



Office of Emergency Management

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LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMISSION

In America's emergency management system, local governments and citizens must be prepared to act first when a disaster occurs. Depending on the nature and size of the emergency, State and Federal assistance may be available, but it will take time to gather resources and people to assist. Whenever or whatever disaster or mass casualty event occurs, community and local response will be key to survival. Therefore, it is extremely important for community involvement in the emergency planning process to ensure the safety and security of Park County residents.

The Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) has been formed as a citizen-based group to look at emergency response and preparedness issues throughout Park County. The commission has developed an extensive list of initial goals and is currently working on many personal preparedness objectives. Additionally, the commission will begin the work of creating agreements with local businesses, creating a countywide resource book, and establishing evacuation plans for large-scale emergencies.

A few of the large projects the commission is currently working on include:

1. Planning – We are looking at several of our community emergency plans to ensure we are as prepared as possible during any large-scale event. These include pandemic flu planning, all-hazards planning, evacuation planning and isolation/quarantine planning.
2. Citizen Corps – We are in the process of developing a Citizen Corps Council, along with training for a Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT), to give citizens of Park County all the tools they may need during disaster situations.
3. Public Education – A large amount of our time is spent on projects centered on public education. This includes an updated Emergency Preparedness Guide for citizens, presentations at homeowners' associations about personal preparedness and articles in newspapers and newsletters. Additionally, the Board of County Commissioners has signed a resolution declaring the last week of September as Emergency Preparedness Week, recognizing the need for increased awareness and preparation for the winter months ahead.
4. Shelter Management – We have been increasing the number of facilities that are able to act as shelter sites during emergency situations. This is an important project for Park County, given our varying weather extremes.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Local Emergency Planning Commission, please contact the Director of Emergency Management, Lori Hodges, for meeting information. Phone: (719) 836-4372. Email: lhodges@parkco.us.