



ONEIDA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bill Lewis, Chairman – Ken Eliason – Brian Jepps

459 South Main St, Malad, ID 83252

Commissioner's Meeting
30 OCTOBER 2024 – 7:00 PM

Town Hall – Emergency Preparedness

IN ATTENDANCE: County Commissioner Chair Bill Lewis, Commissioner Brian Jepps, and Commissioner Ken Eliason.

The meeting opened with a prayer by Brian Kerr and the pledge was led by Veteran's Service Officer Bob Stokes.

The evening's guest speaker was District Emergency Manager and Field Officer Darin Letzring with the Idaho Office of Emergency Management. Mr. Letzring spoke on a number of topics and stressed the state is offering guides to emergency management but strives to not tell counties what to do. Some areas of discussion were:

- Building a culture of preparedness
 - Individual, community, private sector, business
 - State, local, tribal, federal

The evening's discussion focused on the overwhelming feeling many feel when attempting to be prepared or when faced with an emergency. The state offers many options to help ease the stress and burden of getting individuals and communities better prepared if the unexpected should happen.

- Mental
- Financial
- Home kits (72-hour, 2-week, etc.)
- Death
- Training & exercise for all community members through the National Incident Management System Training Program

- Identify preparedness priority factors
- Establish preparedness priorities
- Develop a multi-year schedule
- Establish program reporting
- Mitigation efforts to reduce or remove the impact of natural hazards
 - Federal funds available
 - Projects can be done, such as Malad's water management project that recently started.

Local ham radio club members Jim Mustos and Bill Drury also discussed the community's emergency communication plan that uses hand-held radios available to anyone. The county has been divided into zone numbers that match the designated channel on the radio (i.e. zone 5 is channel 5).

- Family Radio Service (FRS) radios – fixed antennae, 35-mile range line-of-sight
- General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) – higher power abilities, better antennae for greater distance, \$35 license covers the entire family
- Ham Radio – national or international range and requires licensing

***** Meeting adjourned by 9:00 pm*****