

1Q BHR Emergency Management Meeting - Draft Minutes

February 26, 2024, 11am – 1:30pm

In attendance: Susanne and Terry Bloomfield, Wendy and Art Jackson, Ron & Kelly Alcorn, Jim Nance, JP Angelillo, Brad and Marian Brooks, Ron Lovely

1Q Focus

- **Snow Captain Addendum** - Check in with Kelly (and Ron) Alcorn - winter weather a challenge, but Kelly reports those concerns received have all been addressed. Still an issue, random roads not being plowed, but follow up takes place on all. Kelly reports that the use of cameras for snow depth verification has been a significant help, other installations are planned.

1. Fire Mitigation / Prevention / Response

- a. Quadrant Captains - any issues to report? No callouts, no issues reported at the meeting.
- b. Search Teams - any issues to report? No callouts, no issues reported at the meeting.
- c. Basics of Fire spotting, reporting and interaction with HCFPD - Show and tell with Huerfano County Fire Protection District. Discussion on requesting further presentations and training by HCFPD. All present in favor of pursuing this from EMC budget
- d. EMC exercises - 2 per year one in winter / one in summer? **TO DO: Brad to present a plan at next meeting**
- e. **Blackhawk Community Wildfire Protection Plan due** – 10-year update due now – significant undertaking. **EMC CWPP TEAM** has been recruited (Susanne Bloomfield, Wendy/Art Jackson, Marian/Brad Brooks) target date of April 15. Preliminary meeting with Paul Branson is being planned for early March.
- f. Suggested 2024 mitigation projects – current plan is to use 50% of budget on reworking past mitigation, 40% on new mitigation and 10% on Fire response training. \$10k budget. A to-do for EMC members was requested by Brad with regard to choosing the areas on the ranch for these activities. Jim Nance suggested new areas could be chosen based upon reducing shade areas on our roads. **TO DO: EMC members to propose new and old areas for mitigation work days this summer and fall.**
- g. Community Chipper Days? Organize three different ranch locations for residents to pile slash. Volunteers to chip these locations on three different days? Discussion ensued on the details of how this might work and whether it might be better to move the chipper to individual lots rather than create large slash piles. It was suggested that we determine what activities are committed to in the revised CWPP and integrate those into our EMC workdays. **TO DO: Recommendations on this topic from Ron and the rest of the EMC. Go / No Go decision after CWPP release.**

2. Accidents / Recovery – Winter Operations

- a. New Plowing Guideline – 6” - Winter storms have really degraded our roads.
- b. South Mountain / Rugby Mines passable, but very muddy.
- c. Trifecta of Snow Storms – excellent test of current EMC systems and capabilities!
 - i. 6 Vehicles and two individuals stranded 2/3-4. No Comms issues - Phones / Radios / Group Texts worked well. Vehicle recovery 2/4-6 went apace. No vehicles damaged. Huge turnout of neighbors helping neighbors!
 - ii. EMC received 3 referrals from Huerfano and Las Animas Counties.

1. Huerfano County - notifying us of two stranded people on Howard's Draw
2. Huerfano / Las Animas handoff and consultation
3. Huerfano County Fire Protection District asked us to check on a Blackhawk resident to determine their condition. Carbon Monoxide complaint. Resident was reached, recommendations related to Carbon Monoxide levels in abode, instruction on alarm sensors and threshold of carbon monoxide detection vs human toxicity was covered. Advice on how to ventilate the abode and clear the current carbon monoxide levels was given and followed. **Resolved.**
4. Both Counties warned EMC that they would not be able to reach us on 2/3-4. **Significant discussion ensued not only regarding the details of the listed incidents, noting several other additional incidents were taking place at the same time. About 12 vehicles required some assistance during/after the storm. Need for both newsletter articles and show and tell sessions on self reliance and self recovery was discussed. Fortunately, none of these incidents resulted in injuries or went unresolved. A very healthy neighbor helping neighbor response was observed across the ranch.**
 - iii. Snowed Out - Andre Zoutte who was visiting in Arizona and could not make it up his driveway. He was directed to call BAMB to plow out his driveway, they were able to do that. **Resolved- Andre made it home and was sunning himself on his deck 2/20/2024.**

3. Communications Plan - Technical Requirements and Analysis Underway

- a. A more thorough analysis and application examination is underway with regard to our needs for Emergency Management Communication and Planning. While our current use of multiple technologies is working, we believe the need to plan for future systems integration of radio, phone and text communications during incidents. Discussion centered around better integration of all technologies currently available and how that might look given the very sparse cell coverage on the ranch. **TO DO: Quadrant leaders should plan to supplement the map already started by Jim Nance, to not only expose cellular dead spots, radio dead spots, but also to map radio / cellular look-outs where either radio or cellular coverage could be established in each Quadrant. Each Quadrant should already have two lookout points identified; those have been tested for radio coverage, but not cellular. This could be taken care of in one of our field exercises (see 1 d above).**
- b. More thought needs to be given to the different "lane" needs between actual incident communications and activities such as weather reporting or road conditions, etc. **Brad brought up the need to assure that during real emergencies a single radio channel should be chosen (terrain dependent) and used for emergency comms only. No chatter, etc.**
- c. See Something – Say Something continues to be the most valuable contribution that our POA residents can make regarding the EMC domain. **TO DO: Brad to emphasize that in the upcoming newsletter. Those present agreed that humans are our best sensors on the ranch, but additional education on the importance of reporting license numbers, vehicle descriptions, occupant descriptions will be necessary in the future.**

4. Emergency Exit Ground Proving

- a. Maps / Signs - **TO DO: Wendy will continue to coordinate with Big Horn Ranch to identify the signage and further mapping necessary to solidify evacuation planning both in and out of both ranches. She has additional mapping ready to publish. TO DO: Brad**

was asked to determine what mapping system do Huerfano and Las Animas counties use, if any?

- b. Signed Agreements with Landowners - Kelly Rains, the owner of lot 159 (where the emergency exit off of Brodmore adjoins to the Big Horn Ranch) has agreed to modifications to emergency exit path across his property, if and when necessary.

5. Continuing Infrastructure capacity / human capability build out

- a. Rugby Mines / South Mountain – Safety-based improvements - Significant work delays, caused by our snowy February, have delayed this project. However, it continues to progress. March completion is hoped for.
- b. Siting of 2nd Firefighting Water Tank – use of HCFPD in siting. **TO DO:** Brad to invite HCFPD out for another familiarization tour of the ranch to include siting of potential tank sites - this spring.
- c. Education / Training as covered above **TO DO:** Brad to invite both Cody Julian and HCFPD and HCEMS for onsite training and discussions on Self Recovery 101, Fire Spotting and Report 101, and Basic First Aid and AED - target 2nd or 3rd Quarter. In addition Brad was tasked with inviting HCFPD to speak at our annual meeting. It was noted that the Mission of the EMC is indeed to train and “equip” residents to be self-reliant. Art made an astute observation that the EMC scope is really more preventive than reactive with regard to expected outcomes.

6. Ongoing Security Issues - None Reported

7. Q&As - See appended below

8. Other New Business?

9. Meeting Date for 2 Q? **TO DO:** EMC members suggest dates in May for our 2Q meeting.

Q&A Discussion - Represents where we are today

Assumptions: None of us retired to BHR so that we could suddenly become untrained EMS responders, amateur wrecker operators, or join the local volunteer fire department. However, some of us have past professional training, experience and skill sets that will allow us to respond to neighbors in need. None of us need to feel forced to do anything. Any response should be considered self-deployment, and as such, you will be responding as a “Good Samaritan”. It is very likely that in any specific incident, specific people will likely self-deploy due to skillsets, etc.

Before responding to any emergency, **STOP. There is no situation you can't make worse by not thinking your way through your first actions.** Take measured and thoughtful steps to prepare your gear and supplies prior to deciding to respond.

Primary Actions:

- Humans Present? Where are they? CAB?
- Stability of the incident scene - fires, fuels, vehicles, freight load, need to isolate the scene?
- Traffic safety of incident scene - need to redirect traffic to allow safety for responders?

- Incident Needs - relayed by Radio, Cellphone or Group Text

Every incident will likely be unique in its details. Every incident will likely have more than one responder. Every responder shows up with a different skill set, mindset, capabilities and gear. First on Scene will need to initially take on the incident command role until relieved by a more experienced person.

We will not use “protocols”, but rather **Best Effort**, which will evolve over time.

- (1) How do we notify all EMC team members? Perhaps a less biased starting question would be, is there ever a reason that ALL EMC Members should be contacted? If so why? YES - Fires on BHR or Auto accidents with injuries. For these types of emergencies all EMC members will be notified by individual phone calls, group texts, or where necessary by radio to determine who is on the ranch and determine the following:

How would EMC members be called out? **JUST LIKE WE DO NOW!** Radio, Cellphone, Cell Phone-based Individual or Group Text. **Note: During the recent AT&T meltdown → Radios were the only technology functioning in many places.**

that there is a problem - [see above](#)

who is available to help - [see above](#)

that someone called 911 or not - [incident command on scene either makes the call or delegates via Radio](#)

who will meet responders at the gate incident command on scene - **Incident command or delegates via Radio**

that someone will serve as incident command - [first on scene until relieved](#)

that someone is responding to the incident - [Radio Relay or Cell coverage](#)

that we are using radios on BHR - [Radio Frequencies are published on the BHR Website. Channel 1 is standby emergency channel, better bet would be to scan the 4 channels just in case other frequencies are necessary and in use.](#)

- (2) How to notify all EMC members that we have ~~Loss of Comm (LOC)~~ for cell phone and how to do it for radio? [Comms 000 condition will likely be alerted via radio or delegates via radio.](#) LOC in emergency management means LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS. Use **Comms 000** instead. Loss of comm in one of our known “dead zones” was suggested to be one of our team exercises.

- (3) What are the EMC protocols for first aid for a severely injured person (e.g. burn, laceration) or heart attack until help arrives? Especially what not to do. **Best Practice Is → YOU DO NOTHING THAT YOU HAVE NOT BEEN TRAINED TO DO AND KNOW YOU CAN DO!** First aid and CPR refresher classes were suggested and got a positive response. It was pointed out that the 911 dispatcher might be able to tell you what to do, but only in the event that either radio or cellphone coverage was intact. Trying to execute first aid buy text is not recommended. It was suggested that any EMC communications plan should account for attempting to establish a robust voice connection with 911, even if by radio - telephone relay.

- (4) What is the EMC protocol that we will use for containing a fire until help arrives (what we will try to do and not try to do)? **Best Practice =** [Quadrant Search locates fire, assess fire information, calls or radio relays to 911 and then requests a gate escort by radio → Quadrant Captain notifies other Quadrant searchers of fire location by Radio → BHR Incident Command established at a safe location near the scene of the fire → assessment by responders with regard to whether the fire is fightable and whether responders present have the ability and](#)

gear to fight it initially → if fightable, contain fire until Huerfano County Volunteers arrive on scene → BHR Incident Command stands down, reforms into HCV Incident Command if asked for continued assistance, otherwise leave the area. **TO DO:** During our discussion, it was determined that a more detailed set of best practices be developed. It was also suggested to have our local officials instruct us on what they would like us to do and not do. It was suggested that we carefully developed a more detailed set of instructions, perhaps including best practices developed with local firefighters.

(5) What is the protocol for an EMC person in an evacuation? **Wildly variable and incident dependent - EMC discussion either by radio or cell coverage.** Do POA members need to know what EMC members are not going to do? Assume you are doing nothing except preparing to evacuate yourself/family unless you are specifically asked to play a role. It was clarified during the meeting that under an evacuation order, EMC members are evacuees. They will have no role during an evacuation except to leave. Community expectations need to be shaped to understand this. **TO DO:** During our discussion, it was decided that additional best practices including maps, and directions be produced for each emergency exit.

(6) What is our vehicle recovery protocol (what we will do and not do)? **Best Practices → DO NOTHING WITHOUT ASSESSING THE SCENARIO AND REACHING OUT TO SOMEONE WITH GEAR AND EXPERIENCE.** Lack of experience or training can result in serious injuries and vehicle damage. Increasing our skills, experience and gear will allow us to not only self-recovery, but also help our neighbors with recovery when requested. One of the EMC's stated missions is training and education. The importance of understanding the limitations of one's vehicle, equipment and oneself was emphasized. **TO DO:** In 2024, we hope to have training in Basic First Aid / AED and show and tell session for Self Recovery 101 for vehicles. We will also explore including non-EMC members in this training depending upon demand.