

Grand County LEPC
Meeting Minutes for Q3 2025

1. The Grand County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) met for its Q3, 2025 meeting on September 23, 2025 at 1PM.
 - a. The physical meeting took place at the Moab Valley Fire Department, 45 S 100 E, Moab UT 84532.
 - b. A virtual option was also available via Google Meet.
2. Attendees
 - a. In-person: Kate Finley (Grand County emergency manager), Eric Anderson (Southeast Utah Health Department), Bree Downard (Southeast Utah Health Department), Art Deyo (State Fire Marshal's Office), Cora Phillips (Moab Chamber of Commerce), Jacques Hadler (Grand County Commission), Lisa Cenicerros (Grand County Building Department), Bruce Jenkins (Utah Forestry, Fire and State Lands), Isaac Engelhart (Utah Forestry, Fire and State Lands), Steve Gleason (Canyonlands Field Airport), Andy Smith (Grand County EMS), Cody McKinney (Grand County Road Department), Didar Charles (City of Moab), TJ Brewer (Moab Fire Department)
 - b. Virtual: Tammy Gallegos (San Juan County emergency manager), Tina Marshall (Moab Regional Hospital), SMSgt Ken Church (Utah Air National Guard), Scott Solle (Grand County Search and Rescue), Whitney Coonrod (Utah Division of Emergency Management), Coleton Stam (American Red Cross)
3. Approval of minutes
 - a. There were no minutes to approve. The Q1 meeting was a conference and there was no Q2 meeting.
4. Welcome/introductions
5. Emergency management program reports and update
 - a. Kate Finley introduced herself as the new Grand County Emergency Manager and gave program updates, including in the following areas:
 - b. Upcoming trainings/exercises
 - i. UMTRA drill on 10/1/25
 - ii. Spanish Valley Clinic medical surge/hospital response and redundant communications drill on 10/21/25
 - iii. Tabletop exercise to demonstrate/test the new flood warning system (to be scheduled, likely in November)
 - c. Community outreach
 - i. September was National Preparedness Month. Emergency management engaged in a social media push to emphasize personal preparedness, family-level planning, and understanding weather alerts and notifications
 - d. Plan Updates
 - i. Point of Distribution Sites, for distributing life-saving commodities after a disaster
 1. OSTA has already been identified as a point of distribution site

2. The main criteria for these sites include a large parking lot (approximately 150 by 300 feet) for drive-through access. The Grand Center was mentioned as a previously used, effective POD site despite not fully meeting the parking requirement. Suggestions for other sites included the old Red Rocks Elementary, the Thompson fire station, area churches, and the high school. Colton Stam inquired if the hospital would be a good location, to which some attendees expressed concern about swamping the hospital during emergencies. Stam clarified that in past events like in Puerto Rico, hospitals weren't surging due to power outages, which suggests that the hospital might be an option in certain scenarios where utilities are the primary issue rather than mass casualties.
 - ii. Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan (CWPP)
 1. The five-year update of the community wildfire preparedness plan is underway, with a combined plan being submitted with the City of Moab.
 - iii. Air National Guard partnership
 1. Emergency management is working on a partnership project with the Utah Air National Guard to further develop emergency plans and annexes for the County
 2. Senior Master Sergeant Ken Church from the Air Guard elaborated on this partnership, highlighting that it offers innovative training for Air Force emergency managers and helps them engage with local communities and bolster readiness. Church explained that this initiative allows junior airmen to gain early exposure to complex plans writing and threat analysis, which traditionally occurs later in their careers, thus increasing their job satisfaction and contributions to the public. The proposed timeline for execution is May 31st through June 20th, 2026, involving 8 to 10 Air National Guardsmen emergency managers per rotation over three weeks. Church cited a past successful project in Hawaii, where a similar effort saved the county approximately \$200,000 in consulting fees, demonstrating the program's cost-effectiveness.
6. Roundtable updates/reports
- a. Steve Gleason, airport director, shared that their annual training and exercise discussion covered bomb threats and active shooter scenarios.
 - b. Andy Smith of Grand County EMS brought up a new gate on the Ute reservation boundary, which hindered medical access. Scott Solle of Grand County Search and Rescue confirmed they are working on obtaining a code for the new gate and offered to connect with Andy. Tammy Gallegos of San Juan County suggested reaching out to Anna Boynton with the state Division of Emergency Management, as she works closely with tribes and could provide contacts.

- c. Whitney Coonrod announced a new emergency manager for the Navajo Nation area, and offered to share the new contact once available. Coonrod also informed the group about upcoming ICS 300 or 400 courses hosted by Emery and Uintah Counties in October and November.
- 7. Hazard Mitigation Plan annual review
 - a. Key considerations for the review included assessing the relevance of goals, the appropriateness of the risk assessment, and the availability of resources for implementation.
 - b. Initial discussion focused on the list of possible hazard events and their risk scores. Attendees generally agreed that the risk assessment remained appropriate, with flash floods and wildfires still being top concerns. One participant suggested that the probability factor for hail might increase due to a recent major hail incident.
 - c. Updates on planned and future mitigation projects
 - i. Eric Anderson brought up cybersecurity and its downstream effects as a new focus area, with a suggestion to develop plans for scenarios where cyber connections or documentation are compromised.
 - ii. Tammy Gallegos advised looking at different funding sources for projects, as many were developed with the BRIC program in mind, which might change priorities.
 - iii. Whitney Coonrod added that state funding might be more likely for mitigation efforts
 - d. Updates on ongoing projects
 - i. Replacement of a culvert where Castle Creek runs under Castle Valley Drive, with funding expected in four to five years for a new bridge on the actual roadway.
 - ii. Sean Yeates, Grand County Engineer, provided an update on the storm drain master plan, stating that the update is in the works with a budget allocated in 2026.
 - iii. The City of Moab has also undertaken mitigation work, such as cleaning sediments from culverts within City limits
 - e. The review continued with a discussion of the county's broad goals, which were also deemed appropriate by the group.
- 8. Discussion of future agenda items
 - a. Chief Brewer requested we discuss the use of stream gages versus other methods of determining possible flood threats and impacts, as they could be late indicators of a flooding event
- 9. Adjourn