



# Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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

March, 2018

## March 5-9 is West Virginia Severe Weather and Flood Safety Week



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- Sanford "Sandy" Green, Region 3 Homeland Security Area Liaison
- Holly Frye, Shepherd University Service Learning Program Education Representative

### JCHSEM Staff:

- Stephen S. Allen, Director
- VACANT, Deputy Director/Planner/Program Manager
- Brandon C. Vallee, Administrative Assistant, Public Information Officer and Volunteer Coordinator

During West Virginia Severe Weather and Flood Safety Week, March 5 to March 9, 2018, Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) is encouraging all residents of Jefferson County to be prepared for flooding.

It is essential to know the terms used to describe changing flooding conditions as they impact what actions you must take to stay safe. These terms can be used to determine the timeline and severity of an approaching storm. Be alert to weather reports and tune in for specific guidance when these conditions develop.

**Flood:** Issued for a river, stream, or other source of water, when it is forecasted to go above flood stage due to snow melt, excessive rain, blockages, or a dam/levee failure.

**Flash Flood:** Issued for flooding that normally occurs with six hours of heavy or intense rainfall. This results in small creeks and streams quickly rising out of their banks. Dangerous flooding in areas near these creeks and streams, as well as low lying flood prone areas, develops very quickly and is a significant threat to life and property.

**Areal Flood:** Issued for flooding that develops more gradually, usually from prolonged and persistent moderate to heavy rainfall. Results in a buildup of water in low-lying, flood prone areas, as well as small creeks and streams. This normally occurs after six hours after rainfall begins and may cover a large area.

**Flood Advisories:** Issued when flooding that is not considered a significant threat to life or property is expected or occurring. This usually deals with nuisance flooding problems, such as low-lying areas, areas with poor drainage, as well as minor flooding in streets and roadways.

**Flood/Flash Flood Watch:** The conditions are favorable for flooding/flash flooding. It does not mean that flooding/flash flooding will occur. Be sure to take necessary precautions and monitor the situation.

**Flood/Flash Flood Warning:** The flood/flash flood is occurring or imminent. Take necessary action.

Floods can occur at any time of the day, any time of the year, and anywhere it can rain. Everyone is at risk of flooding. Therefore, it is important to know what steps to take to prepare you, your family, friends, and colleagues before, during, and after a flood.

Options to consider when preparing for a flood are on page 2.

(Continued from page 1)

**Before the flood occurs:**

- Prepare an emergency preparedness kit. Your kit should reflect your family's specific needs (such as access and functional needs, pets, or infants). For suggestions on what to include in your emergency preparedness kit, please check out: <http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/county-government/departments/homeland-security-and-emergency-management/forms-and-documents>
- 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 your drains.
- Seal the walls in your basement with water-proofing compounds to avoid seepage.
- Sign up for Nixle.
- Follow JCHSEM's Facebook page ([facebook.com/JeffersonCountyHSEM](https://www.facebook.com/JeffersonCountyHSEM)) and Twitter account (@JCHSEM).

**If a flood is likely in your area:**

- 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.
- 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.

**If a flood has occurred:**

- 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.

## Sign Up to Receive Nixle Alerts!



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](http://www.nixle.com) and click on "resident". You can always call our office if you have local questions or need assistance with getting registered.

## West Virginia Statewide Tornado Drill



There will be a West Virginia Statewide Tornado Drill on March 6, 2018 at 1000 hours. This drill is being coordinated with the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the four National Weather Service Offices which cover West Virginia, Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and you!

At 1000 hours, the National Weather Service Office in Sterling Virginia will be sending out a broadcast alert to all NOAA weather radios in the Eastern Panhandle. In addition, JCHSEM will be sending out a Tornado Warning test message through our Nixle Alert program at 1000 hours. It is an excellent opportunity for schools, businesses, faith based organizations, families and others to test their tornado plans at that time.

Please feel free to share the word with friends, family, and coworkers about the importance of having an emergency preparedness kit and plan with tornadoes in mind.

Finally, we would love to see pictures and videos of your tornado drill in action. Please share them with us on our Facebook ([www.facebook.com/JeffersonCountyHSEM](http://www.facebook.com/JeffersonCountyHSEM)), Twitter ([@JCHSEM](https://twitter.com/JCHSEM)), and email ([bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org)) accounts.



The students of Jefferson Academy practice protecting themselves during the Statewide Tornado Drill in 2017.

# Understanding Severe Weather Outlooks

*Issued by the Storm Prediction Center*

THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL)	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT)	3 - ENHANCED (ENH)	4 - MODERATE (MDT)	5 - HIGH (HIGH)
<b>No severe* thunderstorms expected</b>	<b>Isolated severe thunderstorms possible</b>	<b>Scattered severe storms possible</b>	<b>Numerous severe storms possible</b>	<b>Widespread severe storms likely</b>	<b>Widespread severe storms expected</b>
Lightning/flooding threats exist with <u>all</u> thunderstorms	Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity	Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms possible	More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense	Long-lived, widespread and intense	Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense
					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winds to 40 mph</li> <li>• Small hail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winds 40-60 mph</li> <li>• Hail up to 1"</li> <li>• Low tornado risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One or two tornadoes</li> <li>• Reports of strong winds/wind damage</li> <li>• Hail ~1", isolated 2"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A few tornadoes</li> <li>• Several reports of wind damage</li> <li>• Damaging hail, 1 - 2"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong tornadoes</li> <li>• Widespread wind damage</li> <li>• Destructive hail, 2" +</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tornado outbreak</li> <li>• Derecho</li> </ul>

## Jefferson County All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee

On Friday, February 23 at 1100 hours JCHSEM held the kick off meeting to begin working on the Jefferson County All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

The purpose of this plan is to better prepare Jefferson County to become more disaster resistant to natural and technological hazard events such as flooding, severe winter storms, and hazardous materials incidents. The plan is based on a hazard risk assessment, policies, and the development of mitigation goals (for the county, utilities, each municipality, etc.), objectives and strategies, as well as actions that can be taken to attain and maintain sustainability and disaster resiliency. Development of this plan provides eligibility for future mitigation funds for Jefferson County and its citizens. Public participation in the development of the All Hazards Mitigation Plan is essential to ensuring the safety and security of all those who work, live, and travel to Jefferson County.

The next meeting of the Jefferson County All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee will be on Tuesday, March 27th at 1100 hours at the Jefferson County Maintenance Department Meeting Room. Registration for the meeting is

requested. If you or your organization is interested in contributing to the development of this plan, please contact Stephen Allen at: [sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org) for more information.



Members of the Jefferson County All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee listen in to Jeff Harvey (J.H. Consulting, LLC) during the February 23 meeting.

## Need Training?

Emergency Management is a constantly-changing field. While we all strive to keep up with the latest technology, the best ways to work with stakeholders to develop plans, how to conduct successful floodplain management, performing damage assessments, how to handle the debris after a disaster, help our communities to recover, or just learning the fundamentals, there are plenty of options available to you. Here are some great opportunities for training that you may or may not know about:

**West Virginia Military Affairs and Public Safety's Training Center, CourseMill**. If you are involved in emergency management in West Virginia, you can set up your free account at <http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6/home.html>

Once you set up your account, you can log on and look at the list of available courses being taught in West Virginia. Current courses include the Basics of Floodplain Management, HazMat Highway Containers in a Tunnel Specialist, Search and Rescue in Community Disasters, Disaster Preparedness for Hospitals and HealthCare Organizations within the Community Infrastructure; National Emergency Management Basic Academy Train the Trainer; Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts, and Rail Care Incident Response for Crude, Ethanol and Other Flammable Liquids-Rail Car Response. The courses are always changing, so check back often.

**FEMA's Emergency Management Institute**'s URL is <https://training.fema.gov/emi.aspx>. From this training portal, anyone can take their online independent study courses for free. There are over 100 courses to choose from. You can also browse the schedules and information about their on-campus resident courses for those who are involved in emergency management at the federal, state, local or tribal governments.

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## Upcoming Training Opportunities

Here is a listing of upcoming state sponsored training opportunities. These courses are free to attend however registration is required to attend.

On March 6 there will be an AWR 302: Pipeline Security in Rural Communities at the Braxton County Technology Center.

On March 28 there will be an AWR-136: Essentials of Community Cyber Security course at Canaan Valley Resort. This course is a prerequisite for MGT-384.

On March 28-29 there will be a MGT-384: Community Preparedness for Cyber Incidents course at Canaan Valley Resort.

On April 16 to April 20, there will be a L-0967 All Hazards Specific Logistics Chief Course at the Days Inn in Flatwoods, WV.

On May 1, there will be a MGT-347: ICS Forms Overview at Blackwater Falls State Park.

On May 1 to May 3, there will be an ICS 300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents course at Blackwater Falls State Park.

To Register for these FREE Classes, go to: <http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6>

For questions about the course or registration, contact [Gregory.c.fernley@wv.gov](mailto:Gregory.c.fernley@wv.gov) or call 304-558-5380

## The Physics of Floating Cars During a Flood

Driving through flooded roadways is not only dangerous, but it can also be costly due to the damage done to the vehicle and the need for an emergency response. However, time and again during every flooding event there seems to be someone who chooses to ignore that advice and do it anyway. Sometimes they are lucky and nothing happens, other times their vehicle stalls and they are unable to travel further, and other times they end up floating down the river.

Ignoring all the risks, I was curious... how much water would it take to float my vehicle and carry it down the river?

**WARNING**, if you do not enjoy math or physics problems, I suggest skipping the next five paragraphs.

For the purposes of this problem, I will be using a Honda Accord. Note that no Honda Accords were harmed in this physics problem. I would also like to thank the National Weather Service for the equations and information.

In order for you to determine how much it would take for your vehicle to float, you will need the vehicle's weight, width, length, and ground clearance.



2017 Honda Accord

An average Honda Accord weighs 3,336 lbs. without any passengers or items in the vehicle. The width of the car is approximately 6 ft. The length of the car is approximately 16 ft. The clearance of the car is 6 inches or .5 feet. One cubic foot of water weighs 62.4 lbs.

One foot of water displaced by the Honda Accord weighs the length, width, and height of the vehicle multiplied by the weight of a cubic foot of water or  $(6 \times 16 \times 1 \times 62.4) = 5,990$  lbs. However we need to remember that the clearance of the Honda Civic is not one foot, but rather six inches so we have to divide the water weight in half, which would be 2,995 lbs.

The weight of the Honda Accord is 3,336 lbs., The weight of the displaced water is 2,995 lbs. In order to find the net weight we have to subtract the vehicle's weight by the water's weight, which is 341 lbs. Since the car and the water are likely moving for this to occur, there will be friction between the water and the car. The friction force from moving water on the vehicle is determined by multiplying the net weight, 341 lbs., by 0.4, which would be 136 lbs. The force of the flood water moving at 10 to 15 miles per an hour is approximately 403 lbs. Since the force of moving flood water (403 lbs) is greater than the friction force of the vehicle (136 lbs.), unless there is 267 pounds of extra weight in your car, your vehicle will begin to float and move down the Shenandoah River.



Be safe when it comes to flooding.

Therefore, one foot of moving water can float a Honda Accord and float it down the river. For smaller vehicles that weigh less such as a Toyota Corolla, Ford Fiesta, or Honda Civic, it requires even less water. Now if you a truck owner, keep in mind that if you are driving through flooded waters, there is more clearance from your car to the ground and truck surface area for water to be displaced, which means more water weight and area to offset the increased weight of your vehicle and an increased chance to float your truck. In short, it takes approximately two feet of water to carry away most automobiles, but smaller vehicles can be carried away with one foot of water.

There are other factors which we cannot predict in this problem, such as the vehicle getting stuck on debris, debris in the flowing water, speed of the river, how fast the vehicle was moving, and buoyancy of every vehicle. **Bottom line:** don't test my math in real life and never assume there is a safe way to drive through water.

## Emergency Preparation Guide

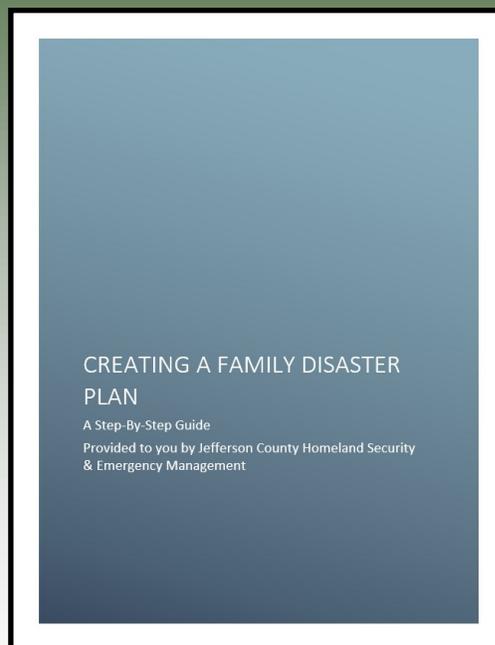
Did you know that Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management has a Family Disaster Planning Guide that is specifically for Jefferson County residents?

Inside this document, there is a way for you to track you and your family's:

- Designated Meeting Places
- Designated Out of Town Contacts
- Floor Plan of your Home
- Important Jefferson County Telephone Numbers
- Insurance Information
- Tips on How to Build a Disaster Supply Kit
- And more!

Fill it out and place it in a water proof container in your family's emergency preparedness kit

Planning of a disaster may seem like an overwhelming task, but there are plenty of free resources to help you get started. On the JCHSEM Website, we now have a collection of free tool kits and guides to assist in getting you and your family prepared for a disaster. Check it out at: <http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/county-government/departments/homeland-security-and-emergency-management/forms-and-documents>



know the difference between a tornado

# Watch and Warning

**Be Prepared...**  
a tornado is possible

**Take Action!**  
a tornado is imminent

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check for forecast updates	<b>Take shelter immediately</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monitor sky conditions	<b>Seek further information</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Know where to take shelter	<b>Check for forecast updates</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Be Weather Ready

**Weather-Ready Nation**  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**National Weather Service**  
[weather.gov/tornado](http://weather.gov/tornado)

# Disaster Exercises, 2018

WV Homeland Security Region III (WVHSR3) Table Top Exercise for the 2018 Exercise Series will be held Potomac State College in Keyser, WV on April 24, 2018. Representatives from all counties in WVHSR3 and Western Maryland Partners will be in attendance.

- 2017 WV Homeland Security Region 3, AAR/IP Meeting.....Completed
- 2018 WV Homeland Security Region 3, Tabletop Exercise.....April 24, 2018
- 2018 WV Homeland Security Region 3, Functional Exercise.....TBA
- 2018 WV State Emergency Response Commission TTX.....TBA
- 2018 WV Homeland Security Region 3, Full Scale Exercise.....TBA
- 2018 WV Homeland Security Region 3, AAR/IP Meeting.....TBA

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.



Left: 2017 Functional Exercise. Right: 2017 Full Scale Exercise

## 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 following the Quarterly Partnership Luncheons held in January, April, July, and October and meetings are scheduled as needed. Please call the office for exact dates and times.

### **Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee, Paula Marrone-Reese, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the at 0830 in the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

### **All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee, Mason Carter, Chair**

Any interested person may serve on this committee. The All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee examine the community's risks and vulnerability to all hazards and assess the community's vulnerability to those risks. An All Hazards 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 has begun work on the 2018 Plan and will meet as needed until the plan's completion in June 2018. Please call the office for exact dates and times.

### **Counter Terrorism Committee, Stephen Allen, 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 Stephen Allen at [sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org) or Brandon Vallee at [bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto: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 Security and  
Emergency Management**

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Fax: 304-728-3320

**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 All Hazards Mitigation Planning; Public Awareness, Education and Training; Counter Terrorism; and a Steering Committee that acts as an advisory group.

We are responsible for the Citizen Corps/CERT, Storm-Ready, 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 Meetings***

*01-HAM Radio Night at the Jefferson County EOC.*

*02-JCHSEM Quarterly Communications Equipment Drill.*

*05-09-West Virginia Severe Weather Awareness Week.*

*12-16-Basics of Floodplain Management in North Bend State Park, WV. \*Preregistration is required for this training.*

*21-RIC Meeting at 1000 hours at the Jefferson County EOC.*

*27-All Hazards Mitigation Planning Meeting at 1100 hours at the Jefferson County Maintenance Department.*

*27-IT Squad Meeting at 1500 hours at the Charles Town Library Meeting Room*

*28-Essentials of Community Cyber Security at Canaan Valley Resort, WV. \*Preregistration is required for this training.*

*28-29-Community Preparedness for Cyber Incidents course at Canaan Valley Resort, WV. \*Preregistration is required for this training.*

*\* Sterling National Weather Service Calls every Monday at 9:00 a.m.*

*\*Weather Calls every Monday and Friday at 10:00 a.m. with State EOC and National Weather Service*