



Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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

APRIL 2019

April Showers Bring May Flowers

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VACANT, Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer/Volunteer Coordinator



Although this may be a familiar expression, if taken literally April showers could bring more than just flowers. It could also bring flooding, storms, tornadoes and high winds to name a few

issues. In this edition of the Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) newsletter, we will continue looking at potential weather issues for Jefferson County. We are also joining the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in recognizing April as National Financial Capability Month, Wildfire Safety, National Volunteer Week and Earth Day. We also have tips from the second part of the National Weather Services' (NWS) Weather-Ready Nation Campaign by focusing on lightning and wind.

According to the website housingbuzzblog.com/index.php/2016/04/13/the-history-of-april-showers-bring-may-flowers/, the expression April Showers Bring May Flowers has its roots in fourteenth century England. Geoffrey Chaucer is given credit by some as first using the expression in his work *The Canterbury Tales*. The phrase, after some modification, appears again in Thomas Tusser's writing titled *A hundred Good Points of Husbandry*. There has been some modification to the phrase and several different meanings through the years, but for our purposes we will focus on weather related possibilities.

National Financial Capability Month

FEMA has designated April as National Financial Capability Month. As part of their campaign, we are including information from FEMA which can help you to prepare yourself and your loved ones financially for disasters. The kit has a variety of information and worksheets for you to get started and can be accessed by the

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#FINANCIALFUTURE2019

Ready.

following link: [Emergency Financial First-Aid Kit \(EFFAK\)](#).

The EFAK is a flexible tool designed to help individuals and families at all income levels collect and secure the documentation they would need to get on the road to recovery without unnecessary delays, should disaster strike. The packet includes information about:

- Four simple steps to Financial Preparedness;
- EFAK Checklists and Forms;
- Protecting Your Information;
- What to do If A Disaster Strikes; and
- Additional Resources.



The Ready Campaign will host social media events on financial preparedness as part of National Financial Capability Month. Topics include planning and budgeting, saving for disasters and emergencies, and the importance of insurance. Join in the conversation:

- **1 p.m. ET, April 10, TwitterChat, *Plan for the Unexpected.* (#FinancialChat)**
- **4 p.m. ET, April 17, Webinar: *Money Matters: Resources for Youth in Financial Preparedness.* Register for the webinar [here](#).**

- **1 p.m. ET, April 24, TwitterChat: *Insure Your Financial Future.* (#FinancialChat).**
- **Join the financial preparedness conversation by following Ready.gov at #FinancialFuture2019.**

Wildfire Safety



Some may not think of wildfires as being an issue in the spring of the year. It may seem they are more likely after a dry spell in the summer months or in the fall. However, they can occur at any time. According to FEMA at [ready.gov](#), wildfires can ruin homes and cause injuries or death to people and animals. A wildfire is defined as an unplanned fire that burns in a natural area such as a forest, grassland or prairie. Wildfires can:

- Often be caused by humans or lightning.
- Cause flooding or disrupt transportation, gas, power and communications.
- Happen anywhere, anytime. Risk increases within periods of little rain and high winds.
- Cost the Federal Government billions of dollars each year.



Free detailed information about wildfire safety and what you can do to protect yourself and your family, can be found at www.ready.gov/wildfires. This information includes:

- How to Stay Safe When a Wildfire Threatens;
- Prepare Now;
- Survive During; and
- Be Safe After.

National Volunteer Week: April 7-13



In honor of National Volunteer Week from April 7-13, the Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) joins many other organizations, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in recognizing volunteers everywhere. Without the volunteers who staff our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during disasters, to the volunteers who help us meet with the public at local events, such as the Bark In The Park, the Jefferson County Fair and Disaster Ready Kids, and the volunteers who make up our Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Steering Committee, Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee, All Hazards

Mitigation Planning Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Committee, you are a vital part of our organization and our community and we couldn't manage without you.

We also need to recognize the volunteers who are essential in the county on a day-to-day basis, this includes all volunteer fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) departments personnel, volunteers of the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Jefferson County Community Ministries, Jefferson County Animal Welfare Society and many other groups and organizations in Jefferson County too numerous to mention due to space limitations. Our community is a better place to live, work and play due to your dedication and involvement. Thank you.

Earth Day 2019

Earth Day is Monday, April, 22, 2019, and organizers have a call to **TAKE ACTION: A Billion Acts of Green**. The Earth Day Network is challenging everyone to participate in acts of green in preparation for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day in 2020.

For their 50th Anniversary in 2020, they are hoping to reach 3 billion acts of Green. You can check out their website at earthday.org for additional information about how you can get involved.



Severe Weather: Lightning and Wind

For April, we continue with the second part of the National Weather Service's (NWS) Weather-Ready Nation campaign for possible severe weather. The focus this month is on lightning and wind.

Thunderstorms and Lightning

According to Ready.gov, lightning is a leading cause of injury and death from weather-related hazards. Although most lightning victims survive, people struck by lightning often report a variety of long-term, debilitating symptoms. Thunderstorms are dangerous storms that include lightning and can:

- Include powerful winds over 50 MPH;
- Create hail; and
- Cause flash flooding and tornadoes.

According to the NWS, lightning strikes in the U.S. about 25 million times a year. Although most lightning occurs in the summer, people can be struck at any time of year. Lightning kills an average of 47 people in the U.S. each year, and hundreds more are severely injured.

The NWS website offers many tips about safety for you and your family, as well as information about Lightning Science, Victims Medical and Frequently Asked Questions, and can be accessed by clicking on this link: www.weather.gov/safety/lightning.

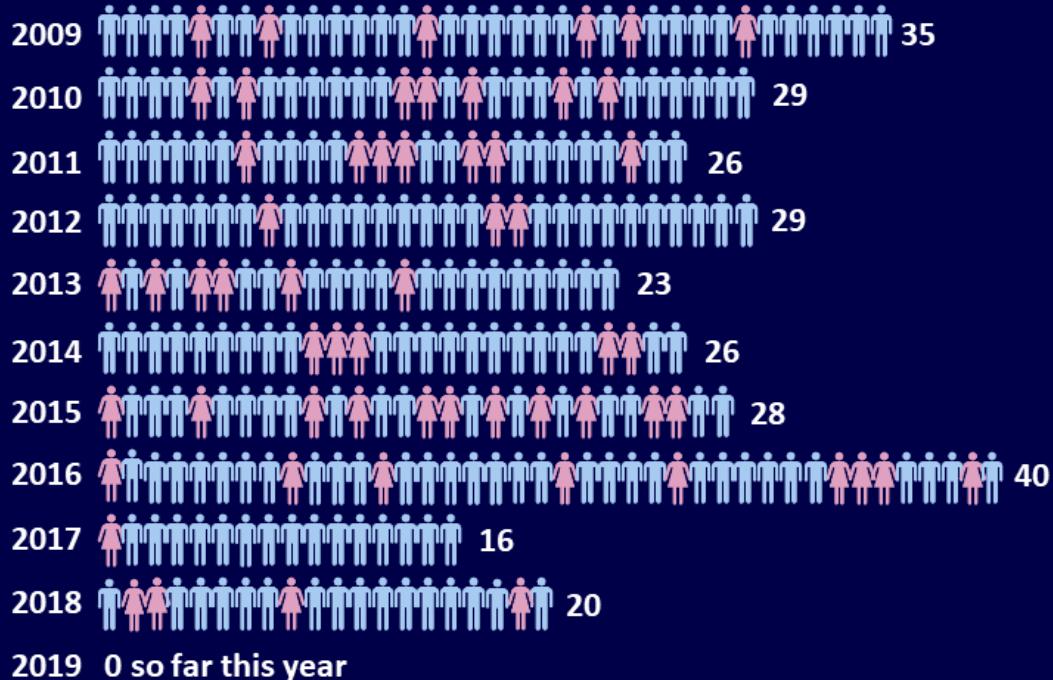


There are also many myths and facts about lightning too. For example:

Myth: Rubber tires on a car protect you from lightning by insulating you from the ground.

Fact: Most cars are safe from lightning, but it is the metal roof and metal sides that protect you, NOT the rubber tires. Remember, convertibles, motorcycles, bicycles, open-shelled outdoor recreational vehicles and cars with fiberglass shells offer no protection from lightning. When lightning strikes a vehicle, it goes through the metal frame into the ground. Don't lean on doors during a thunderstorm.

U.S. Lightning Fatalities 2009-2019



♂-213 ♀-59

For more information:

[https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning-victims](http://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning-victims)



Myth: If you're caught outside during a thunderstorm, you should crouch down to reduce your risk of being struck.

Fact: Crouching doesn't make you any safer outdoors. Run to a substantial building or hard topped vehicle. If you are too far to run to one of these options, you have no good alternative. You are NOT safe anywhere outdoors.

Myth: Lightning never strikes the same place twice.

Fact: Lightning often strikes the same place repeatedly, especially if it's a tall, pointy, isolated object. The Empire State Building is hit an average of 23 times a year.

Myth: If it's not raining or there aren't clouds overhead, you're safe from lightning.

Fact: Lightning often strikes more than three miles from the center of a thunderstorm, far outside the rain or thunderstorm cloud. "Bolts from the blue" can strike 10-15 miles from the thunderstorm.

Myth: A lightning victim is electrified. If you touch them, you'll be electrocuted.

Fact: The human body does not store electricity. It is perfectly safe to touch a lightning victim to give them first aid. This is the most chilling of lightning Myths. Imagine if someone died because people were afraid to give CPR!

Myth: If outside in a thunderstorm, you should seek shelter under a tree to stay dry.

Fact: Being underneath a tree is the second leading cause of lightning casualties. Better to get wet than fried!

Myth: If you are in a house, you are 100% safe from lightning.

Fact: A house is a safe place to be during a thunderstorm as long as you avoid anything that conducts electricity. This means staying off corded phones, electrical appliances, wires, TV cables, computers, plumbing, metal doors and windows. Windows are hazardous for 2 reasons: wind generated during a thunderstorm can blow objects into the window, breaking it and causing glass to shatter and second, in older homes, lightning can come in cracks in the sides of windows.

Myth: If thunderstorms threaten while you are outside playing a game, it is okay to finish it before seeking shelter.

Fact: Many lightning casualties occur because people do not seek shelter soon enough. No game is worth death or life-long injuries. Seek proper shelter immediately if you hear thunder. Adults are responsible for the safety of children.

Myth: Structures with metal, or metal on the body (jewelry, cell phones, Mp3 players, watches, etc.), attract lightning.

Fact: Height, pointy shape, and isolation are the dominant factors controlling where a lightning bolt will strike. The presence of metal makes absolutely no difference on where lightning strikes. Mountains are made of stone but get struck by lightning many times a year. When lightning threatens, take proper protective action immediately by seeking a safe shelter. Don't waste time removing metal. While metal does not attract lightning, it does conduct it so stay from metal fences, railing, bleachers, etc.

Myth: If trapped outside and lightning is about to strike, I should lie flat on the ground.

Fact: Lying flat increases your chance of being affected by potentially deadly ground current. If you are caught outside in a thunderstorm, you keep moving toward a safe shelter.

Wind



According to the NWS, high winds can occur during a severe thunderstorm, with a strong weather system or can flow down a mountain. When winds are sustained at 40-50 mph, isolated wind damage is possible. Widespread significant wind damage can occur with higher wind speeds. During strong thunderstorms, straight line wind speeds can exceed 100 mph. High winds can blow objects around and pose a significant threat to your safety. Understanding the risks can

help you prepare for these events.

While preparing weather forecasts, the NWS does issue a number of Watches, Warnings and other products to alert the public about high wind events. Here are a few examples:

- **High Wind Warning: Take Action!** Sustained, strong winds with even stronger gusts are happening. Seek shelter. If you are driving, keep both hands on the wheel and slow down. NWS offices issue this product based on local criteria.
- **High Wind Watch: Be Prepared!** Sustained, strong winds are possible. Secure loose outdoor items and adjust plans as necessary so you're not caught outside. NWS offices issue this product based on local criteria.
- **Wind Advisory: Take Action!** Strong winds are occurring but are not so strong as to warrant a High Wind Warning. Objects that are outdoors should be secured and caution should be taken if driving. NWS offices issue this product based on local criteria.

There are other types of warnings and watches issued by the NWS and you can read about them at www.weather.gov/safety/wind-ww.

When most people think about winds associated with a thunderstorm, they think tornadoes; however, most years there are far more damage reports from thunderstorm straight line winds than from tornadoes. Straight line winds are thunderstorm winds that have no rotation, i.e. not a tornado, according to the NWS.

Downbursts are a common cause of wind damage from a thunderstorm. They are reach over 100 mph and are caused by air being dragged down by precipitation. When the air reaches the ground, it spreads outward across the surface of the land it encounters in a straight line.

A derecho is a very long lived and damaging thunderstorm. A storm is classified as a derecho if a wind damage swath extends more than 240 miles and has wind gusts of at least 58 mph or greater along most of the length of the storm's path. Many Jefferson County residents may recall the derecho which impacted the entire State of West Virginia on June 29, 2012. Many residents were without electricity for up to two weeks following the storm.

The NWS webpage outlines many tips for people before, during and after a storm. For example, Before a High Wind Event tips and suggestions can be found at www.weather.gov/safety/wind-before. During a High Wind Event tips and suggestions can be found at www.weather.gov/safety/wind-during. After a High Wind Event tips and suggestions can be found at www.weather.gov/safety/wind-after.

April's Director's Corner



The month of April is the start of Spring showers and the possibilities of flooding. Not knowing what to do during flooding can cost you your life or damage to your property. In Jefferson County, we always have flood dangers, but damages and effects from this occurrence can be minimized by taking precautions. One of these precautions is having flood insurance.

We enjoy a benefit in Jefferson County (outside of our five municipalities) by having reduced flood insurance premiums due to the Community Rating System (CRS). We have earned a class 6 rating by CRS. This enables our residents to receive a 20% reduction of policy premiums.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) CRS was implemented in 1990 as a voluntary program for recognizing and encouraging community floodplain management activities exceeding the minimum NFIP standards. Any community in full compliance with the minimum NFIP floodplain management requirements may apply to join the CRS.

Jefferson County joined the NFIP CRS in October 2006 with a rating of Class 9. This allowed initially a savings of 5% by flood insurance policyholders outside of the municipal boundaries in Jefferson County. In 2017, due to all of the county departments and many other agencies working together, the goal of a Class 6 rating and its 20% reduction in premium costs was achieved. This is an example of how working together we can achieve great things.

Each year, we must evaluate our CRS program to ensure that we continue to maintain the activities which allowed for the reduction of our flood insurance premiums. We now are in the midst of performing these checks. Let's continue on preparing our community for what Mother Nature can throw at us, and at the same time, save lives and protect property and our environment.

April Quarterly Partnership Meeting/Luncheon At Hollywood Casino and Charles Town Races

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (JCHSEM) Quarterly Partnership Meeting/Luncheon will be Friday, April 26 at the Epic Buffet at Hollywood Casino and Charles Town Races in Charles Town from noon to 1 p.m.

The price per person is \$13.99 plus tax. The Steering Committee meeting will convene approximately 15 minutes after the adjournment of the Partnership meeting.

The guest speaker during the luncheon will be Chris Strong, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service, Sterling, Virginia.

To attend, please either register through Eventbrite at www.eventbrite.com/e/jefferson-county-office-of-homeland-security-and-emergency-management-quarterly-partnership-meeting-tickets-59782090843?aff=utm_source%3Deb_email%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Dnew_event_email&utm_term=eventurl_text or by contacting Steve Allen by email at sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org or by dialing 304-728-3290.



FEMA

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Here is our 2 cents...
If I had a penny for every time...*



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Disaster Exercises 2019

We have resumed the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) activities which enabled our region to complete the 2018 After Action Report Implementation Plan (AAR/IP). Jefferson County's portion has been completed and we are awaiting the "final draft" of the AAR/IP. 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:

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>.

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

West Virginia Specific AuxComm Course

Date: April 13-14, 2019, Time: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Location: Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department, 211 Sixth Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101

Course Description: The West Virginia specific auxiliary communications course will assist amateurs/groups interested in emergency communications in understanding the communications roles that are needed in today's expanding/collapsing incident command system (ICS) environment. Amateur radio operators receiving this training will see how they can better assist emergency communications managers in ICS environments throughout the State of West Virginia. This is a great opportunity for the West Virginia amateur radio community in support of our federal, state and local first responder community.

Pre-Requisites: IS100, IS200, IS700, IS800, Amateur Radio FCC License, technician level or higher. Submit pre-requisites to Jim Mangus via email at jmangus@metro911.org in order to receive approval to join the class.

Sport Event Risk Management-AWR-167

Date: May 2-3, 2019, Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority, 601 Brookes Street, Charleston, WV.

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to build capabilities for multi-agency collaboration pertaining to risk management for sports events. Through activity-based training modules, intact security teams will enhance their ability for planning, risk assessment, training, and exercising practices specific to conducting sport events. The expectation is for participants to return to their respective organization and coordinate the development of a sport event security management system.

Team Approach to Foodborne Outbreak Response

Date: May 14-15, 2019, Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: The Highlands Event Center - 355 Wharton Circle Suite 235, Triadelphia, WV

Course Description: This course identifies how the skills, resources and expertise of all levels of government can be effectively connected to improve collaboration during a foodborne outbreak within an integrated national food safety system. The course provides an overview of how participants fit within the National Response Framework (NRF) and shares strategies for how participants can leverage resources at all levels of government to build and maintain outbreak investigation and response capabilities.

Professional Disciplines: Public Health, Healthcare, Public Works

The target audience for the Direct Delivery version of this course includes:

- Sanitarians
- Environmental health inspectors
- Epidemiologists
- Public health nurses
- Educators
- Laboratorians

Medical Preparedness & Response For Bombing Incidents

Date: May 21-22, 2019, Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: WV State Police Academy PDC

Course Description:

This course is intended for members of emergency response as well as other city and county services that become a part of a community response to an bombing incident. This interactive, instructor facilitated program employs case studies, lessons learned, validated medical data, and potential threats to the communities we serve. Sessions will address planning considerations and concerns specific to medical responders, law enforcement, and emergency planners, with an intended outcome of integrating incidents of an explosive nature into existing plans.

West Virginia Specific Communications Unit Leader—WV COML

Date: May 14-16, 2019, Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: Flatwoods, RETI Training Facility, 2nd Floor

Course Description: The purpose of the West Virginia Communications Specific Unit Leader (WV COML) Program is to train communications personnel to be better prepared to manage communications assets and activities during an event or disaster, with a specific emphasis on the State-Wide Interoperable Radio Network (SIRN) and other communications equipment and resources available. Public safety communications experts involved in any of the following activities are urged to attend. (1) Developing plans for effective use of existing incident communications and facilities. (2) Managing the distribution of communications equipment to incident personnel. (3) Coordinating the installation and testing of communications equipment.

STUDENTS MUST BE A FIRST RESPONDER/PUBLIC SAFETY TO ATTEND.

Pre-Requisites: IS100, IS200, IS700, IS800. Submit pre-requisites to Jim Mangus via email at jmangus@metro911.org in order to receive approval to join the class.

WV Model Floodplain Ordinance

Date: May 16, 2019, Time: 10 a.m.

Location: WEBINAR

Course Description: This WEBINAR will cover Model Floodplain Coordinates for the State of West Virginia and recommended updates.

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 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 <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.

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management recommends the following FEMA Independent Study Courses. These courses are free and available online. Those courses can be found at: <https://training.fema.gov/is/>.

IS-393.b - Introduction to Hazard Mitigation

IS-317 - Introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams

IS-248 - Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) for the American Public

IS-505 - Religious and Cultural Literacy and Competency in Disaster

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 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 sal-len@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**

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**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. 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

April 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
- April 3 - ESF11 Agriculture and Natural Resources Meeting
- April 4 - R.A.C.E.S. Amateur radio Net Test night
- April 9 - Counter-Terrorism Committee
- April 10 - Public Awareness Education and Training Committee
- April 11 - EPEMA Meeting, Mineral County, WV
- April 15 - Third Monday ETeam training for April
- April 17 - LEPC Meeting
- April 26 - Quarterly Partnership Meeting, Epic Buffet