

Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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

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FEBRUARY 2019

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JCHSEM Staff:

Stephen S. Allen, Director

James M. Sager, Deputy Director, Planner, Program Manager

VACANT, Administrative Assistant/ Public Information Officer/Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer Spotlight: Michele Goldman

February's volunteer spotlight shines on Michele Goldman. Did you know she is a fifth-generation nurse in her family?

Initially Michele co-owned an interior design business in Leesburg, Virginia. After eight years of running a business she decided to make a career move. She attended Shepherd College and earned an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing making her the fifth-



generation nurse in her family. She eventually went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Nursing from Virginia Commonwealth University.

In 1992 Michele began working in Jefferson County as a registered nurse at Jefferson Medical Center – WVU Medicine. In one of her positions at the hospital she did community case management with high risk populations. This enabled her to make strong connections in the community.

Through her work in the community she saw a great need for healthcare for people who were uninsured. Michele was one of the founding members of the Eastern Panhandle Free/CARE Clinic which opened in 2001. Initially she was a board member and then the clinic's director for 10 years. Over the 15 years the clinic was open, free comprehensive primary care, medications and access to specialists were provided to thousands of low-income uninsured people from eight counties in West Virginia. The clinic closed in 2016 due to most of the patients qualifying for Medicaid when Medicaid was expanded and because of significant cuts in funding.

Networking is what led Michele to Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) approximately five years ago. Then JCHSEM director Barbara Miller, Sandy Hite and Jeff Jefferies met with Michele. An agreement was arranged between Jefferson Medical Center, the Jefferson County Health Department and the clinic. The hospital and clinic agreed they would work together if there was a community emergency where the hospital needed additional resources the clinic could provide. The clinic was designated as a closed point of distribution (POD) where medications could be distributed in the event mass medications would need to be distributed. At that time, Michele was also appointed by the Jefferson County Commission to be on the JCHSEM's Steering Committee.

Barbara Miller and Michele attended the Mobilizing Faith-Based Community Organizations in Preparing for Disaster training. From this training the Jefferson County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) group was formed. Michele is the chair of this committee comprised of volunteers from organizations and churches. The purpose is to help churches and for-profit and non-profit organizations to prepare for disasters. The COAD works with churches and organizations to identify the vulnerable members of the community to make sure they are not neglected in an emergency. Also it helps coordinate churches on how they can assist during a disaster. Michele would like to see more people become involved with the Jefferson County COAD.

Along with serving on the Steering Committee, Michele has been and continues to be an active volunteer in many capacities in Jefferson and Berkeley counties. She is working with her own church (St. Agnes) in developing emergency protocols, a business continuity plan and making emergency preparedness information available to members. Michele believes it is essential that organizations and the public have an emergency preparedness plan and training because everyone should know their risks, have an emergency plan, practice their plan and stay informed. Social media, such as NIXLE and Facebook, can play a key role.

As for her free time, Michele enjoys experiencing new adventures through travel and spending time with friends, her newly retired husband, children, nine grandchildren and new great grandchild.

Do you know February is Earthquake Awareness Month?

Although earthquakes are not as common in West Virginia as in other parts of the United States they do occur. On January 17, 2016 Jefferson County experienced a 3.0 magnitude earthquake with its epicenter two miles south southeast of Bolivar near Harpers Ferry, according to West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey (WVGES). Fortunately, no damages or injuries were reported. Bearing this in mind, here are some tips on how to prepare and survive an earthquake from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

An earthquake is the sudden, rapid shaking of the earth, caused by the breaking and shifting of underground rock. Earthquakes can cause buildings to collapse and cause heavy items to fall, resulting in injuries and property damage. Earthquakes can:

- Happen anywhere, though higher risk areas include California, Alaska and the Mississippi Valley;
- Happen without warning;
- Cause fires and damage roads; and
- Cause tsunamis, landslides and avalanches.

If an earthquakes happens, protect yourself right away. **Drop, Cover then Hold On**!

- If in a vehicle, pull over and stop.
- If in bed, stay there.
- If outdoors, stay outdoors.
- Do not get in a doorway.
- Do not run outside.

Prepare NOW

- Practice Drop, Cover then Hold On with family.
- Make sure your emergency supply kit is up to date and includes a family emergency communications plan. Don't forget your pets!!!
- Consider an earthquake insurance policy. Standard homeowner's insurance does not cover earthquake damage.

Be Safe AFTER

- Expect aftershocks to follow the largest shock of an earthquake.
- Check yourself for injury and provide assistance to others if you have training.
- If in a damaged building, go outside and quickly move away from the building.
- Do not enter damaged buildings.
- If you are trapped, cover your mouth. Send a text, bang on a pipe or wall, or use a whistle instead of shouting so rescuers can locate you.
- Save phone calls for emergencies.
- Once safe, monitor local news reports via battery operated radio, TV, social media and cell phone text alerts for emergency information and instructions.
- Use extreme caution during post-disaster clean-up of buildings and around debris. Do not attempt to remove heavy debris by yourself. Wear protective clothing, including a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, work gloves and sturdy, thick-soled shoes during clean-up.



Preparedness Planning Includes Animals Too

While creating, updating or practicing your emergency plan, do not forget the animals in your life. From domestic pets to farm animals they all need to be included. Here are some things to keep in mind:

If you evacuate, take your pet. Research hotels/motels which allow pets or connect with family or friends outside of your area who may be willing to pet sit for you during an evacuation.

If it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets. You have no way of knowing how long you'll be kept out of the area, and you may not be able—or allowed—to go back for your pets. Pets left behind in a disaster can easily be injured, lost or killed. Remember to make plans for ALL your pets; during natural disasters, disaster plans for dogs, feral or outdoor cats, horses and animals on farms can be lifesavers.

Evacuate early. Don't wait for a mandatory evacuation order. Some people who have waited to be evacuated by emergency officials have been told to leave their pets behind. The smell of smoke or the sound of high winds or thunder may make your pet more fearful and difficult to load into a crate or carrier. Evacuating before conditions become severe will keep everyone safer and make the process less stressful.

You can always find valuable information to help you prepare for disasters at www.ready.gov. Bookmark FEMA's mobile site <u>//m.fema.gov</u> or <u>download</u> the FEMA app today to have vital information just one click away.

Keeping Animals Safe When It's Cold



• When you're cold your pets are cold. Bring pets inside during cold weather!

• Always bring your pets inside when it's freezing outside.

• When the temperature drops remember to bring your pets inside. If you see animals outside, call your local humane society or 311, if available.

• Don't forget to wipe your dog's paws! Icemelting chemicals can make your pet sick.

• Your pet may think antifreeze is sweet, but it's not a dessert. Keep your pet safe this winter: https://www.humanesociety.org

- Bring your furry friends inside. Move livestock to sheltered areas with non-frozen drinking water.
- Make sure pets are inside and out of the snow. If you see pets wandering outside, call your local animal control agency.

Identification

- Keep that cute selfie of you and your pet in your emergency kit to prove ownership.
- Does your pet have an ID? Put your name and contact information on your pet's ID tag in case you're separated in an emergency.
- A picture is worth a thousand words. Take a current photo of your pet in case you get separated during a disaster.
- Include the number of an out of town relative on your pet's ID tag.
- Think about "microchipping" your pet. These permanent implants help locate your pet following a disaster.



- Keep your pet's microchip registration info current so you can be contacted if your pet gets lost in a disaster.
- After a disaster, don't allow your pets to roam loose. Landmarks may have been changed and your pet could become disoriented.

Emergency Kit

- Take time to refresh your pets emergency kit-check water, food and make sure their favorite toy is included to reduce stress. <u>www.ready.gov/pets</u>
- Add extra pet food and water to your grocery list to update your pet's emergency kit.
- Food, water, collar veterinary records are some items for your pet's emergency kit. More at: <u>www.ready.gov/animals</u>
- Take care of farm friends in an emergency. Pack emergency items for them too, including vehicles and trailers.
- Don't forget a scooper, cat litter, or plastic bags in your pet's emergency kit!

Some Tips from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA): Prepare-Get a Livestock Evacuation Kit

- Include feed, water, supplements, supplies (medications, rope/lariat, halters/leads, cleaning supplies, knives, etc.) and papers (veterinary records and proof of ownership).
- Review your kit regularly to ensure contents, especially feed and medicines, are fresh.

Plan-what You Will Do In An Emergency

- Determine if you are able to evacuate (This should be based on the type of disaster and the safety and stability of the shelter).
- Determine where you will go if you have to leave (Identify friends or relatives who could house livestock during the disaster, including fairgrounds or other livestock evacuation locations.)
- Determine how you will evacuate. (Decide how livestock will be transported/housed and prearrange an evacuation site).

In case you are not home:

- Designate a neighbor to tend to your livestock. (This person should be familiar with your livestock, know your evacuation procedures, know where your evacuation kit is kept, and have your emergency contact information).
- Make sure livestock has some form of identification. (Microchip, ear/leg tag, leg band, tattoo, etc.)

Stay Informed—Know About Types of Emergencies

- It's always a good idea to find out what types of emergencies could happen where you live and whether you need to make any specific preparations because of them. (A good basic emergency plan is to keep your livestock with you; what's best for you is typically what's best for your livestock. Plan to safe if it's safe to do so, or leave if ordered too evacuate.
- When disaster strikes, follow instructions of local emergency management to safeguard you, your family and your livestock.

Winter Weather Safety Information

January brought a couple of winter storms to the region which produced snow, ice, freezing rain and extreme temperatures. The wintry weather has closed schools or caused delayed openings, power outages and hazardous driving conditions. With February and March to contend with, we are including winter weather



safety information for you, your family and your pets.

What you should know about Winter Weather

- Know what to do before, during and after a winter storm.
- Listen to local officials.
- Have emergency supplies in place at home, at work and in the car.
- Stay off roadways during and after a winter storm.
- Have a carbon monoxide alarm in place, especially if using alternative heating devices.
- Use safe heating devices.

Power Outage Safety

- Winter storms can cause power outages. Make a plan to check on neighbors if extreme cold or winter weather knocks out your power.
- Get the kids involved in preparing for power outages before winter weather. For additional information on how to get started check out FEMA's website at: www.ready.gov/kids/know-the-facts/blackouts
- Power outage tip: dim the brightness on your cell phone settings to save battery life.

General

- <u>Make</u> a plan to connect before a winter storm by text, e-mail, social media & cell: <u>www.ready.gov/plan</u>
- Learn how to stay safe before, during & after winter storms & extreme cold by visiting: <u>www.ready.gov/</u> winter
- Talk with your family about how to get prepared for extreme cold weather: <u>www.ready.gov/kids/know-the</u> <u>-facts/winter-storms-extreme-cold</u>
- Before a winter storm, know what to do "When the Sky Turns Gray."
- Follow weather alerts in up to 5 locations using the FEMA app.
- Stay safe during winter weather. Monitor weather alerts and have a preparedness kit ready. <u>www.ready.gov/kit</u>

- Prepare for winter storms and cold weather with the kids by playing the disaster master game: <u>www.ready.gov/kids/games.</u> Password hint: SLEET
- Snow Prep tips: check on neighbors, charge cell phones, find flashlights (check batteries) and follow local officials online.
- Talk to your employer *before* it snows about weather policies and procedures.

Outdoors & Traveling

Cold can kill. Dress in layers, cover skin and limit time outside. www.ready.gov/winter

- Shoveling snow can be a health risk, so remember to take it easy. Learn more at <u>http://weather.gov/winter</u>
- Stay off icy roads when winter storm advisories & watches are issued. Travel tip: follow directions from local officials & build an emergency car kit. More tips <u>www.ready.gov/winter</u>
- Stay off roads during & after a winter storm. If you must drive "Don't Crowd the Plow!"
- Hitting the road this winter? An emergency kit for your car might come in handy when you least expect it!
- Prepare your car for winter: keep your gas tank near full to help avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Ice and snow, take it slow—slower speed, slower acceleration, slower steering, and slower braking.
- Snow Storm tip: clear snow & ice off of fire hydrants so fire departments can gain access.
- Layers of loose-fitting, lightweight clothing will keep you warmer than one bulky sweater.
- When it's freezing limit time outside and check on your neighbors!
- Freezing temperatures increase frostbite risk. Learn the warning signs of frostbite: <u>www.cdc.gov/disasters/</u> <u>winter</u>
- Many people die each year from heart attacks brought on by shoveling snow. Pace yourself & get your neighbors involved.
- Do your part to keep everyone safe on the roads this winter. Learn more at <u>http://weather.gov/winter</u>

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Give back to humanity

Become a Red Cross volunteer

American Red Cross Volunteers Touch Lives Everyday

We are as diverse as the people receiving Red Cross services. We are all different ages, with different backgrounds and skills -- and together, we deliver the Red Cross mission to our communities.

As a Red Cross volunteer, you can help your community prepare for and respond to emergencies, deliver hope and comfort, meet new people -- all while making a huge, positive impact on the lives of those who need it most.

"The Red Cross teaches you, trains you in the **field**, and trusts you to go out and serve the community... You'll like it here."

volunteer Joyce Adams

Disaster Response—Help people affected by cleaners ranging from home firse to hurricares by providing food, shelter, essential relief supplies and comfort and hope.

Preparedness Education—Teach families, people in classrooms, organizations and corporations how to Be Red Cross Ready for disasters and emergencies.

Service to the Armed Forces—Connect families and veterans with resources in response to emergencies, train military families in coping and resiliency skills, and supply recreational and therapeutic support in military and VA health care facilities.

Health and Safety Training—Teach vital ifesaving ukin such as first ak/CPR/AED, babyakting and water safety.



International Humanitarian Services— Coordinate fundraising for measles vaccines, educate youth about the Geneva Conventions and provide international tracing and messaging.

Fundraising-Make It financially possible for

the Red Cross to deliver its lifesaving services. The Red Cross relies on volunteers and the generosity of the American public.

Leadership—Serve on a Red Cross board or decision-making committee, manage a program, or chair an activity.

Blood Services-Coordinate blood drives or serve as a blood drive volunteer to register blood donors and staff the refreshment area.

National Headquarters—Utilize professional skills to support departments with national initiatives.



American Red Croes West Virginia Region 1948 Wiltshire Road, Suite 2 Kearneysville, WV 25430 304-725-5015 www.redcrosswv.org

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February's Director's Corner



The success in all of the projects and responses to natural and manmade hazards which were completed in 2018 was due to our partners in Jefferson County and other organizations throughout the region. With the cooperation and participation by all of our partner agencies and individuals, Jefferson County is a safer, prepared, and more protected community. As Edward Everett Hale said, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is a success."

By your participation in the numerous activities we were involved in,

such as the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan update and the four disaster exercises, we all will enjoy a community which is more prepared and hopefully less vulnerable to major damage from many types of hazards which the area is subject to. Your attendance at the meetings and the input you provided to our contractor for the mitigation plan update was very helpful to the success of the plan. By your continued participation in the numerous disaster exercises we are able to ensure that we have everything prepared to continue successfully responding to the various types of emergencies or disasters. The questionnaires we send out to you are valuable in determining priorities for Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants to supply you with needed funds for the procurement of equipment which is sorely needed in order for your organization's continued success.

Through our continued partnering, Jefferson County continues to be strong and prepared for what Mother Nature and other man-made hazards will certainly present to us in the future. I am proud to be but a small part in the process.

Disaster Exercises 2019

Due to the federal government's shutdown, we were awaiting the resumption of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) activities which will enable our region to complete the 2018 After Action Report Implementation Plan (AARIP). Once this is completed, we will resume planning activities for our 2019 regional exercise series.

If you or your organization is interested in participating in the 2019 exercise series, please contact Stephen Allen at: sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org

The 2019 exercise schedule is being finalized and will be posted as soon as possible.

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.

Need Training?

Emergency management is a constantly-changing field. Whether it is keeping up with the latest technology, to working with stakeholders to develop plans, conducting successful floodplain management, performing damage assessments, managing debris after a disaster, helping 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:

<u>West Virginia Military Affairs and Public Safety's Training Center, CourseMill</u>. 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.

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

January 29-31 **OR** February 5-7, 2019 — ICS 300. This course provides training for personnel who require advanced application of the Incident Command System (ICS). This course expands upon information covered in the ICS 100 and ICS 200 courses. The course will be held at the West Virginia State Police Academy, Institute, West Virginia.

February 12, 2019—PER 343 <u>Social Media Engagement Strategies</u>. Attendees are required to bring their own laptop or Wi-Fi enabled device to the training session for the hands-on exercises. This course conducts a Pre-Test, Post-Test and course evaluation online. If you do not have an online account prior to the class start date, you may not be able to participate in the class. This class will be held at the West Virginia State Police Academy, Institute, West Virginia.

February 13, 2019—PER 344 <u>Social Media Tools and Techniques</u>. This course will supplement and build upon NDPTC's existing FEMA-certified performance-level course, PER 304 Social Media for Natural Disaster Management Operations. Attendees are required to bring their own laptop or Wi-Fi enabled device to the training session for the hands-on exercises. This course conducts a Pre-Test, Post-Test and course evaluation online. If you do not have an online account prior to the class start date, you may not be able to participate in the class. This class will be held at the West Virginia State Police Academy, Institute, West Virginia.

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

For questions about the course or registration, contact <u>Gregory.c.fernley@wv.gov</u> or call 304-558-5380

Once you set up your account, you can log on and look at the list of available courses taught in West Virginia.

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute's URL is <u>https://training.fema.gov/emi.aspx</u>. 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.

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management recommends the following "new" FEMA Independent Study Course. This course is free and available online. Additional courses can be found at: <u>https://training.fema.gov/is/</u>.

IS-363.b - Introduction to Emergency Management for Higher Education

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 JCH-SEM'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 is setting up speaking engagements and public awareness events. This committee meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of the month 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 and the 2018 plan was approved in November 2018.

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 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 Stephen Allen at sallen@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 at (304) 728-3290.

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management

28 Industrial Blvd., Suite 101 Kearneysville, WV 25430

STAFF Stephen Allen — Director Office: 304-728-3290 Email: sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org

James Sager — Deputy Director, Planner and Program Manager Office: 304-728-3329 Email: jsager@jeffersoncountywv.org

VACANT—Administrative Assistant, Public Information Officer and Volunteer Coordinator

PUBLIC SAFETY; PUBLIC TRUST The Jefferson County Commission's Office of Homeland



Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) is responsible for the coordination of preparedness, planning, response, recovery and mitigation of disasters and large emergencies in Jefferson County, West Virginia. Vol-

unteer 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

February Meetings

- Sterling National Weather Service Calls every Monday at 9 a.m.
- Weather calls every Monday and Friday at 10 a.m. with State EOC and National Weather Service
- February 7 Amateur Radio Monthly Network Check-In 5:00 PM 6:30 PM Amateur Radio Room
- February 12 Counter-Terrorism Committee meeting at 2:00 PM EOC/Training Room
- February 13 Public Awareness, Education, and Training Committee meeting at 8:30 AM EOC/Training Room
- February 18 Presidents Day Holiday— County Offices will be closed
- February 20 Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting at 7:30 AM at the International House of Pancakes in Charles Town, 134 Jefferson Crossing Way, Charles Town, WV 25414