



January, 2014

Jefferson County Commissioners:

Walt Pellish, President

Jane Tabb, V. President

Dale Manuel

Patsy Noland

Lyn Widmyer

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Steering Committee:

John Sherwood, Chair

Ed Smith, Vice Chair Fire and Rescue Representative

Jeff Jeffries, Health Representative

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 Reisenwebber, Jefferson County Development Authority

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

Holly Morgan-Frye, Shepherd University Service Learning Program

Staff:

Barbara Miller, CEM, CFM Director

Terri Mehling, Planner/Program Manager/Deputy Director

Jessica Owens, Administrative Assistant, Public Information Officer and Volunteer Coordinator

## Quarterly Partnership Meeting to be held at the Epic Buffet in Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races

JCHSEM will hold their Annual Partnership Meeting on Wednesday, January 29th at the Epic Buffet in Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races at noon. You must pre-register for the luncheon and can do so by replying to [jowens@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:jowens@jeffersoncountywv.org) no later than Thursday, January 23. Lunch is being provided gratis as a part of our partnership agreement with Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races. Due to limited space, only one person per organization should plan to attend. Due to WV Lottery Commission Regulations, no one under the age of 21 will be allowed in the Epic Buffet.



Photo of last year's annual partnership meeting.



CERT Class to Complete in January.

These are some pictures from the current class:



The tower exercise is a team building activity that teaches new participants about not always having all of the resources they would like and how to plan together for an end result.



Participants below learn how to check for breathing and do a head to toe evaluation during disaster medical operations class.



## Basics 1 Skywarn Stormspotter Class to be held in Shepherdstown on February 27

The National Weather Service in Sterling, VA will hold a Basic Stormspotter Class from 6-9 p.m. at the Shepherdstown Fire Department in Shepherdstown on February 27. Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management is coordinating the training.

The classes are FREE and designed to educate the public on weather threats in this area, as well as strengthen the ties between the NWS and the local community. The more spotters the NWS has out there, the faster vital ground truth information gets to the NWS forecasters who make the decisions to issue life saving weather warnings.

The Basics 1 course is a prerequisite for all other courses. Basics I is a good general overview of severe weather for the general public. Upon completion of the course, you will be registered in the program by the NWS. You will receive a spotter code from the NWS within 6 weeks.

Training in Basics I includes:

The basic organization of the National Weather Service

The role and importance of the Skywarn spotter

NWS Products and the Watch/Warning/Advisory system

Thunderstorms

Thunderstorm threats:

Lightning

Flooding

Hail

Tornadoes

Downbursts

How to report vital info to the NWS

The role of amateur short-wave (HAM) radio in the Spotter Program

To sign up for this class, contact Terri Mehling, Deputy Director at 304-728-3329 or email her at [tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org). The address of the Shepherdstown Fire Department is: 8052 Martinsburg Pike, Shepherdstown, WV 25443





Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
28 Industrial Blvd., Suite 101  
Kearneysville, WV 25430



# Media Day

**Date:**  
**Wednesday, February 4, 2014**

**Time:**  
**2 p.m. -3p.m.**

**Location:**  
**Jefferson County  
Emergency  
Operations Center**

Kearneysville, WV—Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management will hold a MEDIA DAY at the Jefferson County EOC on February 4 from 1400-1500 hours. This event is for all Public Information Officers that serve for the EOC, Law Enforcement, Fire Departments, Emergency Services Agency, Jefferson County Schools, the Health Department, Jefferson Memorial Hospital, Red Cross, Municipalities, Utilities, and any other PIO that may be called upon during a disaster in Jefferson County. It is also for any media representatives that cover disaster events in Jefferson County, including those from Radio, TV, Newspapers, Magazines, etc. Additionally we will be talking about Social Media sites.

Media Day will serve as an opportunity for all of the local public information officers and the media representatives to get to know each other better and share information that may be needed if there is a reason to convene a Joint Information Center during a large event. If you are a local PIO or member of the media who is interested in attending this event, contact Jessica Owens, JCHSEM's Public Information Officer at 304-724-8914.

**Staff:**  
**Barbara J. Miller, CEM,  
CFM  
Director**

**Terri Mehling  
Planner/Program  
Manager/Deputy Director**

**Jessica A. Owens  
Administrative Assistant/  
Public Information Officer/  
Volunteer Coordinator**



## WVDHSEM 2014 Training Schedule

Effective October 1, 2013, DHSEM requires all persons taking training to register through the Homeland Security Training Database system. This tool was created to streamline the registration and tracking process. In order to register for training, please go to [www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/](http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/)

Contact: Frank Kennedy, Training Officer  
Phone: 304-558-5380 Email: [frank.p.kennedy@wv.gov](mailto:frank.p.kennedy@wv.gov)

County emergency management directors are required to attend training each year in order to qualify for the County's Emergency Management Planning Grant. In addition to the Emergency Managers, WVDHSEM allows others who are participants in the local Emergency Operations Centers and/or Local Emergency Planning Committees to also participate in State Training.

The 2014 monthly training schedule is on the opposite page. If you are interested in attending any of the WVDHSEM training, you first need to go to the above link and sign up for a user name and password on the state's system. Once you do that, you may then sign up for the class that you are interested in. Please let your local emergency manager know if you plan to sign up for any of the courses. Also, once you have your users name and password, you will be able to view additional training opportunities that may become available through WVDHSEM.



A group from Jefferson County that attended a past Mass Fatalities Incident Response Class at Pipestem State Park.

G290 BASIC PIO (16 HRS) JANUARY 14TH-15TH, 2014  
Chief Logan Conference Center (Carla McBee, Instructor)  
376 Little Buffalo Creek Road, Logan, WV 25601  
For Hotel Reservations, call (304) 792-7125.

G291 JOINT INFORMATION SYSTEM/CENTER PLANNING FOR PIO'S (8 HRS) FEBRUARY 11TH, 2014  
North Bend State Park (Don Williams, Instructor)  
202 North Bend Park Road  
Cairo, WV 26337  
For Hotel Reservations, call (304) 643-2931

G270.4 RECOVERY FROM DISASTER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROLE (16 HRS) MARCH 18TH-19TH, 2014  
Pipestem State Park (Jeff Harvey, Instructor)  
3405 Pipestem Drive, Pipestem, WV 25979  
For Hotel Reservations, call (304) 466-1800

G557 RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT (12 HRS) APRIL 15TH -16TH, 2014  
Cacapon State Park (Don Williams, Instructor)  
818 Cacapon Lodge Drive  
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411  
For Hotel Reservations, call 304-258-1022

G386 MASS FATALITIES INCIDENT RESPONSE (17 HRS) MAY 13TH-14TH, 2014  
Twin Falls State Park (Carla McBee, Instructor)  
RR 97, PO Box 667  
Mullens, WV 25882  
For Hotel Reservations, call (304) 294-4000

G364 MULTI HAZARD PLANNING FOR SCHOOLS (16HRS) JUNE 17TH -18TH, 2014  
Hawks Nest State Park (Don Williams, Instructor)  
49 Hawks Nest Rd, Ansted, WV 25812  
For Hotel Reservations, call (304) 658-5196

G272 WARNING COORDINATION (12 HRS) JULY 15TH-16TH, 2014  
Blackwater Falls State Park (Dave Bradley, Instructor)  
1584 Blackwater Lodge Rd, Davis, WV 26260  
For Hotel Reservations, call (304) 259-5216

G358 EVACUATION AND RE-ENTRY PLANNING (12 HRS) AUGUST 19TH-20TH, 2014  
Tygart Lake State Park (Dave Bradley, Instructor)  
Rt. 1 Box 260  
Grafton, WV 26354  
For Hotel Reservations, call 304-265-6144

G775 EOC MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS (16 HRS) SEPTEMBER 16TH-17TH, 2014  
Chief Logan Conference Center (Dave Bradley, Instructor)  
376 Little Buffalo Creek Road  
Logan, WV 25601.  
For Reservations, call (304) 792-7125

# West Virginians Step Up to Help Neighbors



The light atop the West Virginia Capitol came on January 9th, indicating a State of Emergency and that the WV Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Emergency Operations Center was activated.

One week into the new year, nine counties in West Virginia received an emergency declaration due to a chemical release into the Elk River, affecting the water supply to more than 300,000 of our fellow West Virginians. The water could not be used for anything, other than flushing toilets. Bottled water throughout the nine county region that was available in local stores quickly ran out as residents cleared the shelves trying to do "Just In Time Preparedness."

The purpose of this editorial is to highlight the spirit of West Virginians who did what West Virginians do....come together to help one another in time of need.

Across the Mountain State, residents in the unaffected counties collected bottled water, liquid baby formula, wipes, hand sanitizer, microwaveable food, paper plates, napkins, plastic ware, and other commodities, as well as cash, to send to Southern West Virginia to relieve their suffering. Jefferson County's own Shepherd University was one of the drop off points for collections organized by WV Senator, John Unger. A BIG shout out to all who donated!



As with all disasters, there were moments that highlighted the very essence of generosity. One of these came from Mingo Central Comprehensive High School, who was scheduled to play Sissonville High School in basketball. Sissonville did not have water and wasn't expected to for days. MCCCHS posted on their facebook page that they were taking donations of water and other commodities for their neighbors in Sissonville who were without water. After the game, they delivered all of this to the opposite team and their families. Truly, awesome students and caring neighbors.

Well known West Virginia native, Bishop T.D. Jakes had two tractor trailers full of bottled water delivered to Charleston fire stations that were serving as water distribution locations and to the Abundant Life Church. The water was delivered to the public from there. Bishop T.D. Jakes is the senior pastor of The Potter's

House in Dallas, TX and a Charleston native. Charleston city leaders say that Bishop Jakes called Sunday afternoon asking if he could help.

While the time will come for accountability for this disaster, and a time to take a new look at regulations and other issues, neighbors helping neighbors was once again the priority. As your Emergency Manager, I want to remind you to have a week's supply of food, water, and other supplies at home. It takes a few days for help from the outside to start rolling in, so each of us has to be able to take care of ourselves, our families, and our pets/farm animals for a few days until that can happen. If you need assistance in learning how to put together a family disaster supply kit, go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for ideas.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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, Kelly Parsons, 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 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month except December at 9:00 a.m. in the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville unless otherwise announced.

### **Partnership and Volunteer Development Committee, Holly Morgan-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 8:30 a.m. on the last Monday of January, April, July and October.

### **Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning Committee, Jeff Jefferies, Chair**

Any interested person may serve on this committee. The Risk Assessment/Mitigation Planning Committee will examine the community's risks and vulnerability to all hazards and assess the community's vulnerability to those risks. Additionally, they will work to determine the most susceptible to 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 on an "as needed basis". Please call the office at 728-3329 for exact dates and times.  
Quarterly.

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 either [bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org) or [tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org)

**Jefferson County Homeland  
Security and Emergency  
Management**

28 Industrial Blvd., Suite 101  
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Public Information Officer and Volunteer  
Coordinator  
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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**

**January, 2014**

**02-Ham Radio Testing at Jefferson County EOC 1730 hours**

**03-Eastern Panhandle Emergency Manager's Agencies Meeting in Morgan County, 1000 hours**

**08 Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee Meeting at JCEOC at 0900**

**14 Steering Committee Meeting at JCEOC at 0900**

**14 Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting at US Customs at 1400-Members must sign up in advance to attend.**

**15 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting at Mountain View Diner at 0730**

**17 PIO, Jessica Owens to give a presentation at SAIL in Shepherdstown about preparedness to its members**

**20 Martin Luther King Holiday, Offices are closed**

**22 WV Homeland Security Region 3 RIC (Regional Interoperable Committee) meeting at Hampshire County EOC**

**28-JCHSEM Mitigation Committee Meeting at 1400 hours, Jefferson County EOC**

**29-Quarterly Partnership Meeting at the Epic Buffet in Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races at Noon. Must sign up by January 23. Limited seating is available.**

**January 31, Eastern Panhandle Emergency Management Agencies Improvement Planning Workshop at Moorefield, 1000 hours**