



September, 2016



Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

<http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/county-government/departments/homeland-security-and-emergency-management>

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SPECIAL 2016 NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH ISSUE



September is recognized as National Preparedness Month (NPM) which serves as a reminder that we all must take action to prepare, now and throughout the year, for the types of emergencies that could affect us where we live, work, and also where we visit. Due to the success of last year's theme, "Don't Wait, Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today," will be returning for this September with a continuing emphasis on preparedness for youth, older adults, and people with disabilities

and others with access and functional needs.

Thank you for taking time help make Jefferson County better prepared for large emergencies and disasters!



Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management uses NIXLE Alerts to send emergency alert notifications by text, e-mail, Facebook and Twitter. We send out weather watches and warnings, as well as Emergency Public Information during disasters. Examples include tornado, flood, severe snowstorm, and severe thunderstorm watches, warnings, advisories, and emergencies, as well as, where emergency shelters are located, where commodities can be obtained, etc. Signing up is easy and its FREE! To sign up, go to

<http://local.nixle.com/register> or text your zip code to 888777 and then text JCHSEM to the same number.

In addition to NIXLE, we still use traditional media, such as newspapers, TV, and radio, however, receiving NIXLE alerts on your phone is the fastest way to receive emergency public information. Make sure that everyone in your family that has a phone, receives our emergency alerts in case that you are not together when a disaster happens. Make receiving NIXLE Alerts a part of your family's communication plan. If you have questions about NIXLE Alerts, you can go to www.nixle.com and click on "resident". You can always call our office if you have local questions or need assistance with getting registered.

Jefferson County Commissioners:

Patsy Noland, President

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Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Steering Committee:

John Sherwood, Chair

Ed Smith, Vice Chair, Fire and Rescue Representative

Michele Goldman, Eastern Panhandle Care Clinic

Katherine Dunbar, Good Shepherd Inter-Faith Caregivers

Mason Carter, Jefferson County Department of Engineering

Jeffrey Polczynski, ENP, Jefferson County Emergency Communications Center

Jane Tabb, County Commission Representative

Kelly Parsons, Nichols, DeHaven & Associates

Pete Dougherty, Jefferson County Sheriff

Chuck Ellison, Frontier Communications, Utility Representative.

John Reisenweber, Jefferson County Development Authority

Sanford H. "Sandy" Green, Region 3 Homeland Security Area Liaison

Holly Frye, Shepherd University Service Learning Program

Clair Brendel, American Red Cross

Staff:

Barbara Miller, CEM, CFM
Director

Stephen Allen, Planner/Program Manager/
Deputy Director

Brandon Vallee, Administrative Assistant,
Public Information Officer and Volunteer
Coordinator



National Preparedness Month Lunch-N-Learn Sessions Now Being Scheduled!

JCHSEM staff will be conducting a limited number of Lunch-N-Learn Preparedness sessions during the month of September! You provide the venue and your staff; have them to bring a brown bag lunch or you can provide them with lunch, and we will provide them with training about how to put together a family disaster supply kit, talk about pet preparedness, and show them how to sign up for weather alerts, watches and warnings. First come, first served, so give us a call today to schedule your date with preparedness! To schedule your Lunch-N-Learn session, send an email to Steve Allen, Program Manager, at sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org or call him at 304-728-3329. Your email will need to include: Your date of choice, location in Jefferson County, time, and number of employees. You will then be contacted by a member of our staff to let you know either a confirmation or that you will need to choose a different date or time. These Lunch-N-Learn sessions are a part of our contribution to National Preparedness Month during the Month of September.

Independent Fire Company to hold 15th Annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony



Independent Fire Company will hold its 15th annual 9-11 remembrance ceremony on Sunday, September 11 at 9:58 a.m. at their fire station located at 200 West 2nd Avenue, Ranson, WV and it should last approximately 1/2 hour. The guest speaker will be Theodore (Ted) Plucinski, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF (ret.).

The commemoration will occur between the times the World Trade Center towers collapsed. It honors the thousands of victims, including emergency responders, flight crews, members of the military, and everyday Americans who lost their lives at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, the fields of Shanksville on September 11, 2001 and in the War on Terror. Assisting will be members of the Jefferson High School Cougar Air Force Junior ROTC and the Washington High School Patriot Voices. Bagpipe music will be presented by Joe Kent. The public is encouraged to attend to remember and should plan to arrive no later than 9:45, and the ceremony will begin promptly

at 9:58. Available Police, Fire, EMS, and Military personnel are requested to attend in uniform, if possible. For further information, contact Independent Fire Company's Chaplain, Henry Christie at 304-279-6024 or 304-725-9622.



Emergency Blood Shortage. Donate now.

JCHSEM Steering Committee Chairman, John Sherwood, reminds us that there is an Emergency Blood Shortage in our country right now and there is always a need for an adequate blood supply. Please go to www.redcrossblood.org and insert your Zip code, in the upper right you will find a list of nearby blood drives. While thousands of people from across the country have responded to the emergency request for blood and platelet donations issued by the Red Cross last month, a critical blood shortage remains. All eligible donors are encouraged to make and keep blood and platelet donation appointments to help ensure blood is available to meet patient needs. Trauma victims, surgery patients, those with cancer and many others count on lifesaving blood donations every day. Give **now**. **Your donation is critical.**

Ten Things you can do to Protect your Property from Flooding

Know Your Risk

Buy Flood Insurance

A regular home insurance policy does NOT include insurance against flooding. You will need to purchase a separate policy. In order to purchase flood insurance, your local municipality or county government has to be a member of the National Flood Insurance Program, which includes the local government agreeing to have and enforce a local floodplain ordinance. For more information on the national flood insurance program, go to <https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program>.

Add Increased Cost of Compliance

<http://www.fema.gov/increased-cost-compliance-coverage>

Get your permits! Remember to talk to your local floodplain manager before starting any work to discuss the local floodplain ordinance and find out about required permits.

Raise your electrical outlets, sockets, electrical boxes, switches, circuit breakers and wiring at least 3 feet above the base flood elevation.

Anchor and raise outdoor equipment

Fuel tanks, air-conditioning units and generators should be anchored and raised above your base flood elevation. Unanchored fuel tanks can break free, and severed supply lines will contaminate surrounding ground. Electrical power units and generators should never sit on the ground. These backup facilities will be inundated (by water) and useless.

Modify water valves

A flooded sewer system can cause sewage to back up into your home. Install an interior or exterior backflow valve. The Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, or FLASH, recommends gate valves. They are more complex, and you operate them by hand. But they provide stronger seals than flap or check valves, which open automatically to allow water to flow out and then close when water tries to get in. Valves should be installed on all pipes entering the house, FLASH advises.

8. Determine how water flows around your house

Called the grading or slope, the angle of the ground can direct water to or away from your house. Obviously, it's best if the home was built so that water drains away from the building.

This is easy enough to determine by watching how water flows or accumulates during an average rainstorm, says FLASH President and CEO Leslie Chapman-Henderson.

If your property is prone to standing water even after a fairly ordinary rainstorm, talk to a professional to have the problem corrected.

Opt for a major retrofit

If your home floods frequently and moving isn't an option, you may need to take drastic and costly measures.

FLASH's home safety program suggests 3 options:

Raise your home on piers or columns so that the lowest floor is 3 feet above the flood level. Experts tell FLASH that such an undertaking would cost \$20,000 and up.

"Wet-proof" your home by installing foundation vents that would allow water to flow through the building, instead of rising inside and causing more damage. You'd need at least 2 vents on different walls. A 1,000-square-foot house would require 7 square feet of flood vents, according to FLASH.

Do some "dry proofing" by applying coatings and other sealing materials to your walls to keep out floods.

Take last-minute measures as waters rise

Clear gutters, drains and downspouts.

Move furniture, rugs, electronics and other belongings to upper floors, or at least raise them off a ground floor.

Shut off electricity at the breaker panel.

Elevate major appliances onto concrete blocks if they're potentially in harm's way from flooding.

JCHSEM Staff to Participate in National Weather Service-Baltimore/Washington Area's Annual Hydrology Partnership Group Meeting

Each year, the National Weather Service's Baltimore/Washington Forecasting Office holds a hydrology partnership Group Meeting. Representatives from throughout the Baltimore/Washington's forecast area gather at the Sterling Office to review the past year's hydrology issues and discusses plans for improvement in the coming year. This year's meeting, which will be held on September 22, will include: Year in Review, Ellicott City, MD Flash Flood, Performance Stats / Philosophy Change, DC/Potomac Flood Inundation Maps Demonstration, Plans for 2017, Discussion: Furthering the Flood Partnership, Agency Updates/Open Discussion, and a tour of the NWS office. The Hydrology Partnership Group is made up of federal partners at the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the National Park Service (NPS), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); our state/district partners at the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the District Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE), and Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM); and local partners, including local officials from Jefferson County, WV, the City of Alexandria and Fairfax County.



From Risk to Resiliency: Engaging the Public Flood Focus Group to meet in Jefferson County on October 19th

Jason Elliott, hydrological meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Sterling, in conjunction with Rachel Hogan and the Nurture Nature Center, will host a Flood Focus Group about the Shenandoah River on October 19th in Jefferson County, WV. The guest list is being developed by the National Weather Service and the Nurture Nature Center (NNC).

The NNC recently did a similar study on the Delaware River Basin. Focus On Floods is a flood education campaign developed by the NNC through a cooperative partnership with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Weather Service. Focus on Floods is designed to help residents and individuals in the Delaware River Basin and beyond improve their flood readiness. The project shares information with individuals, via radio, television, Internet and other venues, about how to use National Weather Service flood forecasting and warning tools, and other critical flood preparedness information.

As part of the campaign, NNC developed a variety of outreach materials for adults and children (see images below), a Focus on Floods DVD-Rom, and a new six-chapter media piece called "Understanding Flood Risk in the Delaware Basin" which features a series of interviews with flood authorities and experts who discuss the factors that affect flood risk, and the decision-making processes and new technology that can help reduce losses. Visit the project website at www.focusonfloods.org. Read that project's final report on the NNC's website.



West Virginia Homeland Security Region 3 Annual Full Scale Exercise—Dark Grid

West Virginia Homeland Security Region 3, which is comprised of the counties of Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Grant, Hardy, Hampshire, and Mineral Counties, held their annual Full Scale Exercise on Saturday, September 17 throughout the seven-county region.

This year's exercise series, included the April 19 TTX (Tabletop Exercise), a Functional Exercise on June 21 in Hampshire County, and culminates with a Full Scale Exercise on September 17 that will have several field venues throughout the seven counties. It is being designed and directed by representatives of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and their contractors. This will be an HSEEP (Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program)-compliant exercise. The final injects and specific scenarios of the exercise series are not be announced until each exercise begins.

Participants must be pre-registered with their respective County Emergency Manager and the Environmental Protection Agency and its consultants to participate.

While Jefferson County's participation is strongly geared towards Public Health and Hospital Incident Command, and testing of the flood warning plan, this year, participants are being invited from: Emergency Management (Full EOC Group); Emergency Communications/9-1-1, Fire Service, Haz-Mat, LEPC Members, EMS, Law Enforcement, Mapping/GIS/IT, Board of Education, Shepherd University, Military Assets, National Weather Service, Mass Care (Red Cross, Salvation Army, WVDHHR, WV211, VOAD, Council on Aging, Churches and other faith-based agencies, others), Animal Control, Public Health, Jefferson Medical Center, Clinics, Behavioral Health, Environmental Health, Transportation (DOH, Eastern Panhandle Transit Authority), Amateur radio, Engineering and Public Works, Volunteer Agencies, Utility Representatives, Federal, State and Local elected officials.

The success of the exercise series is determined by feedback from participants and the controllers/evaluators. This exercise series will follow the rules of the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP).

Questions about Jefferson County's participation should be directed to Barbara Miller, JCHSEM Director at bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org or 304-728-3290. Questions about other county's participation should be directed to the County Emergency Management Director in that county.



Steve Allen, Deputy Director Receives His West Virginia Emergency Manager, Level 3 Accreditation

Steve Allen, Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Deputy Director received his West Virginia Emergency Manager, Level 3 Accreditation from the West Virginia Emergency Management Council on August 30, 2016 at the State SERC/LEPC Conference. He is seen in the picture being congratulated by Barbara Miller, JCHSEM Director, and Chair of the WV Emergency Management Council, and Tom

Hart, Accreditation Chairman of the WV Emergency Management Council. Level 3 accreditation is the highest accreditation awarded by the council and is awarded based upon achieving excellence in planning, training, exercises, and other achievements in emergency management. Please join us in congratulating Steve on earning this accomplishment!

Mobilizing Faith-Based Community Organizations in Preparedness of Disasters

Date: November 3, 2016

Time: 8am to 5pm

Location: Believer's Victory Center - 160 Victory Lane, Moorefield, WV

Course Description:

This 8-hour, planning and management-level course trains faith-based community organization (FBCO) representatives, management-level emergency managers, and first responders from small and rural communities to strategically mobilize and engage members of FBCOs, including religious charities, nonprofits such as the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross, churches (both affiliated and unaffiliated), temples, synagogues, mosques, and NGOs etc., in a reciprocal approach to disaster planning that is integrated into current local and statewide emergency management efforts. This course emphasizes grassroots mobilization and coordination efforts as a means of engaging all faith communities, thereby reaching those marginalized communities most vulnerable to disaster, most frequently excluded from the planning process, and ultimately, most difficult to aid in recovery. This course introduces vital emergency management concepts to FBCO leaders, many of whom will have had no prior experience with emergency management and also seek to educate emergency managers and first responders about the critical role FBCOs can play in strengthening preparedness. PREREQUISITES: IS-100.b - Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS)

To enroll for this course, go to www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6



Ranson CVB to Host 1st Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival



The Ranson Convention and Visitors Bureau will host its 1st Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival on Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 10 a.m.—5 p.m. The festival location will be at the Ranson Civic Center, 231 West 2nd Avenue, Ranson, WV 25438. The event is to honor and celebrate the cultural traditions and contributions of Latino's in our community. This will provide an opportunity to learn about the Latino culture through music, arts and crafts, kid's evetns, food and drink (for purchase), dance, and informational booths.

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management will have a Preparedness Information Booth at the festival and will be on-hand to discuss risks and resiliency. We will have several handouts for both children and adults, in both Eng-

lish and Spanish versions. Come out to enjoy the fun and learn about how you, your family, and your pets can be better prepared for the next disaster!



Disaster Exercises, 2016

WV Homeland Security Region III (WVHSR3) Initial Planning Workshop was held in Canaan Valley in November, 2015. Representatives of all of the Counties of WVHSR3 were in attendance. Additional planning meetings are upcoming.

The After Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) Meeting for the 2015 Clandestine Chaos Exercise was held for the region at the Jefferson County Maintenance Department on January 19, 2016 from 0900-1600.

2016 WV Homeland Security Region 3, Tabletop Exercise.....April 19, 2016, Berkeley County
2016 Jefferson County Government COOP Tabletop Exercise.....May 24, 2016, Bardane
2016 WV Homeland Security Region 3, Functional Exercise..June 21, 2016, Hampshire County
2016 WV State Emergency Response Commission TTX-Active Shooter/Power Plant..Camp Dawson
WV Homeland Security Region 3, Full Scale Exercise.....September 17, 2016

An effective exercise program is an essential component of our preparedness as it validates plans, tests operational capabilities, maintains leadership effectiveness, and examines ways to utilize the whole community. Exercise program management involves a collaborative approach that integrates resources, organizations, and individuals in order to identify and achieve program priorities.



Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management-Committees

Steering Committee, John Sherwood, Chair

The Steering Committee works with the JCHSEM Director to guide the activities of JCHSEM. A fourteen-member Steering Committee is made up of public and private representation. JCHSEM is a Department within the Jefferson County Commission, who has overall responsibility for the department and its employees. The Jefferson County Commission appoints all members to the steering committee. This committee meets on the 4th Tuesday of February, March, May, June, August, September and holds a Nov/Dec meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the JCHSEM EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced. The Quarterly Partnership meetings held in January, April, July, and October also serve as the Steering Committee meetings for those months.

Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee, Katherine Dunbar, Chair

Any interested person can serve on this committee. The Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee is responsible to communicate the organization's activities to the public and to build support for JCHSEM's programs. They work with the Director and other staff to keep the entire community focused on the objectives of JCHSEM, the opportunities for additional involvement and support by updating citizens and businesses about what the partners are doing and how the community will and is benefiting from these efforts. Additionally, they are responsible to assist the program manager in setting up speaking engagements and public awareness events. This committee meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of the at 0830 in the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

Partnership and Volunteer Development Committee, Holly Frye, Chair

Any interested person can serve on this committee. The Partnership Development committee assists the staff in identification and recruitment of potential partners and what they have to offer in community preparedness. This committee will be responsible for activities to promote partnership or membership development and recruitment of volunteers. This committee meets quarterly in the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced. at 0830 on the last Monday of January, April, July and October.

Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning Committee, Mason Carter, Chair

Any interested person may serve on this committee. The Risk Assessment/Mitigation Planning Committee examine the community's risks and vulnerability to all hazards and assess the community's vulnerability to those risks. A Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan was completed and adopted by the Jefferson County Commission, all Jefferson County municipalities, WVHSEM, and Federal Emergency Management Agency in July, 2003. The plan was updated in 2008 and 2013. The 2013 Plan was approved by WVDHSEM and FEMA in June, 2013. This committee meets Quarterly, and holds an Annual Meeting to review status of projects that were identified in the plan. Please call the office for exact dates and times.

Counter Terrorism Committee, Barbara Miller, Director, Chair

Membership to this sub-committee of the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning Committee is limited to members of law enforcement, emergency management, homeland security, emergency communications, Red Cross, schools, health care, fire companies, ambulance authority/EMS, and government, due to sensitive homeland security issues. The committee works on issues of planning and training for counter terrorism or human-caused disasters. Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

If you are interested in joining any of our committees, contact Barbara Miller at bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org, Stephen Allen at sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org, or Brandon Vallee at bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org

Times, dates, places may need to be changed due to inclement weather, scheduling conflicts or EOC activation. If you have questions, call the JCHSEM office.

**Jefferson County Homeland
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PUBLIC SAFETY; PUBLIC TRUST

The Jefferson County Commission's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department is responsible for the coordination of preparedness, planning, response, recovery and mitigation of disasters and large emergencies in Jefferson County, West Virginia. Volunteer and community participation is encouraged and welcome. We currently have committees on Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning; Public Awareness, Education and Training; Counter Terrorism; Partnership Development and Retention; and a Steering Committee that acts as an advisory group. We are responsible for the Citizen Corps/CERT, StormReady, Community Rating System, Resilient Neighbor Network and Project Impact programs. JCHSEM is also responsible for the Jefferson County R.A.C.E.S group.



Meetings & Events

September, 2016-National Preparedness Month

- 2 Quarterly Equipment Testing @ JCEOC & Required testing for Pre-Full Scale Exercise*
- 5 Labor Day Holiday, Office is Closed.*
- 7 Emergency Operations Center Training for those who participate in the EOC. By Invitation Only*
- 8 Annual Risk Assessment & Mitigation Plan Meeting at 10:00 a.m. at the JC Maintenance Building.*
- 11 September 11th Memorial Ceremony at Independent Fire Company, Ranson*
- 13 Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting at 1400 @ JCEOC*
- 14 Lunch N Learn Session with Staff of Corporation of Shepherdstown*
- 17 WV Homeland Security Region 3 Full Scale Exercise (Set up for the exercise will be on September 16)*
- 20 Steering Committee Meeting at 0900 @ JCEOC*
- 22 JCHSEM Staff to attend the annual Hydrology Partners Group at National Weather Service in Sterling*
- 23 Lunch N Learn Session with Staff of Town of Bolivar*
- 25-29 Statewide Interoperable Radio Network Conference at Camp Dawson, Preston County, WV. By invitation Only.*
- 29-Gas Pipeline Training for Emergency Managers and Responders. By Invitation Only.*
- 30-America's PrepareAthon Activities!*
- October 1-Ranson Hispanic Festival, JCHSEM will have a Preparedness Booth!*