

**Minutes for Whitman County EMS Trauma Council**  
**August 26, 2021**  
**Via Zoom**

**Agency's present:** MPD, Whitcom, Albion, Colfax FD, Edicott, LaCrosse, Palouse, Pullman Fire, Airport, Rosalia, Steptoe, Tekoa, VFI, Emergency Management, WCFD 12, WCFD 14,

Meeting called to order 1902

**Prior Minutes:** No quorum at prior meeting, no minutes.

**Treasurers report:** Checking: \$2107.95 Savings: \$11427.11 Approved

**Emergency management:** Bill Tensfield:

- The Emergency Communication committee recommended proposing a 1/10 of 1% sales tax increase in November 2021 for emergency communications. More information is available at [www.Citizens4whitman911.org](http://www.Citizens4whitman911.org)

If this passes:

- Enhance current equipment
- Update Whitcom consoles
- Update repeaters
- The Fair is still on the schedule.
- Emergency management still has available PPE for departments.

**Whitcom:**

- If EMS is requesting Law, please let Whitcom know why the request is needed. This will assist in making sure Law knows what they are getting into.
- Reminder: Please remind citizens to call 911 instead of calling a ring-down line. This will assist in making sure resources that are needed are dispatched initially.
- Reminder: Please communicate apparatus types when communicating with Whitcom.

**East region:** Ron: Nothing to report.

**MPD:** Dr.Lightfoot –

- Information regarding WA State mandate for Health Providers to receive vaccination:
  1. How is the data gathered and does the State want it? Each Department is tasked with verifying vaccination information. This information is kept by the department for their own records. This information is not passed on to the State.
  2. Exemptions: Each department is tasked with approving or denying exemptions. It is advised to have a committee that would make the decision on exemptions. It is advised that if you want a medical exemption that you talk with your personal

doctor. If Departments have questions in regard to medical exemptions, please contact Dr. Lightfoot.

- Questions:
  1. How will this affect mutual aid agreements with agencies from Idaho?
    - Lightfoot: I don't know. This is yet to be determined.
  2. Is it OK to give a blanket approval to all exemption requests?
    - This is problematic as it may open the department up to liability. Legal advice is needed.
  3. Lightfoot: Is there a need for a county wide committee to look at religious exemption accommodation?
    - Consensus: This would assist smaller departments with limited resources and help with liability concerns.
    - Discussion: The Executive Committee will make up this committee. It is an **option** for departments to send religious exemption requests to this Committee. Jamie will send a form to Departments.
- Hospital update in regard to capacity: Beds are tight. Multiple Hospitals around the state are tight as well. No anticipation of PRH going on divert currently.

**Old Business:**

- Wildfire Smoke Rule (Ryan Scharnhorst): L&I did put into place a rule regarding air quality for wildland fires. For more information contact Ryan Scharnhorst
- Fair: The schedule has been sent out, please contact Jamie if you would like to help with the EMS booth. Covid-19 rules for the EMS booth will be emailed soon.

**New Business:**

- Pt weight is needed for Lifeflight. Please communicate with Dispatch.
- Vaccinations: The primary care provider is the best place to go for vaccinations.

**Agency reports:** Reports heard from Dist 14, Dist 4/Palouse, VFI, LaCrosse, Pullman, Tekoa, Colfax

**Meeting adjourned** 2006

Laban Molsee  
Secretary

**Next EMS Council Meeting – Thursday, September 23, 2021- 1900  
Via Zoom**