



March, 2014

Jefferson County Commissioners:

Wait 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

Debra Palmer, American Red Cross, non-profit organization

Staff:

Barbara Miller, CEM, CFM Director

Terri Mehling, Planner/Program Manager/Deputy Director

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

Take time now to think about how you will handle the next disaster...before, during and after

2014 has already brought fires, floods, polar vortexes, extreme cold, snow, and chemical spills to our state. So while we are between storms, please take a few minutes to think about what you will do when, "it will never happen to me" happens. Next up...spring floods, thunderstorm/tornado season!

Take 30 minutes to plan, and think in terms of: Water, Food, Prescriptions, Pets, Communications, Fuel, Finances, and Insurance.

Some recommendations:

At least a 3-day supply of

- ◆ bottled water—1 gallon per day, per family members, extra for people with special needs, babies, and/or pets.
- ◆ nonperishable foods.
- ◆ Prescription medications (follow your pharmacy's advice on storage).
- ◆ Food and water for your pets.
- ◆ Cash
- ◆ Keep your cell phone and mobile devices charged. Remember you can charge them in your car if your power is out. Also keep a flashlight with fresh batteries and a battery-operated radio available.
- ◆ Never let your vehicle get below half of a tank of gasoline.
- ◆ Make sure you have adequate insurance on your home—homeowners or renters insurance, flood insurance (floods are not covered in a regular policy), and contents. Also make sure you have smoke alarms that are maintained and tested regularly.

For more tips on preparedness, go to www.ready.gov

CERT Class Graduates

A new CERT Class graduated in February after several delays and restarts due to the weather. Pictured below are members of the most recent class: Monroe Burger, Woody Garrett, Aidan Nedrich, Maura Sherrill, Jennifer Sine, Alan Garies, Terri Mehling, Patrick James, and Shirley Evans.



Skywarn Stormspotter Class

Steve Goldstein and Howard Silverman from the National Weather Service in Sterling presented a National Weather Service Skywarn Stormspotter Class at the Shepherdstown Fire Department on February 27, 2014, which was hosted by JCHSEM. Over 100 participants from West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia attended the 3-hour class.



JCHSEM Receives Grant to Replace EOC Laptop Computers

JCHSEM was recently awarded a \$50,000 grant from the West Virginia State Administrative Agency/U.S. Department of Homeland Security to replace 20 laptop computers that are needed in the Emergency Operations Center. These computers are used by those who serve in the Emergency Support Function positions in the EOC during activations, including those who do reporting on WEBEOC and E-Team, keep the log of activities, watch the weather, send out news releases, and monitor and send information through social media. They will also be used by members of the military who serve in the EOC in the positions of LNOs (Liaison Negotiating Officers), who usually have reporting requirements that require a computer to perform. “The old computers are at the end of their useful life,” said Barbara Miller, Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for Jefferson County. “The replacement of these computers will increase the capabilities of those who serve in the EOC to perform their primary functions of coordination of information and resources throughout incidents and emergencies. These computers will also allow us to utilize the County’s new CAD system. Additionally, they will be used for training and disaster exercises. We appreciate the continued support of the state and federal government to assist us to do our jobs most effectively. We expect to take delivery of the new laptops in April.”

JCHSEM’s Disaster Ready Kids Program Receives Grant from Citizen Corps

The purchase of new DVDs, books, and supplies is being made possible through a grant of \$2,800 from the West Virginia Citizen Corps program/WV State Administrative Agency/U.S. Department of Homeland Security. “This grant will enable us to update some of the educational materials that we use for our Disaster Ready Kids Program for 2014 and beyond.” said Barbara Miller, Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in Jefferson County. “This program runs from May through September each year and we have educational materials for children from ages 3-12. Our staff and volunteers deliver programs to daycare centers, elementary schools, groups that are home schooled, 4-H groups, church camps, scouts, and others throughout the summer months to teach age-appropriate information about natural hazards such as floods, tornadoes, power outages, and thunderstorms. This material teaches children to not be afraid and how to work with their families to prepare for storms. Each child then takes home a “parent packet” so that their family can also learn preparedness techniques.” Jefferson County has been a part of the West Virginia Citizen Corps program since 2002. The purchase of the new materials will occur during the months of April and May.

Jefferson County to Participate in Virtual Tabletop Exercise- Flood Focus with FEMA on March 19

Jefferson County will participate in FEMA's Virtual Tabletop Exercise-Flood Focus in March. FEMA has assigned Jefferson County the date of March 19 from noon—4 p.m. The exercise will be conducted using Video-Teleconference Technology (VTC), and is intended to provide an opportunity for responders across the Nation to simultaneously participate in a hazard-specific facilitated discussion. Lead facilitation for the exercise will be coordinated by FEMA's Emergency Management Institute, with local facilitation provided by Patricia Davis, JCHSEM Volunteer. This format will allow the common delivery of exercise materials, scenarios, modules, and discussion questions among those participating in the exercise. The After Action Report/Improvement Plan will be completed by the local jurisdiction and must be submitted to FEMA within 30 days of the Table Top Exercise.

The virtual exercise will enable the participants to exercise their knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to effectively conduct all-hazards emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. Overall, the goals will include:

- ◆ Prepare participants for a flood scenario affecting their community.
- ◆ Enable participants to better coordinate their response operations with counterparts from local governments, other State governments, Federal agencies, private sector organizations, and non-governmental agencies.
- ◆ Leverage VTC Technology to reach remote sites.
- ◆ Provide a virtual, experiential education environment to exercise and enhance critical response and recovery tasks.

Who should attend: The VTTX program is designed for a “community based” group of personnel from local or state emergency management organizations with representation from all Emergency Management disciplines—Emergency Management, Emergency Communications, Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement, Public Works, Public Health, Health Care, Government, Administrative, Military, Private Sector, and Non-Governmental organizations. This exercise is not suited for individuals, but rather representatives from the above organizations.

Exercise Design: This VTTX is designed to engage the participants in a no fault, hazard-specific exercise discussion. The lead facilitation will occur via VTC from the EMI campus, and will be complimented by a dedicated local agency facilitator on-site. The VTTX will be supported by an Exercise and Coordination Facilitation Guide, which will include all required logistical information (room layout, connection instructions, etc.), as well as facilitation and hot wash instructions.

- ◆ The VTTX will consist of:
- ◆ A Hazard Awareness briefing on the scenario hazard.
- ◆ Three discussion modules presented by the EMI facilitator
- ◆ Local discussion with guided questions facilitated by an on-site facilitator
- ◆ Brief outs from each participating location after each module.
- ◆ Hot wash conducted at each location after the VTC has ended
- ◆ AAR/IP submission by the participating organization no later than 30 days from the completion of the VTTX event.

Once the final details are received from FEMA, an invitation will go out to the agencies listed above to participate. Volunteering as an exercise evaluator will be Michael Wolfe, Director of Monongalia Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Vice Chair of the WV Emergency Management Council.



FEMA | Emergency
Management
Institute



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/dmapscm6

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

Disaster Exercises, 2014

WV Homeland Security Region III (WVHSR3) Initial Planning Workshop was held in Moorefield on January 31, 2014. Representatives of all of the Counties of WVHSR3 were in attendance. A second meeting is needed and will be held by phone conference on February 12 from 1300-1400 hours.

WV Homeland Security Region III Tabletop Exercise.....Date/Place TBA

WV Homeland Security Region III Functional Exercise.....Date/Place TBA

FEMA Virtual Tabletop Exercise—Flood Focus.....March 19, 2014 Noon-4 p.m.

WV Homeland Security Region III Full Scale Exercise.....September 14, 2014 in each of the Counties of WV Homeland Security Region III. The Jefferson County EOC will be activated, as well as, Emergency Responders in the field.

Additional Exercise Opportunities will be considered as they are announced or become available.

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, 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 2nd Wednesday of the months of February, May, August and November 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 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. Please call the office at 728-3329 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 either bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org or tmehling@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
Security and Emergency
Management**

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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

March, 2014

10 -At 7 p.m. Director Miller to speak at Sheriff Dougherty's monthly public meeting. In case of inclement weather, the date will be March 10th. This meeting will be at the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department in Kearneysville.

06-Ham Radio Testing at Jefferson County EOC 1730 hours.

07-Eastern Panhandle Emergency Management Agency Meeting at the Hardy County EOC in Moorefield, WV.

10-JCHSEM staff to participate in a FEMA Webinar on the Resource Typing Library Tool/Incident Resource Inventory System from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

11-Counter Terrorism Committee, 1400 hours at the Jefferson County EOC.

19-Jefferson County Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting at 7:30 a.m. at the Jefferson County EOC.

19-Virtual Table Top Exercise on Flooding. By invitation only. The exercise will be held at U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Harpers Ferry.

21-Resilient Neighbors Network Meeting (by phone conference) 1100 hours.

25-Steering Committee Meeting at JCEOC at 0900.