

Grand County LEPC
Meeting Minutes for Q4 2025
Approved at Q2 2026 Meeting (26 May 2026)

1. The Grand County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) met for its Q4, 2025 meeting on December 12, 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. A meeting recorded was attempted, but technical issues prevented a successful recording
3. Attendees
 - a. In-person: Kate Finley (Grand County emergency manager), James Murphy (Grand County GIS Specialist), Sydney Maller (City of Moab associate engineer), Didar Charles (City of Moab assistant engineer), Dee Taylor (Grand Conservation District), Leon Bell (Enterprise Products), Aaron Vallee (Enterprise Products), TC Garcia (Williams), Lisa Cenicerros (Grand County Building Department), Matt Cenicerros (Grand County IT Director), Paul Larson (NPS), Brian Hays (NPS), Jacques Hadler (Grand County Commission), Logan Brewer (Grand County EMS), TJ Brewer (Moab Fire Department), Andy Smith (Grand County EMS), Tina Marshall (Moab Regional Hospital), Darci Miller (Moab Regional Hospital), Charlie Taylor (UHP), Michael Palmer (Grand County Sheriff's Office), Monte Risenhoover (Moab Police Department), Ryan Burraston (Moab Fire Department), Shea Walker (Moab Fire Department), Brandon McGuffee (Moab Fire Department), Rick Hopkins (Moab Fire Department), Chris Wilkowske (USGS), Erin Walter (NWS), Scott Rozanski (NWS), Scott Solle (Grand County Search and Rescue)
 - b. Virtual: Bruce Jenkins (Grand County Fire Warden), Jazmine Duncan (Town of Castle Valley), Tammy Gallegos (San Juan County emergency manager), Whitney Coonrod (Utah DEM community liaison), Wade Skinner (Rocky Mountain Power), Sean Yeates (Grand County Engineer)
4. Approval of minutes
 - a. Q3 minutes were unanimously approved without discussion
5. Welcome/introductions
6. Emergency management program reports and update (Kate Finley)
 - a. Joint Grand County-Moab City Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan (CWPP) is nearly done and under review with the state
 - b. Closing out 2023 State Homeland Security Program grant and projects
 - c. Equipment inventory/organization underway
 - d. Draft plans will be reviewed later in the meeting
 - e. Training and conference attendance
 - i. Volunteer and Donation Management
 - ii. ICS 400
 - iii. Utah Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association Conference

- f. Recap of UMTRA and Hospital Medical Surge and Response exercises in October
- g. Upcoming training schedule from the Southeastern Utah Healthcare Coalition and available opportunities on the Train Utah portal
- 7. Roundtable reports/updates
 - a. City of Moab stream bank stabilization projects (Didar Charles)
 - i. NRCS DWP funded
 - ii. Gabion baskets to prevent further erosion
 - iii. Locations include Youth Garden, Rotary Park
 - b. Grand County IT Department (Matt Cenicerros)
 - i. Field trip to Dead Horse Point State Park to look at feasibility of putting a repeater there to enhance radio communications and public safety
 - c. Grand County EMS (Andy Smith)
 - i. Project underway to roll out a blood program in which paramedic ambulances will have blood to administer in the field. GCEMS will be the second agency in the state of Utah to do this once the project is implemented
 - d. NPS (Brian Hays)
 - i. For the rescue program this year, they've had 130 rescues so far in Arches and Canyonlands and two fatalities, which is about average.
 - e. Grand County Engineer (Sean Yeates)
 - i. Assembling a team with Horrocks and Jones and DeMille to kick off the Spanish Valley storm drain master plan update, which was last done in 2011. They anticipate it will take about 12 months to update the plan and prioritize projects.
 - f. Town of Castle Valley (Jazmine Duncan)
 - i. Town of Castle Valley is close to completing their hazard mitigation plan
 - ii. Town of Castle Valley is getting ready to start an EWP project to replace the culvert on Castle Valley Drive. This will involve a substantial road closure for about two months and they will put out more information once they get a firm timeline.
 - g. USGS (Chris Wilkowske)
 - i. USGS installed two new stream gages in the last year, one on the north fork of Mill Creek and one on Castle Creek. Both were funded by the Upper Colorado River Commission. The Mill Creek gage can be used for flood warning. The Castle Creek gage is at the end of the creek by Red Cliffs Lodge, so while it may not be useful for flood warning, it would be useful for postevent verification. In the next year USGS is hoping to put in some backup sensors and flood harden the Mill Creek gage.
- 8. Partner presentation: National Weather Service (Scott Rozanski, NWS Grand Junction Warning and Coordination Meteorologist)
 - a. Rozanski explained what a warning coordination meteorologist is (someone who acts as a liaison between community first responders and weather forecasters, and someone who can take local knowledge back to the NWS office to help with

forecasting products). WCMs can attend LEPC meetings, local trainings and exercises, provide event support to decision makers, and disseminate plume data.

- b. Hazard dispersion maps and plume data
 - i. The NWS can work with IMAAC (Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center) to produce hazard dispersion maps and plume data in the event of a hazmat release. Maps can be produced in about 10 minutes. Data models the plumes expected path, timing, concentration of pollutants, and associated health hazards.
 - c. Probabilistic forecast resources
 - i. There are a number of online NWS resources for situational awareness
 - 1. Precipitation and snow forecasts
 - 2. Winter storm severity index
 - 3. Wind gusts and sustained wind forecasts
 - ii. Constantly updated
 - iii. Models show expected, high-end, and low-end amounts as well as probabilities for reaching certain thresholds
 - iv. The most difficult part of forecasting is the location, so decision makers should use the atmosphere's capability as indicated by probabilistic models as an indicator of potential weather severity
 - d. Event support
 - i. The NWS can provide on-site support for large events like the X Games or for complex emergencies like fires. NWS support is primarily for state and federal agencies and county emergency managers, so private event staff would need to route requests through the county emergency manager
9. Workshop: Draft plans review
- a. Attendees reviewed the following draft plans (if no notes are included in the minutes, no feedback was provided for the plan)
 - i. 911 outage
 - ii. Disaster declaration
 - iii. Notification of assistance needed (from incorporated cities/towns to the County)
 - iv. Emergency public communications
 - 1. Matt Cenicerros suggested looking into CBRS (Citizen Broadband Radio Service), which can function as a mesh network, as a possible communications solution in harder-to-reach areas like Castle Valley
10. Discussion of future agenda items
- a. At the Q3 meeting it was suggested to revisit the discussion of tools for flood warning/forecasting.
 - b. Erin Walter, a hydrologist in the NWS Grand Junction office, presented on NWS products for flash flood preparedness

- i. Excessive Rainfall Outlook from the Weather Prediction Center (in Utah even a slight indication of rain can be significant for areas with flashy terrain)
- ii. National Water Center's experimental flood hazard outlook
- iii. Probabilistic precipitation forecasting over 24- or 72-hour periods
- iv. Flash flood watches are strong indicators of potential hazards
 - 1. Especially in conjunction with "remnants of tropical storms" since the ground may already be saturated
- v. Salt Lake City NWS office has a machine learning project focused on flash flooding in national parks, including Arches and Canyonlands, that could be useful indicators for the area more generally
- vi. Storm motion, intensity, and duration all play into whether or not a storm will turn into a flooding event. The NWS is available 24/7 for direct communication about developing storms
- vii. Stream gages
 - 1. Chris Wilkowske clarified that stream gages were primarily designed for water resource quantification rather than flood warning, though this is evolving
 - 2. For Mill Creek, the gages near Sheley Tunnel provide a lead time of about 45 minutes to an hour before water reaches town
 - 3. In general, stream gage data is a lagging indicator for flash floods and precipitation monitors may be a better early warning system. Some USGS stream gages do have precipitation monitors attached.
 - 4. In terms of thresholds, Wilkowske said that about 100 CFS would be dangerous for wading in the creek, about 900 CFS would be bank full, and at around 300 CFS people should start paying attention to potential flooding
- viii. Rain gages
 - 1. There are two rain gages in Sand Flats that emergency management placed this summer.
 - 2. The group discussed the importance of having rain gages on the west side of town, since most storms come from that direction. This would require working with landowners/land managers to get permission to place monitors once locations are identified
- ix. Monitor network
 - 1. The group discussed how ideally we would have an interactive map with precipitation and gage data from multiple sources so that forecasters and decision makers would have real-time data. The group agreed to continue the discussion in future meetings.

11. Adjourn