



**Colorado Emergency
Preparedness Partnership**
Preparedness through Partnership

2020 Annual Report





Message from the Executive Director

What a year it has been. The CEPP has always promoted the idea that “We are Stronger Together!” This idea proved itself over and over as our State navigated the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, record-breaking wildfires, civil unrest, and an election that was anything by normal. Through it all, the CEPP stood ready to answer the call of our partners and members to respond to and recover from these many challenges.

The CEPP was invited to be part of the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation as the Emergency Support Function (ESF) #14, Cross-Sector Business and Infrastructure point of contact. Expanding our organizations role from preparedness to response, we worked hard to coordinate public sector needs with private sector capabilities. The CEPP also was part of some of the Governor’s working groups to ensure private sector concerns were addressed prior to issuing executive orders.



The CEPP was well represented across the emergency preparedness community this year. Speaking engagements included events/courses for the Colorado Emergency Management Association conference, University of Colorado, University of Denver, Josef Korbel School of International Studies, and Independent Electrical Contractors Rocky Mountain (IECRM).

The CEPP continued to provide training opportunities by transitioning traditional in-person workshops to webinars. We partnered with Pueblo County to conduct a Local Chemical Safety Workshop/Webinar. We also conducted three Federal Chemical Safety Webinars and a Strategic Planning to Fill Capability Gaps Webinar. We will continue these virtual opportunities in 2021, 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. I am a board member (since 2018) and am honored to serve this organization.

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,

Eugene Wade



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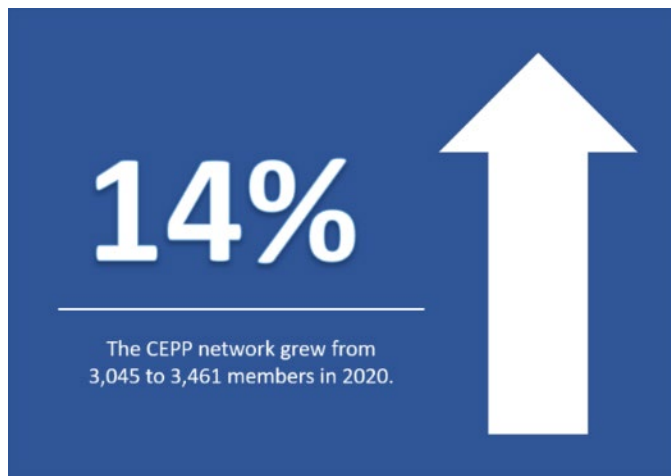
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CEPP Mission

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 3400 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](https://www.thecepp.org)



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
Gino Greco	CEO American Red Cross, Colorado and Wyoming
David Sayles (<i>New Member</i>)	Chief Information Security Officer/Enterprise Risk Management, Tri State Generation & Transmission

Two board members transitioned off the CEPP board in 2020.

Tim Gablehouse, Environmental Lawyer, Gablehouse Granberg, LLC

Tim served on the CEPP board since its inception. He is a recognized expert in the field of hazardous materials law and has participated in national level efforts to improving HAZMAT guidance. His vision and support of CEPP efforts have been instrumental in the CEPPs connections and engagement with federal, state and local stakeholders.

Alan Wick, Enterprise Security Manager, Tri State Generation & Transmission

Alan served on the CEPP board since 2015. His knowledge of critical infrastructure and his understanding of community engagement guided the CEPP's efforts toward better coordination of public private partnerships throughout Colorado.

*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.

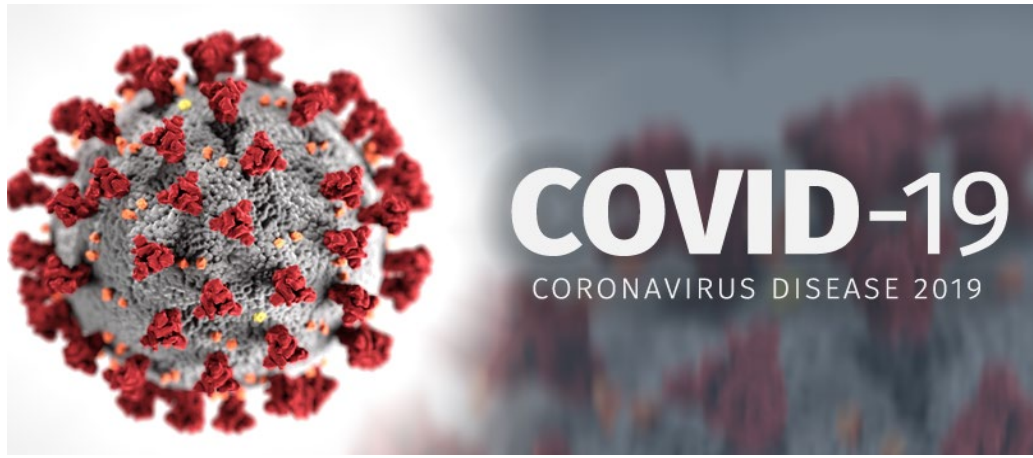
Its purpose is to lead private sector engagement in the areas of prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery strategies developed in the Homeland Security and All-Hazards Senior Advisory Committee, and to assist in the identification, development and implementation of best practices related 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.

CEPP COVID-19 Support to Colorado



The CEPP played an integral part in Colorado’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The CEPP was invited to be part of the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation as the Emergency Support Function (ESF) #14, Cross-Sector Business and Infrastructure point of contact. Expanding our organizations role from preparedness to response, *CEPP fulfilled an active role on the State’s Incident Support Plan.*

Member of Governor’s Working Groups

“The Governor's Office is grateful for the contributions from the Colorado Emergency Preparedness Partnership, and their involvement in our collective response to COVID-19. They served a critical function in assisting private sector communications and coordination at a time when the entire State was demanding updates in real time.”

The Office of Governor Jared Polis

- [Governor’s Economic Stabilization and Growth Council](#)



COLORADO

Office of Economic Development
& International Trade

- Ensured private sector concerns were represented during formation of policies designed for Colorado’s economic recovery.
- Facilitated engagement during Governor Briefings (Industrial, Business Community, Vaccine Distribution, etc.)

- [COVID-19 Relief Fund](#)



Get Informed · Donate · Volunteer

- Connected influential business and philanthropic organizations to efforts.



Member of Colorado EOC/Unified Coordination Center (UCC)

“COVID19 has turned out to be a once in a generation event that has fundamentally shifted how we respond to, and recover from, widespread incidents. Planning paradigms were broken as plans collapsed under the weight of a worldwide pandemic and supply chains struggled with demands well beyond capacity. Building on the existing relationship with the Colorado Emergency Preparedness Partnership (CEPP), the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was able to rapidly integrate the CEPP into the SEOC and bring to bear the vast capabilities of the private sector during these unprecedented times. In an astonishing feat, the CEPP helped increase the States Business Emergency Operations Center membership by 2000% as they actively sought out private sector partners who wanted to contribute to the effort to curb COVID19. The CEPP was, and remains, a critical partner in identifying and connecting critical resources to support the State’s efforts to protect our communities and stabilize our economy. As the Director of the Colorado Office of Emergency Management and Incident Commander of the Unified Coordination Center, I am grateful for the tireless work of our CEPP partners and look forward to our continued work in 2021.”

Brig Gen (Ret) Mike Willis, Director – Office of Emergency Management

- Promoted the growth of the [CO Business Emergency Operations Center \(BEOC\)](#).
 - **2000 %** increase in membership from March to December 2020!
- Distributed COVID-19 Situational Awareness emails.
 - Important information for businesses and the public to develop their New Normal plan and be informed of changes in State and Local protocols.
 - All CEPP emails can be accessed from the [COVID-19 Resource Page](#).
- Involved in daily ESF#14 Activities for [State EOC/UCC](#).
 - Coordinated private sector inquiries to the State EOC/UCC.
 - Coordinated State agency inquiries to private sector stakeholders.
 - Successfully connected private resources with public needs!
 - State Storage Facility
 - Heavy Equipment
 - Warehouse Staffing
 - Security Staffing
 - Contributed to UCC coordination calls (initially daily; now weekly).
 - Deconflicted private sector requests with State/Federal agencies.
 - Member of Long-Range Planning Infrastructure Disruption Committee.

CEPP Wildfire Support to Colorado

The CEPP also played a part in Colorado’s response to the record-breaking wildfires experience in 2020. The CEPP was contacted for a water request to assist the recovery efforts of the East Troublesome Fire in Grand County, Colorado. *CEPP was able to connect the State/County with private sector resources to fulfill this request.*

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.

Federal Regulatory Workshops

In 2020, the CEPP conducted three webinars that focused on the federal regulations that govern chemical safety. These webinars involved representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Department of Homeland Security/Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (DHS/CISA). The three webinars were:

1. **Federal Regulations 101**

*Held on Oct 7, 2020; attended by approximately 75 people**

An introductory overview of the federal chemical safety regulations that pertain to regulated industry and how they affect public response agencies. Programs that were covered include:

EPA: EPCRA, RMP, SPCC, OPA (FRP/GIUEs)
OSHA: PSM, GHS, HAZWOPER
DHS/CISA: CFATS

2. **Federal Regulations 201**

*Held on Nov 18, 2020; attended by approximately 75 people**

A focused overview on important updates and changes to specific federal chemical safety regulatory requirements. Programs that were covered include:

EPA: EPCRA/AWIA amendments, RMP Reconsideration Rule
OSHA: National Emphasis Programs, and Chemical Safety initiatives
DHS/CISA: CFATS Updates and Chemical Security tools

3. **What to Expect When You're Inspected**

*Held on Dec 8, 2020; attended by approximately 75 people**

Inspectors from EPA, OSHA, and DHS/CISA explained what to expect when they come to inspect your facility's operations. They covered pre, during, and post inspections.

These webinars reached a broad audience of regulated industry and government agencies throughout Colorado and beyond (*we had international attendees as well*). They provided the attendees with a greater understanding of the federal regulations that govern chemical hazards with a focus on the transportation component and fostered collaboration between regulated industry, response agencies, and community partners during emergency planning efforts. The presentations used during the webinars as well as a recording of the webinars can be found at <https://thecepp.org/chemical-safety-workshops.html>.

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

Local Chemical Safety Workshops

In 2020, the CEPP conducted one local workshop for the Pueblo County LEPC on August 20, 2020 with approximately 39 attendees. The workshop was conducted with in-person attendees and through a web conferencing platform. A workshop was planned for the Garfield County LEPC, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the wildfires in/around Garfield county, the LEPC was unable to make time for the workshop. This workshop is tentatively scheduled for May 12, 2021.

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 envirofacts.epa.gov.

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

B. Strategic Planning to Fill Capability Gaps

In 2020, the CEPP conducted a Strategic Planning to Fill Capability Gaps webinar on December 18, 2020. It was attended by approximately 50 people. This webinar explained how to create a community-based strategic plan to address capability gaps after a hazard analysis and show that efforts are successful by focusing on three areas:



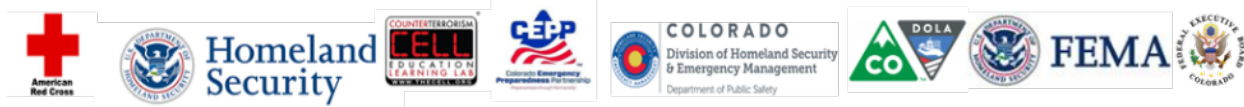
1. How to Move Forward After a Hazard Analysis: A focus on resources needed and who to involve in creating an action plan once a jurisdiction has identified major hazards and capability gaps, to include transportation routes.
2. How to Demonstrate Success: A focus on how to conduct a strategic planning process that incorporates filling identified capability gaps based on a jurisdiction's priorities, how to promote shared responsibility throughout the community, and how to show progress against a strategic plan.
3. How to get Community Engagement: A focus on how to create a public private partnership that involves all community partners so that everyone can provide input to filling capability gaps.

This webinar reached a broad audience of regional and local emergency managers, public response agencies, and members of Colorado LEPCs throughout Colorado. It sparked interesting dialogue and provided the attendees with a greater understanding of the processes described in the overview. It also promoted a better understanding of how to engage all community partners during emergency planning efforts. The presentations used during the webinar as well as a recording of the webinar can be found at <https://thecepp.org/index.html>.

*Thank
you!*

A special thank you to Carol Way, our HAZMAT subject matter expert, for partnering with CEPP to make these workshops possible!

C. Colorado Preparedness Coalition



CEPP leads the Colorado Preparedness Coalition that plans preparedness training opportunities throughout Colorado. This group is comprised of representatives from the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, FEMA Region 8, Colorado Federal Executive Board, Colorado's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Counter-terrorism Education Learning Lab, American Red Cross, Colorado Department of Local Affairs, and the North Central Region. Working together, we pool our resources and talent to provide free preparedness programs throughout Colorado.

In 2020, Coalition members were fully engaged in response actions to the COVID-19 pandemic, wildfires, civil unrest, and elections. We suspended joint training opportunities, but member agency opportunities were promoted through CEPP's membership.

D. Speaking Engagements

The CEPP hosted a table at the 2020 Colorado Emergency Managers Association (CEMA) conference where we promoted our organization and increased membership.



The CEPP presented on "The Key to Private Sector Engagement." This presentation explained how to leverage relationships with private sector businesses and organizations to create a broad-based community approach to a local jurisdiction's emergency preparedness program.

The CEPP also presented for the following programs.

- Certified Public Manager Program's Leadership in Emergency Coordination and Response for the University of Colorado
- Introduction to Homeland Security at the University of Denver, Josef Korbel School of International Studies
- Independent Electrical Contractors Rocky Mountain (IECRM) Emergency Preparedness Event



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.

- Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN)
- Denver Metro Infragard (FBI)
- Arapahoe County Emergency Management Advisory Group (ACEMAG)
- Colorado Emergency Planning Committee (CEPC)
- Colorado Emergency Operations Center Liaison
- Colorado Federal Executive Board (CFEB) Member
- Colorado Preparedness Coalition
- Denver Emergency Planning Committee (DEPC)
- Regional Consortium Coordinating Council (RC3)
- National Business Emergency Operations Center (BEOC) Engagement Committee
- Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) Threat Liaison Officer (TLO) Program
- Metro Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI) Board Member



HSIN | Homeland Security
Information Network



DENVER
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT



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 2020.

- The Anschutz Foundation
- American Red Cross
- ASIS
- Colorado State Patrol HAZMAT
- CO Critical Infrastructure Alliance
- CO Hotel & Lodging Association
- CO Information Analysis Center
- CO DHSEM
- CO Federal Executive Board
- CO Retail Council
- CEMA
- CEPC
- DHS/CISA
- EPA
- FEMA
- NORAD/Northern Command
- Pueblo County
- OSHA



American Red Cross

