



Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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

October 2019

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♪“Very Superstitious, Writing’s on the Wall”♪



It is officially fall! We are slowly moving into cooler weather, brighter leaves, and Halloween. Halloween is filled with pumpkins, ghosts, witches, and of course, black cats. The black cat has a mixed superstition background.

Black cats faced a negative superstition in the Middle Ages. They were associated with witches and the devil and were believed to bring bad luck and misfortune. They were also believed to bring death if they crossed your path. Black cats were often associated with witchcraft and believed to be witches in disguise. As a result, many black cats were ignored, disliked, and even persecuted.

However, in ancient Egypt, black cats were revered and considered a symbol of good fortune to those who housed and protected them. Egyptians even considered cats an embodiment of the Gods and worshiped them. Good black cat superstitions existed through parts of Europe as well. In England, a black cat on a ship was considered lucky. Fisherman's wives also kept black cats at home as a symbol of good luck for their loved ones to return home. Pirates believed that these cats could predict the fortune of their ship.

Today, the superstitions of the black cat have slowly faded. We now know that cats only bring love and companionship to those who care for them. October 27th is National Black Cat day. This day was created to celebrate the black cat! Black cats are often overlooked and are the last to be adopted from animal shelters. So share a picture of your black beauty on Facebook, watch a movie starring a black cat, or, even better, adopt a black cat from your local animal shelter.

In this edition of the Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management’s (JCHSEM) newsletter, we will be recognizing September as Cybersecurity Awareness Month, National Crime Prevention Month, and National Community Planning Month. October’s topics include Financial Planning Week, Fire Prevention Week, Home Fire Drill Day, The Great Shake Out Earthquake Drill and National Disability Employment Awareness Month.



Cybersecurity Awareness Month

JCHSEM is recognizing Cyber Security Awareness month (NCSAM) this October.

The government and industry collaborate to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity during this

month. The main goal of this initiative is to ensure all Americans have the resources they need to be safer and more secure online. This years theme is 'Own IT. Secure IT. Protect IT.' NCSAM emphasizes personal accountability and encourages everyone to take proactive steps to enhance their cybersecurity.

Today, the internet touches almost every aspect of our lives. From social media to online bill

pay, we use the internet for more things than we realize. Protection from security breaches and identity theft have become a part of everyday life. NCSAM aims to call attention to these issues.

To help increase your cybersecurity, follow these tips:

- Set strong passwords, change them regularly, and don't share them with anyone. When creating your password, it is important not to include your name, your kid's or pet's names, or any other well known information about you in your password. You can always break up your password with symbols or use a combination of upper and lower case letters to make it more secure.
- Make sure to keep your operating system, browser, and other software optimized by installing updates regularly.
- Always use privacy settings when online.
- Limit the amount of personal information you post online.
- Be cautious about online offers. Unfortunately, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

The truth is, cyber criminals do not discriminate. They target vulnerable computers regardless of the individual behind them. Cybercrime can wreak havoc on an individual's or business's life. Issues can range from a minor annoyance all the way to financial ruin and a tainted reputation. Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility. For more information visit: <https://staysafeonline.org/ncsam/about-ncsam/>



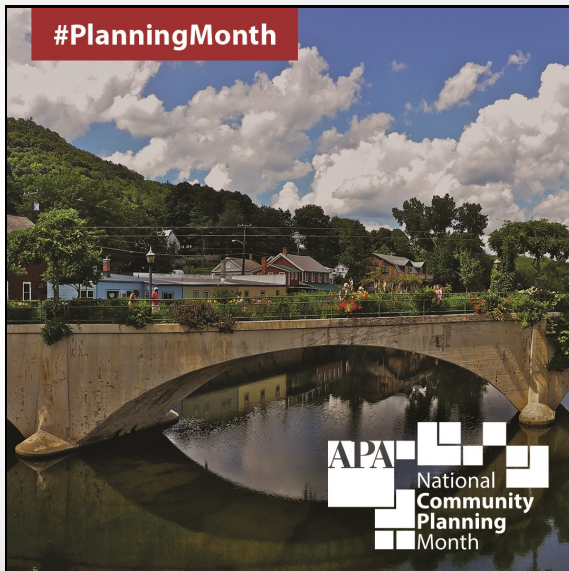


National Crime Prevention Month

October was designated as National Crime Prevention Month in 1984 through a presidential proclamation. Each year, law enforcement agencies, businesses, civic groups, government agencies, and schools all take part in the 'Take a Bite out of Crime' campaign. This campaign aims to raise awareness on issues such as bullying, firearms safety, fraud, and gangs. Everybody has a role in crime prevention! To learn more and to get involved visit: <https://www.ncpc.org/programs/crime-prevention-month/>.



National Community Planning Month



JCHSEM joins FEMA in recognizing October as National Community Planning Month. National Community Planning Month highlights the importance of community planning and its impacts. Planning can play a vital role in an individual's life and well being.

The theme for 2019 is 'Planning for infrastructure that benefits all.' The word infrastructure is a broad term and can apply to anything from roadways to broadband networks. Housing is a critical component of a communities infrastructure. Planning plays a vital role in building resilient houses and communities.

Where and how we build is very important. When making a decision to build it is important to consider the hazards and risks of the location. Is the area prone to flooding, windstorms, or earthquakes? Knowing this information can better equip you to make the best decision for you and your family. The 'how' and 'where' are a vital part in deciding where to buy or build your next home. Hazard mitigation is an important part of this process.

Hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impacts of disasters. Jefferson County participates in this with our Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan identifies the risks and vulnerabilities within our county and provides a long term plan to increase the resiliency of our community. For the full plan visit: <http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/home/showdocument?id=16326>.



Financial Planning Week

National Financial Planning Week takes place October 7 - 11, 2019. Financial Planning Week is designed to help individuals organize and plan financially in order to help them achieve their goals. Financial Planning is a comprehensive approach that will look different for everyone. Perhaps you have a vacation you want to go on, or you want to save up for your children's education.



First, start by working out the goals in your life. Separate these by short, medium, and long term goals. Then, follow these steps:

- Work out what assets and liabilities you have and write them down.
- Evaluate your current financial position, how close are you to achieving your goals?
- Develop a plan to reach your goals. Create a 'route map' to achieving your different goals.
- Implement your plan. Make changes as necessary to help you achieve your goal.
- Monitor and review your plan at least once a year and make adjustments when needed.

Make sure to plan for the hurdles you may experience along the way. The goal is to be organized and to be in control of your finances instead of letting your finances control you. For more information visit:

<https://www.cisi.org/cisiweb2/fpweekmicrosite/what-is-financial-planning#whatisfpw>.

Be a part of Financial Planning Week by creating your financial plan today! You can also participate by doing one of these tasks:



- Develop a comprehensive family budget.
 - Balance your checkbook.
 - Teach your children how to spend and save money wisely.
 - Get your estate in order by creating or updating your will.
 - Pay off a credit card.
 - Establish an emergency fund.
 - Evaluate your insurance coverages, such as home and life.
 - Contemplate hiring a financial planner.
- Start a savings account for an upcoming expense such as a vacation or a gift.
 - Research financial concepts you would like to know more about such as stocks, bonds, or an IRA.



Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week will take place October 6 - 12. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has sponsored Fire Prevention Week since 1922. Fire Prevention Week became a national observance in 1952 when President Calvin Coolidge issued a proclamation. This is the longest running public health observance in the

country. Fire Protection Week aims to teach children and adults how to stay safe in the event of a fire. The goal is to provide lifesaving public education in order to reduce the number of casualties caused by a fire.

The Great Chicago Fire on October 8, 1871, was one of the most devastating fires in our history. The fire caused overwhelming damage. It killed more than 250 people, left 10,000 people homeless, and destroyed more than 17,400 structures. The fire burned over 2,000 acres of land. Fire Protection Week is observed during the week of October 8th to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire.

During a fire, seconds can mean the difference between life and death. Fire safety education applies to everyone. Fires can happen at any time to anyone and it is important to take the time this October to learn how to stay safe during a fire.

It is important to create a fire escape plan for your home. The first step is to identify 2 exits in each room that you can use as an escape in the case of a fire. Then, establish a meeting location outside of your home, such as a mailbox or a tree. Finally, practice your plan. It is important to make sure everyone knows how to get out and where to go.

Home smoke alarms are critical in alerting family members of a dangerous fire and can cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half. Make sure you have properly installed smoke alarms in your home and remember test your smoke alarms at least once a month.



To help prevent home fires, remember to never leave the stove or oven unattended while cooking. Cooking is the leading cause of home fires. When heating your home, purchase and use only portable space heaters listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Keep heaters at least three feet away from any combustible materials, i.e. wood, paper, cloth, etc.. The NFPA has great resources on how to prepare you and your family for a fire <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Fire-Prevention-Week/About>.

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Home Fire Drill Day

Home Fire Drill Day will take place on October 13th! This is a great way to establish and practice your home evacuation plan. Fire drills are done at school and at work and it is just as important to do them at home. You can even make it fun for you and your family.

<https://homefiredrillday.makesafehappen.com/> has some great idea on fun games like commercial break for it and ready set speed walk to make your home fire drill day fun and memorable.

The first step in creating your home fire escape plan would be to know where to go. Establish a meeting place outside your home. Make sure everyone in your home knows that when the smoke alarm beeps, they need to get out quickly and meet at your safe spot. The next step would be to insure your smoke alarms work. Test them using the test button and ensure your kids know the sound they make. There should be a smoke alarm on every floor of your home and one in every bedroom. Finally, it's time to do the drill. Have everyone go to their bedrooms and then sound the smoke alarm. Set the timer and make sure everyone gets to the safety spot quickly, the goal is for everyone to reach the safe spot in under two minutes.



The Great Shake Out Earthquake Drill



October 17th is the official date for the Great Shake Out Earthquake Drill. Many different regions throughout the country practice their earthquake safety drills. Millions of people participate in this day every year. The possibility of an earthquake varies from region to region but the truth is, it could happen anywhere. The Great Shake Out Earthquake drill aims to prepare all individuals for the possibility of an earthquake. For more information on how you can get involved visit: <https://www.shakeout.org/southeast/index.html>.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is held every October. The theme for this year is 'The Right Talent, Right Now.' NDEAM celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and educates employers about the value of a workforce that integrates their skills and talents. NDEAM aims to foster inclusion in the workplace. To learn more visit: <https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/>.





Disaster Exercise Series 2019

The West Virginia Region 3 Functional Exercise will be held on Tuesday, December 10 at Hardy County OEM/911. This exercise, entitled ‘Smoking Mountains’, aims to validate plans and test operational capabilities. The scenario of this exercise involves a terrorist organization that has orchestrated synchronized arson of forested areas in Western Maryland and the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. Due to drought conditions in the area, these fires have spread and pose a serious threat. In addition, there are several related and unrelated Hazardous Materials incidents that have occurred, spreading available resources in the area thin.



The core capabilities of this exercise include: environmental response/health and safety, on scene security, protection and law enforcement, operational coordination, and public information and warning. The objectives of the exercise are as follows:

- Activate the ICS and define the incident response structure; use the EOP established procedures to guide initial actions; establish incident end goals; define operational periods and operational period objectives; disseminate information to achieve coordination through the ICS; and revise objectives, strategies, and tactics as dictated by incident circumstances.
- Assess the ability to ensure health and safety of the public, workers, emergency responders, and the environment from all hazards in support of responder operations to effected communities.
- Ensure the capacity for timely communication in support of security, situational awareness, and operations by any and all means available, among and between affected communities in the impact area.
- Establish and maintain a unified and coordinated operational structure and process that appropriately integrates all critical stakeholders and supports the execution of core capabilities.
- Deliver coordinated, prompt, reliable, and actionable information to the whole community through the use of clear, consistent, accessible, and culturally and linguistically appropriate methods to effectively relay information regarding any threat of hazard, as well as the actions being taken and the assistance available, as appropriate.

An effective exercise program is an essential component of our preparedness. 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 exercise series visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/epadhsem-2019-smoking-mountains-functional-exercise-tickets-70331997899> to sign up, or contact us at jchsem@jeffersoncountywv.org.



Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting

The Jefferson County Local Emergency Planning Committee, LEPC, meets bi-monthly on the third Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December at 7:30 a.m., unless otherwise announced. All meetings are open to the public and new members are always welcome.



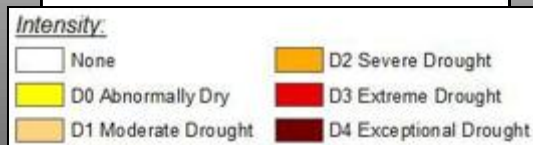
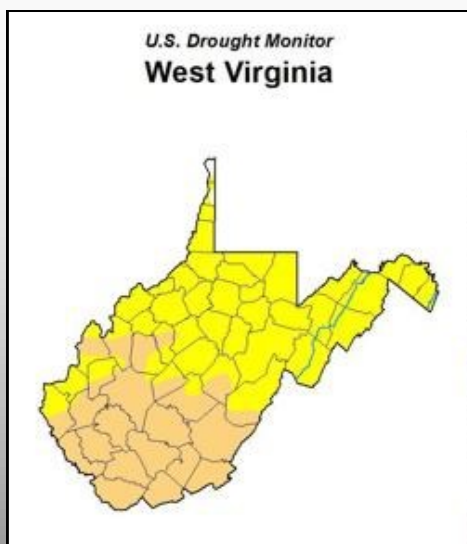
The Jefferson County LEPC encourages hazard reduction, accident prevention, pollution prevention, and shelter-in-place programs for industry, citizens, and vulnerable populations. The LEPC aims to promote and facilitate the safety of all persons within Jefferson County by annually reviewing emergency response plans and providing the community with hazardous material information.

This meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at IHOP located at 134 Jefferson Crossing Way, Charles Town, WV 25414 . The meeting will start at 7:30 a.m. and is expected to last approximately 1 hour.

Quarterly Partnership Meeting

All Quarterly Partnership Meetings and the associated Steering Committee meetings for 2019 will be held at the Epic Buffet at Hollywood Casino at the Charles Town Races and Slots. We will be using the large banquet room on the right of the restaurant. Your price for the all-you-can-eat lunch will be \$14.99 plus tax. We have scheduled our meetings for Friday, April 26, Friday, July 26, and Friday, October 25, 2019. All Quarterly Partnership meetings will start at Noon and be 1 hour in length. The Steering Committee meeting will convene approximately 15 minutes after the adjournment of the Quarterly Partnership meetings.

Our guest speakers for October will be various individuals from WV Rivers, The WV Bureau for Public Health, The Eastern Panhandle Conservation District, and The USDA Farm Service Agency. These individuals will be discussing drought, how it impacts our community, and best management practices for water conservation. An invitation will be sent via Eventbrite by the first week of October. If you are interested in attending please contact us at jchsem@jeffersoncountywv.org or at (304) 724-8914.



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.

Basics of Floodplain Management– A356

Date: October 17, 2019

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Judge Black Annex - 321 Market Street, Parkersburg, WV 25213

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-first come- first served. 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. As well, 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.

Bovine Emergency Response Plan Training for First Responders

Date: October 19, 2019 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Cabela's Retail Store, Triadelphia, WV

Course Description: The number of livestock transported in the United States via semi-truck and trailer has significantly increased since the mid 1950's. As the number of livestock being transported via motor vehicle has increased, so has the number of accidents involving livestock. A major percentage of the livestock transport accidents in the United States and Canada involved semi-trucks carrying cattle. Currently in the United States, standard operating procedures for addressing accidents involving the transport of livestock do not exist. The Bovine Emergency Response Plan (BERP) developed a framework for local emergency responders and law enforcement to more appropriately address accidents involving cattle transport vehicles. The Plan includes standardized procedures, suggestions and materials for dispatchers and first responders in the areas of call assessment, scene arrival and assessment, scene containment and security, extraction of cattle from the trailer, relocation of cattle involved in the accident, mortality disposal, securing the wrecked transport vehicle (if needed), humane euthanasia of cattle, and debriefing.

Critical Decision Making for Complex Coordinated Attacks—PER 335

Date: November 14-15, 2019 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: The Highlands Conference Center, Triadelphia, WV

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.

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

IS 366 - Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters

IS 394 - Protecting Your Home or Small Business From Disaster

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 examines 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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**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.

October 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
- October 2 - Department Head Meeting
- October 8 - Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting
- October 9 - Public Awareness Committee Meeting
- October 16 - Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting
- October 25 - Quarterly Partnership Meeting
- October 29 - IT Squad Meeting