



EMERGENCY & GENERAL SERVICES

P.O. Box 35004
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28 December 2023

Council Members,

This letter outlines the projected DES goals, priorities, and commitments for 12/27/23 to 1/26/24. Before expanding on our goals and priorities for the next month, below are two critical projects and updates for your review:

- The BOCC and City Administration approved the transition from CodeRed to EverBridge for our Mass Notification Platform. DES has begun the process of learning the new system and mapping out project goals and timelines for the next 3 to 6 months.
 - DES has already transitioned IPAWS to the new EverBridge platform, ensuring that there is no lapse in emergent notification capabilities during this transition.
- Thanks to the generosity and support of the Phillips 66 Refinery, YC-DES has received a \$4,000 grant in order to purchase a year's worth of The Response Group's Incident Action Plan software. This will make planning and coordination on planned and unplanned events faster and more efficient due to the software's automated processes. This is of great benefit to YC-DES, first response agencies in the city and county, as well as our neighboring mutual aid partners.

The following are some of the key priorities for our department as outlined in our 2023-2028 Strategic Plan.

For planning priorities (PM5-PM7, SG2 & SG6):

- We are currently working with the state to finalize the 2024 update of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP). We finished reading and commenting on the second draft of our county specific annex from the state and are awaiting the revised third, and hopefully final, draft.
- We are beginning the process of updating the current 2019 Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for the county and cities. This will be a significant overhaul. We are seeking funding through the state homeland security grant program for this project. The application period opens January 3, 2024.
- We received notification of grant funding from MT DNRC on 12/8/23 in the amount of \$75,000 to update the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) which will begin in CY 2024. The current plan is from 2006.
- We are working with the LEPC Planning Committee to create a Family Reunification Plan and a Training and Exercise Plan.



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- We are currently working in tandem with Billings School District 2's new emergency manager to help them craft and review an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for all of their facilities. We will also be assisting with the development and testing of their family reunification planning process in CY 2024 upon completion of their EOP.
- We are currently working on writing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for MetraPark.
 - This project will ultimately result in a safer and more prepared public venue for our community.
- DES will continue working with 911 Dispatch to create priority dispatch protocols for fire, law enforcement, EMS, and emergency management calls. Many call codes have been completed; the next steps are working with response agencies to determine how many of what resources will respond to the various call types.
- After conducting the G0402 NIMS for Elected Officials Class on 10/18, it was requested by the group that DES begin planning and creating a tabletop exercise (TTX) for April 2024 that focuses on a train derailment in Downtown Billings that results in the multi-day closure of city and county offices. This is the beginning of the process for creating a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for the City of Billings and Yellowstone County.

For grants management (SP4):

- We've received \$16,000.00 from DRNC for the Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant (formerly RFC Grant). Paperwork has been signed and accepted by MT DNRC.
- We've received \$130,000.00 from MTDES for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) for FY23/24.
- The EMPG application period for FY24/25 opens January 3, 2024. YC-DES intends to apply and request the maximum amount of \$130,000.
- We received \$250,000.00 from MTDES for the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSP). The acceptance paperwork has been signed and filed with the state. The Environmental and Historical Preservation (EHP) Screening paperwork, which required taking a picture of the current and projected locations of every security camera in the courthouse, has been completed and filed with the state for final approval and release of funds. We will move forward with the bid process for this project in January.
 - We are still waiting to hear back from FEMA/MTDES regarding our EHP paperwork. Funds will not be released to Yellowstone County until this documentation is approved by FEMA.

Yellowstone County



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- The next application period for SHSP funding opens January 3, 2024. YC-DES is planning to apply for funding to update Yellowstone County's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).
- We are continuing to work with the state for the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Grant Projects. Work is still ongoing for all three subgrantees. Our request for a 7-month extension has been approved.
- We have submitted two Post-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant (PDHMG) applications. We are awaiting selection of those applications by the state and federal approval agencies.
- We are continuing to pursue more information regarding a recent cybersecurity grant opportunity to further strengthen the county's cyber infrastructure.

For training and exercises (SP3, SG2 & SG5):

- Continuing Flood Plain Classes as time allows.
- Everbridge training for City and County key departments in 2024 Q1

Thank you for your continued support of our department goals and priorities.

K.C. Williams

KC Williams
Director of Disaster and Emergency Services