

LOCAL RESOURCES

For information on how to prepare your family, your pets and your property for flooding, call: Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management at 304-724-8914.

For information about ordinances when planning to build, fill, or storage in a floodplain, contact the Jefferson County Engineering Department's Floodplain Manager at 304-728-3227.

Floodplain Booklets and information can be found at the Charles Town Library on 200 E. Washington Street, Charles Town, WV 25414.

For On-line information found on the County's website, go to <http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/county-government/departments/homeland-security-and-emergency-management/floodplain-information>

Sign Up for Nixle Alerts

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management now offers emergency alert notifications by text, e-mail, Twitter, and Facebook through a product called Nixle.

You must sign up for Nixle to receive notifications about immediate flooding risk or major weather events.

In order to sign up for these alerts go to <http://local.nixle.com/register> or text your Jefferson County zip code to 888777 and then text JCHSEM to the same number. There is no charge to sign up for Nixle services.



For more information on the StormReady Program, go to www.stormready.noaa.gov



JEFFERSON COUNTY HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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



JEFFERSON COUNTY HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

A Department of the Jefferson County Commission



Jefferson County, WV
A Class 6 CRS Community.

304-728-3290

JEFFERSON COUNTY'S FLOODING RISK

Located at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, Jefferson County is separated into three major drainage divides by the County's rolling topography. The Shenandoah River has a drainage area of 247 square miles at the downstream county boundary. Its average channel slope within Jefferson County is approximately 4.6 feet per mile. Between these drainage divides are a network of 22 major streams that feed into the two aforementioned rivers and Opequon Creek.

Opequon Creek has a drainage area of 8.0 square miles and an average channel slope of approximately 56 feet per mile. Most streams in the County flow in a northwest-southeast orientation toward the Opequon or Shenandoah.

Turkey Run, one of the largest streams, has a total drainage area of 8.0 square miles and its average channel slope within Jefferson County is approximately 50 feet per mile.

Evitts Run, another large stream, has a drainage area of 17.91 square miles. Its headwaters are in central Jefferson County and flows eastward to the Shenandoah River.

Flowing Springs Run, an additional large stream, has a drainage area of 7.88 square miles. It heads just north of Ranson and flows eastward to the Shenandoah River. Almost all of these streams are spring fed, thus resulting in the intermingling of surface and subsurface waters.

Regardless of their origin, all waters ultimately flow into the lower Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay.

BEFORE A FLOOD:

- Know your risk from flooding
- Buy Flood Insurance
- Avoid building in a floodprone area unless you elevate and reinforce your home.
- Elevate the furnace, water heater, and electric panel if susceptible to flooding.
- Install "check valves" in sewer traps to prevent floodwater from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Seal the walls in your basement with water-proofing compounds to avoid seepage.
- Sign up for Nixle by texting your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com to sign up. JCHSEM sends out emergency alerts using Nixle.
- Follow JCHSEM's Facebook page and Twitter account.

DURING A FLOOD:

- Listen to the NOAA Weather Radio, radio, television, Facebook, Twitter, and Nixle for information.
- Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels, canyons, and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without such typical warnings as rain clouds or heavy rain.

If you must prepare to evacuate, you should do the following: Secure your home. If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture. Move essential items to an upper floor.

Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.

If you have to leave your home, remember these evacuation tips:

- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.

Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be quickly swept away.

AFTER A FLOOD:

- Listen for news reports to learn whether the community's water supply is safe to drink.
- Avoid floodwaters; water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline, or raw sewage. Water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Avoid moving water.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Stay away from downed power lines, and report them to the power company.
- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters.
- Use extreme caution when entering buildings; there may be hidden damage, particularly in foundations.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits, and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.

Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage and chemicals.