



**Colorado Emergency
Preparedness Partnership**
Preparedness through Partnership

2021 Annual Report



Message from the Executive Director

Another year has passed, and it proved to be as unpredictable and challenging as the last. Just as we thought we were getting back to normal from the pandemic, another COVID-19 variant emerged. We went from virtual, to in-person, back to virtual again. If we can count on anything, it is that we are far from pre-pandemic operations, but we are still able to adjust, adapt, and overcome the challenges we face as long as we face them together!

The CEPP was well represented across the emergency preparedness community this year. Speaking engagements included events/courses for the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, North Central Region Water, Public Health, and Healthcare Coordination Workshop, and the Local Emergency Planning Committee conference which was an in-person event in Breckenridge.



The CEPP continued to provide training opportunities by transitioning traditional in-person workshops to webinars. We partnered with Garfield County to conduct a Local Chemical Safety Workshop/Webinar. We partnered with the National Cybersecurity Center to conduct the webinar, “Connecting Local Government Emergency Management Teams + Cybersecurity Teams - A Practical Discussion”. We will continue these virtual opportunities in 2022, but like many of you we look forward to the time when we can host in-person events again. There is no substitution for the networking opportunities these in-person events provide.

The CEPP continued to engage with the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI). The MDHI works with outreach service providers in the Metro Denver region with a goal of ending homelessness. 2021 was my last year as a board member (since 2018). I have been honored to serve alongside the many other board members and MDHI staff these past four years as we strove to improve the lives of those struggling with homelessness.

The CEPP continued to make new connections (virtually and in-person) with key organizations and stakeholders in Colorado and nationally who elevate the preparedness of private and public sectors. Thank you to everyone with whom I was able to engage with this year. It was only through your partnerships that CEPP was able to realize so many accomplishments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eugene Wade". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



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CEPP Mission

The CEPP is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) that promotes joint emergency planning between the public, private and philanthropic sectors in Colorado. We work with federal, state and local agencies, private sector entities and non-governmental organizations to strengthen Colorado's emergency planning partnerships.

CEPP accomplishes this mission through the following actions.

- Representation on Boards and Committees
- Training and Workshops
- Increased Information Sharing
- Promoting Situational Awareness



CEPP's strength is its strong partnerships and far-reaching network of approximately 3900 members. Our network is made up of Public, Private, Philanthropic, and citizen stakeholders who represent retail, critical infrastructure, commercial properties, sports and entertainment venues, hospitals, education, and a myriad of other industries throughout Colorado.

Benefits of CEPP Membership

- **Situational Awareness:** Regular CEPP email distribution ensures you are up to date on the latest emergency preparedness initiatives from our federal and state partners.
- **Joint Emergency Planning, Training and Exercises:** Receive invitations to quarterly, free workshops that will help you with your own emergency preparedness planning.
- **Emergency Communications and Information Sharing:** CEPP works with state and federal partners to develop information sharing platforms and protocols with private sector partners. During an emergency, CEPP will be used to help communicate resource requests and other pertinent information to private sectors companies.
- **Resource Sharing:** If resources are needed from the private sector, Local and State Emergency Managers use CEPP to help fill this need during emergencies.

Membership is *FREE!* [Sign up here](#)

2020 CEPP Board of Directors

The CEPP Board of Directors represents the private, public, and philanthropic stakeholders focused on creating a resilient Colorado. Their support and guidance are vital to ensuring CEPP's work remains inclusive of all sectors.

Steve Recca (President)	Executive Director, Center for Human Security, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
Bear McConnell (Vice President)	Adjunct, the Rand Corporation
Jurree Scherrer (Treasurer)	Operations Director, Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association
Christian Anschutz (Secretary)	Managing Director, Western Development Group
Shawn Graff	Region VIII Director, DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
David Sayles	Senior Manager, Enterprise Risk Management and Chief Security Officer, Tri State Generation & Transmission
Josh Jackson (New Member)	Regional Disaster Officer, American Red Cross, Colorado and Wyoming
Tim Gablehouse (New Member)	Environmental Lawyer, Gablehouse Granberg, LLC

One board member transitioned off the CEPP board in 2021.

Gino Greco, CEO, American Red Cross Colorado/Wyoming Region

Gino served on the CEPP board since 2013. His dedication to supporting disaster preparedness, response, and recovery in Colorado has been unwavering. His vision and support of CEPP efforts have been instrumental in the CEPPs connections and engagement with federal, state and local stakeholders.

*Thank
you!*

Thank you to all our board members, past and present, for your time and professional guidance to ensure our organization is meeting its full potential!

CO Homeland Security and All-Hazards Senior Advisory Committee



The CEPP is a member of [Colorado's Homeland Security and All-Hazards Senior Advisory Committee \(HSAC\)](#). The HSAC is led by the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety.

The CEPP chairs the **Private Sector Subcommittee** that reports to the HSAC.

This committee represents private sector entities on issues related to homeland security and emergency management within the State of Colorado.

Its purpose is to lead private sector engagement in the areas of prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery strategies developed in the Homeland Security and All-Hazards Senior Advisory Committee, and to assist in the identification, development and implementation of best practices related to private sector engagement and coordination to prevent the loss of critical information, disruption of critical services, or the loss of lives in the State of Colorado.

Efforts include, however, are not limited to the following.

- Researching best private sector engagement practices from private sector entities, local and state government and other applicable institutions.
- Researching and making recommendations to the HSAC based on emerging threats or latest trends related to private sector engagement.
- Developing recommendations for training and education around private sector engagement.

The CEPP is also a member of the **Information Sharing Subcommittee** created in 2019. The purpose of this subcommittee is to assist in the identification, development and implementation of best practices related to information sharing to enhance the sharing of critical information, prevent disruption of critical lifelines, or the loss of lives due to planned or actual threats of terrorism or criminal acts in the State of Colorado. It is chaired by the Director of the Colorado Information Analysis Center.

Programs and Workshops

A. Chemical Safety Workshops

The CEPP has conducted Chemical Safety Workshops since 2014. Initial workshops focused on federal regulatory requirements for chemical safety. Recent workshops provided an in-depth chemical hazard assessment of several counties in Colorado. These workshops are made possible through a Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant through the State of Colorado.



Federal Regulatory Workshop Goals

- Increase industry and responder awareness of federal programs that regulate chemical safety and security.
- Strengthen community planning and preparedness for chemical emergencies.
- Strengthen Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) capabilities.

Local workshop goals

- Provide a high-level overview of the hazardous material threat from transportation and fixed facilities in the county/region.
- Ensure regulated industry understands local and state response capabilities.
- Increase participation in Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC).

Plan Your County's Workshop

If your county is interested in having a workshop, please review this [presentation](#) and [contact CEPP](#) to start the planning process.

Local Chemical Safety Workshops

In 2021, the CEPP conducted one local Chemical Safety workshop for the Garfield County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) on May 12th, 2021. It was attended by approximately 45 attendees*. The workshop was conducted with in-person attendees and virtually through a web conferencing platform.

** Some attendees watched as a group from a single log-in, hence 'approximate' count.*

Key Takeaways from Local Chemical Safety Workshops

Find out how to contact your Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) [here](#).

Key Takeaways for Facilities

- Participate in your LEPC.
- Be aware of the impact a hazardous material release from your facility could have on the community.
- Make sure information you share is accurate, up-to-date, and informative.
- Conduct on-site tours and exercises with your local response community.
- If a response is needed, a knowledgeable liaison in the Command Post is essential for a coordinated response.
- HAZMAT responses take time.

Key Takeaways for First Responders

- Evaluate the capabilities needed to respond to HAZMAT incidents and build towards that requirement.
- Support HAZMAT facilities in exercises and planning to improve and enhance pre-incident coordination in HAZMAT emergency response.
- Support this public-private partnership by continuing to attend the LEPC and build relationships with the HAZMAT facilities in your response area.

Key Takeaways for Public Citizens

- The best way to access and understand public HAZMAT information is to participate in your LEPC.
- Be aware of the response capabilities in the community where you work and live.
- Build relationships with your response community through the LEPC and participation in trainings and exercises.
- Understand and be aware of the environment around you.
- Additional hazardous materials information is available at <https://enviro.epa.gov/>.

Federal Chemical Safety and Local Chemical Safety resources can be found at <https://thecepp.org/chemical-safety-workshops.html>.

B. Emergency Management & Cyber Workshop

In 2021, the CEPP created a partnership with the [National Cybersecurity Center](#) (NCC) to promote cybersecurity awareness and training to Colorado stakeholders. On November 29, 2021 the NCC and CEPP co-hosted a webinar, “Connecting Local Government Emergency Management Teams + Cybersecurity Teams - A Practical Discussion.” The webinar focused on how emergency managers can work with their information technology departments to create a joint cybersecurity emergency response plan for their jurisdiction. It showcased the success Arapahoe County has had with this process and provided guidance for others to follow.



NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY CENTER

This webinar reached a broad audience of regional and local emergency managers, information technology professionals throughout Colorado. It sparked interesting dialogue and provided the attendees with a greater understanding of the processes described in the overview. A recording of the webinar can be viewed [here](#).

C. Colorado Preparedness Coalition



In 2021, even though coalition members were engaged in response actions to the COVID-19 pandemic and wildfires, we planned a Mile High Dice workshop. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances the workshop had to be cancelled. We hope to provide this workshop at a later date. The CEPP continued to promote Partner agency training opportunities and resources through its membership.

D. Speaking Engagements

The CEPP participated in the planning efforts for the 2021 Local Emergency Planning Committee Conference at Beaver Run, Breckenridge Colorado.

The CEPP presented on “Chemical Safety Workshops” along with Carol Way, our HAZMAT subject matter expert. This presentation focused on what the workshop is, how it benefits LEPCs, and how it can promote engagement by first responders, regulated industries, and the community at large.



The CEPP presented for the following programs.

- Introduction to Homeland Security at the University of Denver, Josef Korbel School of International Studies
- North Central Region Water, Public Health, and Healthcare Coordination Workshop

The CEPP participated in the following programs.

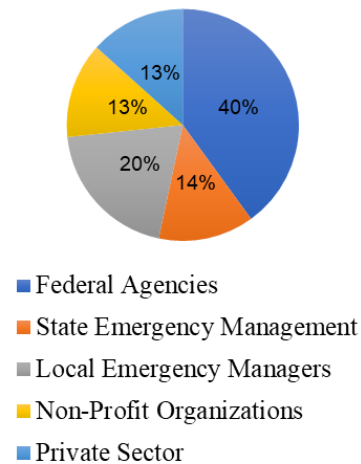
- Metro Denver Regional Convening on Homelessness
- CEMA Annual Membership Meeting
- CIAC Annual Threat Liaison Officer Conference
- DHS/CISA Security Tomorrow Series Pilot Workshops
- Wall Street Journal Cybersecurity Executive Forum
- 10th Annual Building Resilience through Public Private Partnerships Conference

E. CEPP Capstone Involvement with University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

The CEPP was fortunate to have graduate student Jen Mix, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs conduct her capstone project on, **“What Makes the Colorado Emergency Preparedness Partnership (CEPP) a Successful Organization.”** Her paper compares the CEPP to other public private partnerships across the nation. It also includes the results of a survey of CEPP members and stakeholders. The survey asked “What activities the CEPP participates in make the biggest impact to its members; 1) membership on state, regional, and local committees, 2) information and resource sharing, 3) promoting situational awareness, 4) joint emergency planning and training exercises, 5) programs and workshops, 6) a combination of activities, or 7) something else. Read the entire paper [here](#).

The respondents included federal, state, and local representatives, non-profit organizations, and the private sector. All respondents stated it was a combination of activities that make the CEPP successful. The one activity all respondents agreed was a factor for success was Information Sharing. This was followed by Joint Emergency Management Planning and Training Exercises, Membership on State, Regional, and Local Committees, Programs and Workshops, Leadership, and the fact that the CEPP is a non-profit organization.

Figure 1. Response Rate



When asked if there were any other activities that came to mind that the CEPP conducts to improve emergency preparedness within Colorado, 47% of respondents mentioned that the networking offered through the CEPP is invaluable.

The activities conducted by the CEPP to strengthen joint emergency planning within Colorado are all mutually beneficial to the CEPP stakeholders. The activities include membership in numerous national, state, regional, and local committees; speaking engagements; programs and workshops; joint planning and training exercises; information and resource sharing; and promoting situational awareness. One stakeholder described this as the *“wheel of collaboration”* in which the CEPP *“plans with partners, trains with partners, exercises with partners, and operates with partners.”* All activities conducted by the CEPP are spokes on the wheel that drive the strengthening of joint emergency planning in Colorado.

Committees and Associations

CEPP maintains membership in many federal, state, and local committees and associations to stay abreast of emerging trends and threats as well as to share our program model across the preparedness community. Below are a few examples of these committees and associations.

- Regional Consortium Coordinating Council (RC3)
- DHS/CISA Region 8 All-State Coordination Council (Co-Chair)
- National Business Emergency Operations Center (BEOC) Engagement Committee
- CO Homeland Security All-Hazards Advisory Council
 - o CO Private Sector Subcommittee (Chair)
 - o CO Information Sharing Subcommittee
- Colorado Emergency Planning Commission (CEPC)
 - o CO Conference Planning Committee
- Colorado Emergency Operations Center Liaison
- Colorado Federal Executive Board (CFEB) Member
- Colorado Preparedness Coalition
- Colorado Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (COVOAD)
- Colorado Preparedness & Response Network (CPRN)
- Douglas County Faith Based Security Coalition (DCFBS)
- Denver Emergency Planning Committee (DEPC)
- Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) Threat Liaison Officer (TLO) Program
- Metro Foothills Healthcare Coalition (MFHCC)
- North Central Region Urban Area Working Group (NCR/UASI)
- Metro Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) Board Member
- Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN)
- Denver Metro Infragard (FBI)



Acknowledgements

CEPP is only able to fulfill its mission through the generous contributions from our sponsors. Contributions were in the form of monetary support, use of venues, providing food and beverage, and/or offering their expertise to create and present at our programs. Below are our featured sponsors of 2021.

- The Anschutz Foundation
- American Red Cross
- Colorado State Patrol HAZMAT
- CO Critical Infrastructure Alliance
- CO Information Analysis Center
- CO DHSEM
- CO Federal Executive Board
- CEMA
- CEPC
- DHS/CISA
- EPA
- FEMA
- National Cybersecurity Center
- NORAD/Northern Command
- Garfield County
- OSHA



American Red Cross



NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY CENTER