentations

No Special Presentations.

8. Old Business

No updates on the generators for the Community Centers in the county.

Generators for County Community Centers: Update

9. New Business

Sylvan Covers Up reported that an inventory of generators located in county buildings will be compiled and presented to the County Commissioners. The LEPC agreed to maintain its regular meeting schedule on the first Monday of each month.

10. Public Comments

No Public Comments.

11. Details of Next Meeting

Next Meeting will be held 5/4/2026 at the Big Horn County Sheriff's office.

Possible Date: 5/4/2026

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:03pm on 4/6/2026.