



# Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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

August 2018

## JCHSEM's New Deputy Director is...

### Jefferson County Commissioners:

- Josh Compton, President
- Caleb Wayne Hudson, Vice President
- Patsy Noland
- Peter Onoszko
- Jane Tabb

### Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Steering Committee:

- John Sherwood, Chair, Chamber of Commerce Representative
- Ed Smith, Vice Chair, Fire and Rescue Representative
- Donald Grubb, Health Representative
- VACANT, Mass Care Representative
- Paula Marrone-Reese, Non-Governmental Organization Representative
- Mason Carter, Jefferson County Department of Engineering Representative
- Jeffrey A. Polczynski, ENP, Jefferson County Emergency Communications Center Representative
- Jane Tabb, County Commission Representative
- Kelly Parsons, Private Industry Representative
- Pete Dougherty, Sheriff, Law Enforcement Representative
- Thomas Butcher, Utilities Representative
- Nic Diehl, Jefferson County Development Authority Representative
- Sanford "Sandy" Green, Region 3 Homeland Security Area Liaison
- Holly Frye, Shepherd University Service Learning Program Education Representative

### JCHSEM Staff:

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

James Sager was unanimously appointed by the Jefferson County Commission as Deputy Director on June 21st, 2018. James was born in Winchester and grew up in southern Frederick County Virginia. At the Age of 16, he started in Fire and Rescue in Frederick County Virginia and specialized in Firefighter 1 and 2, HAZMAT, and EMT.



James started as a Corrections Officer in 2003 and leaving in 2012 as a General and Defensive Tactics Instructor for the Department of Criminal Justice Services. He pursued a career with Loudoun County as a Fire Inspector and continued his career with the Delaware State Fire Marshal's Office as an investigator. James moved from the Eastern Shore of Maryland to West Virginia where he was employed by Prince William County Va. Fire and Rescue as a Fire Marshal.

During his time in Fire and Rescue Services, he obtained many certifications in Mass Casualty and Incident Management through FEMA's Emergency Management Institute as well as the National Fire Academy. James also obtained NFPA certifications such as 1001 and NFPA 1031. James is also certified in Erosion and Sediment Control through the State of Maryland

In 2017 James and his wife Megan moved to the Back Creek Valley area of Berkeley County West Virginia where they have a farmette with their 2 children. James stays active in the community as a volunteer with his local fire company and participates in various activities in the area. James and his family are passionate about the outdoors they all hunt and fish. Even though James grew up in the area he acknowledges we are fortunate to have the rich history our area has to offer and loves touring the various towns and historical places in the tri-state area.

James is happy to be back in the panhandle, for him and his wife and this is home.

## July 2018 Quarterly Partnership Luncheon



The July 2019 Quarterly Partnership Luncheon took place on Friday, July 27 at the historic Paddy's Irish Pub in Charles Town. It was the first time hosting our luncheon at this location as we continue to support new businesses throughout Jefferson County.

Jason Elliott, National Weather Service, spoke to all those who attended about the rash of flooding events throughout the region, Jefferson County's Hydrology, the importance of Turn Around, Don't Drown, and gave us insight on the long term weather forecast for the next few weeks.

Let's just say that there was an audible "no" when Mr. Elliott said there was more rain in our forecast.

If you enjoyed this quarterly partnership luncheon or have a suggestion for the next one, be sure to let Brandon know by reaching out to him at: [bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org).





## 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 it's 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.

## The 2018 Jefferson County Fair is coming!

The Jefferson County LEPC and JCHSEM will have a booth at the 2018 Jefferson County Fair! Fair dates for this year are August 19-25.

JCHSEM Staff, LEPC members and volunteers are excited to talk to residents of Jefferson County about getting their homes, families, and pets prepared to deal with emergencies. This year we will once again be surveying the public on their personal preparedness efforts and their perceptions about what our County's risks are. This survey will help us fine tune our emergency communications, planning, training, and community outreach efforts in the County.

We hope that members of the public will stop by our booth as part of their overall 2018 Jefferson County Fair Experience!

For more information about the Jefferson County Fair, direction to the fairgrounds, vendor applications, event catalog, and the Jefferson County Fair Association, please go to: <http://www.jeffersoncountyfairwv.org/>

If you are interested in volunteering at the fair, please contact Stephen Allen at: [sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org)



**Right:** Peggy Sclater, JCHSEM Volunteer, manning the JCHSEM booth during Fair Week, 2017.

**Bottom Left:** Ed Smith and Ed Boober, LEPC Members, manning the JCHSEM booth during Fair Week, 2017

**Bottom Right:** Deidre Derringer, LEPC Member, manning the JCHSEM booth during Fair Week, 2017



## Jefferson County is a Class 6 CRS Community

With the recent river flooding and flash flooding events that impacted Jefferson County, now more than ever is it essential to protect yourself, your family, and your property with flood insurance. Homeowners insurance does not protect your property from flooding or subsidence from sink holes. Jefferson County is prone to both, due to its coarse topography. With the long term National Weather Service forecast calling for more substantial rainfall events in the Mid Atlantic Region with extreme heat this summer and fall, and the 30-day waiting period for new policies, getting signed up now is essential.

Residents of Jefferson County can receive a reduction in their flood insurance premiums through due to various floodplain management measures encouraged by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) oversees the NFIP, which administers a program called the Community Rating System (CRS). The CRS is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed minimum NFIP requirements.

As a member of the Community Rating System, Jefferson County is within an elite group of eight West Virginia communities and counties that have received this recognition. With the continued steps taken by Jefferson County to protect its citizens and increase its resiliency, it has moved from a Class 8 to a Class 6 Community Rating System participant. The Class 6 rating qualifies eligible National Flood Insurance Program policy holders in the County an average of over \$289.00 in savings on their annual premiums. In total, the upgrade in class rating level accounts for a total savings of over \$45,634 annually for citizens of Jefferson County; an increase of \$22,817.00 from Class 8.

For information about flood insurance, property owners should contact their insurance agent, visit: <https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program>, or call the NFIP's toll-free information line at 800-427-4661. To learn more about the CRS, visit: <https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-community-rating-system>.

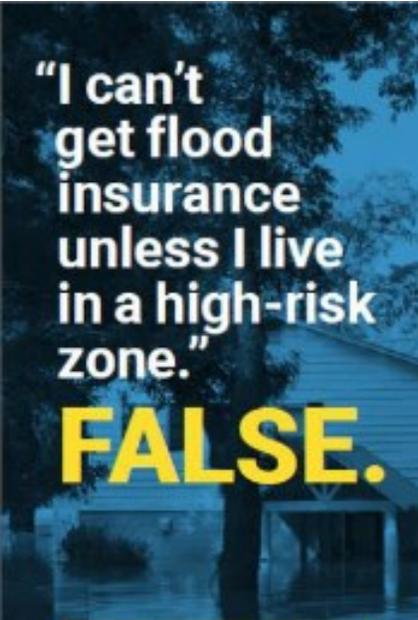
Preparing for  
**STORMS**  
takes more  
than an umbrella.



GET FLOOD INSURANCE




"I can't  
get flood  
insurance  
unless I live  
in a high-risk  
zone."  
**FALSE.**



GET FLOOD INSURANCE




Just 1 inch  
of water can  
cause \$25,000  
of damage to  
your home.

GET FLOOD INSURANCE





## 2018 Disaster Ready Kids Program

Do you have summer children’s programs that you are looking for activities and/or readers for? We can help! Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management is once again sponsoring the Disaster Ready Kids Program for 2018.

This year we will be utilizing the “Mimi Mouse Learns to Prepare for Emergencies” DVD and accompanying materials. The Mimi Mouse program is designed for 4-7 year olds and provides general tips for parents on how to talk about emergencies, teaches children what an emergency kit is and how to build one, informs children about who to contact during an emergency, and how to review and practice for the family’s emergency plan.

If your group of children is over the age of 8, we can have a preparedness presentation, show them how to put together a Family Disaster Kit, or work together to develop a unique lesson plan based on your needs. Our staff will come to your facility, present the chosen materials, and begin encouraging everyone to start thinking about emergencies in a positive and interactive way. The only requirements are that you have adults there to be responsible for the children while the activities are taking place, that you let us know how many children to prepare for (estimate), and that you work with us to schedule a time that works well for both organizations.

There is no cost to participate in this program. We are scheduling for the 2018 summer season from May 1 until September 30, 2018. If you have questions, please contact Brandon Vallee at (304) 724-8914 or email to [bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org) as soon as possible. Classes and times are filling up fast.

If you would like to schedule a session, please ask Brandon to send you the list of available programs and the form to set up your session. We do need at least a two-week notice to schedule your activity.



## 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 September 6, there will be a Basics of Flood Plain Management Course at the Hardy County 911 center in Moorefield, WV

On September 25 - 26, there will be a MGT-385 Community Cybersecurity Exercise Planning course at Canaan Valley Resort State Park

On October 10, there will be an AWR-328 All Hazards Preparedness for Animals in Disasters course at the West Virginia National Guard Armory in Moorefield.

On October 11, there will be a MGT-448 All Hazards Planning for Animal, Agricultural, and Food Related Disasters course at the West Virginia National Guard Armory in Moorefield.

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

# Disaster Exercises 2018

WV Homeland Security Region III (WVHSR3) Functional Exercise for the 2018 Exercise Series will be held Potomac State College in Keyser, WV on Tuesday, July 17 2018. Representatives from all counties in WVHSR3 and Western Maryland Partners will be in attendance. If you or your organization are interested in participating in the exercise series, please contact Stephen Allen at: [sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org)

- 2017 WV Homeland Security Region 3, AAR/IP Meeting..... Completed
- 2018 WV Homeland Security Region 3, Tabletop Exercise..... Completed
- 2018 WV Homeland Security Region 3, Functional Exercise..... Completed
- 2018 WV Homeland Security Region 3, Full Scale Exercise..... October 27, 2018
- 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: 2018 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, locations, 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, 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

### *August Meetings*

- 08 - Public Awareness Committee meeting at the Jefferson County EOC at 0830 hours.*
- 10 - Eastern Panhandle Emergency Managers Association (EPEMA) Meeting in Morgan County at 1000 hours.*
- 14 - Counter Terrorism Committee meeting at the Jefferson County EOC at 1400 hours.*
- 15 - Jefferson County LEPC meeting at IHOP at 0730 hours.*
- 17 - JCHSEM Staff setting up for the Jefferson County Fair.*
- 19 - 25 Jefferson County Fair Week*
- 20 - National Weather Service Hydrology Meeting in Sterling, VA at 1300 hours.*
- 28 - IT Squad Meeting at Charles Town Library Meeting Room at 1500 hours*

*\* 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*