



Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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

July 2019

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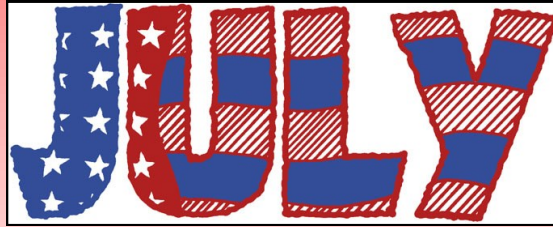
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♪ "Summer Loving, Had Me a Blast" ♪



The movie *Grease* was released on June 16, 1978 and quickly became a multi-generational hit! Known as one of the most successful movie musicals

of all time, *Grease* is a nod to summer and all the fun that goes with it. Summer has officially begun in Jefferson County and many people are enjoying time with family and friends at a barbeque, at the lake, or on vacation at the beach. In this edition of the Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (JCHSEM) newsletter, we will continue to look at the hazards and weather issues indicative of the summer months, as the weather continues to heat up.

July's themes include Firework Safety, Summer Safety, and Youth Preparedness. We will discuss upcoming training opportunities offered locally as well as training offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). We will also be sharing with you some tips for disaster preparedness for you and your family.

Summer Safety

Summer is in full swing! The kids are out of school and the weather is hot, hot, hot. Many people are enjoying the warmer weather with family barbeques, trips to the pool, and hikes in the park. With the increase in temperatures it is important to keep some important safety tips in mind:

- ♦ Drink plenty of water: It is important to stay hydrated and drink water, even when you don't feel thirsty.
- ♦ Wear sunscreen: Use a broad spectrum sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 30 or above.



- ◆ Recognize the signs of heat related illnesses. Dehydration, hyperthermia, heat stroke, and heat exhaustion can be serious conditions that may lead to death.
- ◆ Never leave children or pets in a vehicle: A car's internal temperature can reach unsafe levels within minutes, causing heatstroke and death.
- ◆ Wear light colored and loose fitting clothing.
- ◆ Limit outdoor strenuous activity during the hottest part of the day (11 a.m. through 2 p.m.).

During the summer, temperatures can rise quickly. On July 10, 1936, the weather reached a scorching 112 degrees Fahrenheit in nearby Martinsburg, WV! Remember to always pay attention to your local weather forecasts and heed any watches or warnings issued by the National Weather Service (NWS). For more information on heat safety visit <https://www.weather.gov/safety/heat>.

Fireworks Safety



The Fourth of July is a time to celebrate our freedoms and the sacrifices the men and women of our Armed Forces have made for this country. Many people celebrate with family, friends, barbeques and, of course, fireworks!

Historians believe that fireworks were first created in the second century BC in China. Bamboo stalks that were thrown into the fire would explode

with a bang due to the hollow pockets of air overheating. These natural 'firecrackers' were believed to ward off evil spirits. When the Chinese stumbled upon an early form of gunpowder sometime between 600 and 900 AD it was added to these bamboo sticks to form the first man-made fireworks. Fireworks made their way to Europe in the 13th Century. U.S. settlers then brought their love of fireworks to the New World, it is even believed that Captain John Smith set off the first fireworks display in Jamestown in 1608. Fireworks were also used to celebrate the very first Independence Day in 1776.

Fireworks continue to be a staple of July 4th celebrations in the United States. Fireworks, however, can be very dangerous and should be handled with extreme caution. If you decide to use consumer fireworks, here are some safety precautions you should follow:

- ◆ Follow all local and federal firework guidelines. Some jurisdictions have laws prohibiting the use of fireworks. Buy only legal fireworks, from a licensed dealer, and never try to make your own. You can talk to your local law enforcement agencies or the WV State Fire Marshal's Office about laws in your area. Or visit <https://www.americanpyro.com/state-law-directory>.

- ◆ Children should never handle fireworks of any kind. Sparklers can reach temperatures hot enough to cause third-degree burns.
- ◆ Never use fireworks while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- ◆ Only use fireworks outdoors on a level, hard, and fire-resistant surface free from flammable debris.
- ◆ Be sure to wear protective equipment while igniting fireworks.
- ◆ Never throw or point fireworks at others under any circumstance.
- ◆ When setting off fireworks, have a hose or bucket of water within reach in case of accidents.
- ◆ Never shoot fireworks off indoors.
- ◆ Do not shoot fireworks in a metal or glass container.
- ◆ Only ignite one at a time.
- ◆ Never try to relight a 'dud'. Instead, allow it to rest for at least 20 minutes and then soak it in water before disposal.
- ◆ Think about your pet. Animals have sensitive ears and can be very frightened by the noise fireworks produce. Keep pets indoors to reduce the risk that they will run away or get injured.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires a year! This includes 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires, and over 16,000 outside and other fires. These fires have caused injury and even death and have totaled an average of 43 million dollars worth of property damage. An estimated 12,900 people



were treated in emergency rooms for injuries related to fireworks in 2017, over 30% of those treated were children. Be smart this summer and follow all safety tips when using fireworks! One accident can ruin your entire celebration.

Another option, instead of using consumer fireworks, would be to see a professional fireworks display. Pyrotechnicians are trained professionals designated to orchestrate a firework display. At these events, obey the safety barriers designated to protect viewers and resist the temptation to pick up firework debris. This debris may still be hot and could cause injury. JCHSEM wishes you a happy and safe Independence Day!



Youth Preparedness

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) is encouraging everyone to plan for disasters by considering the unique needs of children in the midst of an emergency.

It is very important to teach children about disasters and emergencies. This will prepare them for any potential hazards or disasters that may occur. Here are some ways to help prepare your children for a disaster:

- Include children in disaster preparedness conversations.
- Know the emergency plan for your child's school or child care facility.
- Practice your emergency and evacuation plans with your children. This will ensure they know what to do in the event of an emergency.
- Help your children memorize emergency contact information or write the contact information down and store it in a safe place your child can access.
- Ensure your child knows when and how to dial important phone numbers such as 911.
- Learn different ways to help your children cope with a disaster. Disasters can have a physical and emotional toll on your children, be sure you know how to help them handle these events. Visit https://www.redcross.org/content/dam/redcross/atg/PDF_s/Preparedness_Disaster_Recovery/General_Preparedness_Recovery/Emotional/Helping_children_cope_with_disaster_-_English.pdf for more information.



Communication is key when preparing youth for a disaster. Ensure your children are informed and included in any discussions you have regarding emergency plans. Make sure they know where your disaster supply kit is located. When preparing your disaster supply kit make sure to include enough food and water for each member of your family to last at least 72 hours. Also, include a first aid kit in case of any injuries. For more information on how to build your family's disaster supply kit visit <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>.

Youth preparedness programs are a great way to enhance a community's resilience. JCHSEM has a Disaster Ready Kids Program in which we go into schools within the community to do presentations on disaster preparedness. If you have any questions, or are interested in having us visit your school, please contact Brianna Gustafson at (304) 724-8914 or bgustafson@jeffersoncountywv.org. You can also visit <http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/county-government/departments/homeland-security-and-emergency-management/disaster-ready-kids-program> for more information!

Bark in the Park

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) joined the Animal Welfare Society of Jefferson County for their annual Bark in the Park celebration on June 1, 2019. During this time we engaged the community in preparedness discussions for both people and pets. In times of disaster it is important to have an emergency plan. These plans are crucial in mitigating the effects of disasters. JCHSEM strives to prepare our community for any potential hazards and disasters that may come!



2019 Disaster Exercise Series

The West Virginia Region 3 Table Top Exercise will be held on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at Charles Town Middle School (located at 817 High Street, Charles Town, WV, 25414) beginning at 9 a.m.

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.

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

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 Website 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.

Basics of Floodplain Management

Date: July 10, 2019 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Parsons Volunteer Fire Department

Course Description: The Basics of Floodplain Management is a free State sponsored comprehensive one day, hands on, participatory training course on program aspects of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) presented five times annually (in various WV locations) for Floodplain Administrators and Local officials of our Counties and Communities. Class size is limited to thirty participant on a first come- first served basis. Class content is geared toward newly appointed Floodplain Administrators; however, ALL are welcome. The focus is to update NFIP Program Elements for permitting and enforcement of FEMA minimum development standards and regulations for established flood zone areas. This one-day course is taught by WV NFIP staff utilizing PowerPoint modules to cover topics including floodplain mapping, flood insurance, legal issues, permitting, and other aspects of the NFIP program. Daylong attendance at this course will serve to satisfy the six-hour annual training in floodplain management requirement as stipulated by WV State Code § 15-5-20 A.

Planning - Basic EM Academy - L0103

Date: August 13-14, 2019 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Days Hotel and Suites, Flatwoods

Course Description: This course in the National Emergency Management Basic Academy is designed to give basic concepts and planning steps to those new to the field of emergency management so that they may apply planning discipline and skills to challenges in their jobs. The course content includes emergency management planning doctrine and steps to take to accomplish writing plans and using them to deal with special events, which are common challenges for all jurisdictions. The content also derives from Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101, Developing and Maintaining State, Territorial, Tribal and Local Government Emergency Plans and its six-step planning process and inclusive Whole Community philosophy. Likewise, doctrine from Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 201, Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis, is included in and recommended for updates. Special event planning is then explained in the course and table group activities to analyze plans for special events are conducted.

Critical Decision Making for Complex Coordinated Attacks - PER 335

Date: September 4-5, 2019 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Columbia Gas Building

Course Description: This course provides first responders from multiple disciplines with skills to manage the initial response to a large-scale attack in a chaotic environment during a complex coordinated attack (CCA). It aims to train responders in how to use intuitive skills such as observation, analysis, anticipation, and awareness to recognize the possibility of an attack involving multiple incidents of an extreme magnitude that inundate

resources, exceed conventional tactics and strategies, and often require a joint response involving members from multiple disciplines and jurisdictions. Topics for discussion include recognizing the characteristics of a potential CCA; coordinating and integrating the response of multiple disciplines and agencies; managing resources; using information sharing and intelligence gathering to develop awareness; and solving problems using creative thinking. Participants will learn to gather and disseminate critical information accordingly in order to facilitate rapid analysis. They will also learn to recognize and prevent potential response obstacles or risks to safety including self-deployment and over convergence of assets. Participants will apply the skills learned in Critical Decision Making for Complex Coordinated Attacks through interactive activities, facilitated discussion, and practical application in a training environment. Professional Disciplines: Law Enforcement, Fire Service, EMS. The primary target audience for the Direct Delivery version of this course includes Emergency responders: police, fire, and emergency medical services personnel, including those who are likely to assume command at some point during response to a complex coordinated attack.

Public Information and Warning - Basic EM Academy - L0105

Date: September 17-18, 2019 8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

Location: Days Hotel & Suites - Flatwoods, WV

Course Description: This National Emergency Management Basic Academy course introduces the participants to what the Public Information Officer (PIO) does in emergency management along with the basic information about the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). The PIO topics covered include the role of the PIO; communication tools and resources encompassing social media; effective communication; preparing the community through outreach and other means; and communication in an incident. The IPAWS topics covered include what the system is and does, preparing alert and warning messages, and writing common alerting protocol messages. This is a 2-day classroom course which gives participants time to perform activities and exercises to reinforce the knowledge and build basic skills.

To Register for these FREE Classes, go to: <http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6>. Once you set up your account, you can log on and look at the list of available courses taught in West Virginia.

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

FEMA also offers a number of online courses at <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-909 - Community Preparedness: Implementing Simple Activities for Everyone

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
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**

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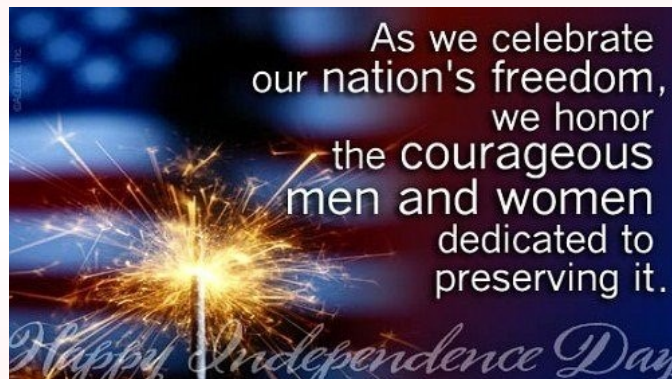
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**PUBLIC SAFETY;
PUBLIC TRUST**



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.



July Meetings & Events

- 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
- July 3 - Department Head Meeting
- July 4 - Offices closed in honor of Independence Day
- July 26 - Quarterly Partnership Meeting
- July 30 - IT Squad Meeting