

Latah County  
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)  
Latah County Courthouse  
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**LEPC Minutes  
Meeting of June 14, 2012**

**AMENDED TO SHOW JOHN LIVINGSTON'S CORRECT TITLE**

Geoff Billin opened the meeting at 9:05 am., and the minutes were approved as e-mailed for the April 12, 2012 meeting. The meeting began with introductions.

There were in attendance (19):

John Livingston, Meteorologist in **Charge**, National Weather Service-Spokane  
\*Deborah Snyder, North Central District Manager, American Red Cross  
Jason Boal, Associate Planner, Latah County Planning and Building  
Joe Williams, Fire Marshal, Moscow Volunteer Fire Department  
Matt Dorschel, Emergency & Security Services Director, University of Idaho  
Jason Svancara, Fire Warden, Idaho Department of Lands  
Casey Strong, Assistant Fire Warden, Idaho Department of Lands  
Alan Allbee, Asset Protection Manager, Moscow Wal-Mart  
Richard Huggins, Volunteer, American Red Cross; Amateur Radio Emergency Services  
Dick Hodge, Vice-Chairperson, Local Emergency Planning Committee  
Kara Lichti, Deputy Clerk, Latah Board of County Commissioners  
Geoff Billin, Amateur Radio Emergency Services; LEPC Chairperson  
David Duke, Police Chief, City of Moscow  
Alan Martinson, Noxious Weed Superintendent, Latah County  
Mike Doherty, American Red Cross/Community Emergency Response Team, Latah County  
Dan Carscallen, Clerk, North Latah County Highway District; Council Member, City of Moscow  
Peter Steinhoff, System Administrator, Latah County Information Technology Services  
David Pierce, City of Moscow Representative; Health and Environment Committee  
Sandy Rollins, Disaster Services/LEPC Coordinator, Latah County

(\* Indicates new attendees)

**1a. National Weather Services Spokane (John Livingston)**

La Nina Status:

- A transition from La Nina to El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO)-neutral is underway.
- Atmospheric circulation anomalies remain mostly consistent with La Nina.
- La Nina transitioned to neutral conditions during April 2012.
- The outlook for this summer and next winter is ENSO-neutral.

2012 Fire Season Predictions:

- Below normal precipitation early in the winter was replaced by normal to above normal precipitation through early June.
- Our outlook for early summer is near normal precipitation and normal to slightly above normal temperatures.
- July-August and early September forecast is uncertain.
- Weakening La Nina to ENSO-neutral conditions typically suppresses the Monsoon. This means:
  - =Most moisture will come from the Pacific for mainly wet thunderstorms.
  - =One to two lightning outbreaks will be possible, with the first event around the middle of July.
  - =Fuel moistures in North Idaho will drop below critical values in late July to early August which is **very near normal.**
- Large timber fires will be possible at the lower-mid elevations by late July and at the higher elevations by the first part of August.
- North Idaho should experience average number of fire starts and average number of acres: 2009 Fire Season = 2254 fires for 29,862 acres (average for North Idaho and Eastern Washington = 1071 starts/106,985 acres).

Bottom Line:

- Wet through late spring
- July – September forecast uncertain
- The wild lands almost always dry out
- The critical factors: (1) the weather throughout the season; (2) starts; (3) ability of initial attack to suppress

### **1b. Idaho Department of Lands** (Jason Svancara)

- There were 7 to 8 lightning strikes in 2011 and human starts are down.
- Several mixed IDL crews have been deployed to New Mexico and Colorado.
- Jason agrees with John about the 2012 fire outlook.

### **2. Wal-Mart** (Alan Allbee)

Alan talked about Wal-Mart assistance during disasters and how they can assist. There are about 12 employees trained in CPR/1<sup>st</sup> Aid and several in triage at the Moscow store. When employees provide 25-50 hours of community service Wal-Mart will donate a certain amount of dollars to a non-profit organization in the County. They are trying to be very active in communities. Below is a list of some of the things they have to offer:

- Contacts for assistance without a disaster declaration in place for communities.
- They have several programs for financial aid such as community grants.
- Four distribution centers throughout the United States.
- Vast resources for food, clothing, etc.
- They provide their own transport and have approximately 19,000 rigs for short-term recovery.
- Local emergency services such as communication plans which include maps of their building and contacts for law enforcement and fire.
- National Emergency Operation Centers just for Wal-Mart are located in 15 countries besides the United States.

## **2. Meetings/Events:**

- June 23 = National Amateur Radio Field Day (Latah County Fairgrounds). This will begin at approximately 11:00 am on Saturday (June 23) and end on Sunday (June 24)
- June 26 = Pre-season Fire Meeting (Latah County Courthouse, Room 2B); 7:00 – 9:00 pm
- July 14 = Troy Day
- July 14-15 = Bovill Day
- July 21 = Potlatch Day
- August 4 = Deary Day
- September 8 = Juliaetta Blackberry Festival
- September 13-16 = Latah County Fair

## **3. Other Business:**

- David Duke said that he's very thankful for the Idaho Food Bank. They are here and available to help the community, and come up three days a week to assist those in need.
- Debra Snyder talked about the new American Red Cross programs: Ready Rating (A free service) and the How the Ready Rating Program Works. I have attached the information she provided on these two new programs.
- Joe Williams said the Officer Lee Newbill Safety Fair was a success. Moscow Rural Fire is getting a new water tender. David Duke said they handed out 668 bicycle helmets plus coupons.
- Dan Carscallen said the North Latah County Highway District is pursuing a grant through the Forest Service to relocate the Feather Creek Road out of the creek.
- Jason Boal said that Latah County Planning and Building are receiving requests for flood plain development permits.

**The next meeting is August 9, 2012 at 9:00 am.**

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Rollins