



# Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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

**November 2019**

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### JCHSEM Staff:

- Stephen S. Allen, Director
- James M. Sager, Deputy Director, Planner, Program Manager
- Brianna L. Gustafson, Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer/Volunteer Coordinator

## Thanksgiving: The Day Calories Don't Count



The days have become shorter, the nights have become cooler, and the leaves have almost faded away. For many, November is filled with family, football, and of course food! Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on what we are grateful for. The

first Thanksgiving took place in 1621 in the Plymouth Colony, located in present day Massachusetts.

This first meal didn't look much like your modern day thanksgiving dinner but rather included items such as geese, venison, fish, cabbage and peas. Cranberries were a part of the first thanksgiving, however, they were not boiled and made into a sugary sauce until about 50 years after the first Thanksgiving. This is because the sacks of sugar that made it across the Atlantic in the Mayflower were nearly depleted by November. In addition, although many types of squash were present, there was no sugar, butter, or wheat flour available to make pumpkin pie. There wasn't even potatoes, in any form, at the festivities! For the first settlers, one day wasn't long enough, so, they made it into a three day feast!

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, another staple of many household's thanksgiving festivities, didn't look the same as it does now. The first parade in the early 1920's consisted of a two block procession. There were no large balloons like the ones we see today. Instead, camels, elephants, and people dressed like gypsies and giants wandered the streets. In 1924 a group of Macy's employees asked the company to sponsor the parade, and thus was born the parade many have grown so accustomed to.

In this edition of the Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (JCHSEM) newsletter, we will be recognizing November as Critical Infrastructure Preparedness Month, National Veterans and Military Families Month, and Native American Heritage Month. November's topics include Holiday Safety and Fire Safety.



# Department of Homeland Security

## Critical Infrastructure Preparedness Month



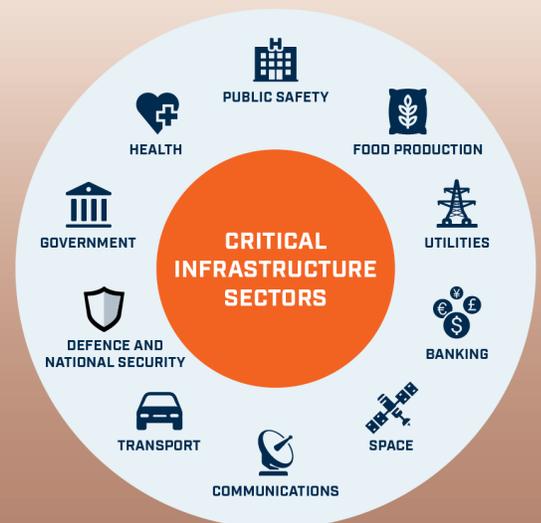
JCHSEM is joining the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in recognizing November as Critical Infrastructure Preparedness Month. This month aims to raise awareness of critical infrastructure as well as encourage the whole community to do their part in protecting our critical Infrastructure.

Critical infrastructure describes physical and cyber systems and their assets. These systems are so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating impact on our physical or economic security or public health or safety. The nation's critical infrastructure provides the essential services that underpin American society. A few examples of critical infrastructure are communications, energy, food and agriculture, water systems, and dams.

You can participate in Critical Infrastructure Preparedness Month by:

- Being prepared for all hazards. Make an emergency supply kit, talk to your family about disasters, and practice your plans to stay and your plans to evacuate.
- Reporting Suspicious activity. If you see something suspicious inform your local law enforcement agency immediately by using the 5 w's: Who did you see, What did you see, When you saw it, Where it occurred, and Why it's suspicious.
- Learning more about critical infrastructure security and resilience. Visit <https://www.cisa.gov/infrastructure-security> today!

Critical infrastructure supports the power we use in our homes, the water we drink, the transportation systems that get us from place to place, the bridges that connect us and the communication systems we rely on to stay in touch with family and friends. Securing critical infrastructure and ensuring its resilience is a shared responsibility of federal, state, local, tribal, territorial and private sector partners, as well as individual citizens. Just as we all rely on critical infrastructure, we must all play an active role in keeping it strong, secure and resilient.





## National Veterans and Military Families Appreciation Month

Each year, November is designated as National Veterans and Military Families Month. Although we honor our military men and women all year around, November is a special month set aside to honor our armed service members, both past and present, and their families.

Military families know what it means to serve. They spend countless days, months, and even years without their loved ones. They spend time worrying about their safety and waiting for them to come home. This month is set aside to honor those sacrifices. To our military families, you are the quiet and steady

support system. Thank you for all you do! Veterans, this month is for you too. You make our communities stronger by applying the leadership and training you learned in the military to our workforce. Our nation's veterans know what it takes to get the job done, and for that we thank you!

We would like to personally thank all of our military members, their spouses, their children, their mothers, and their fathers for all that they have done for us as a country, as a state, and as a community. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! We appreciate you!



## Native American Heritage Month



JCHSEM joins FEMA in recognizing November as Native American Heritage Month. Native American Heritage Month was first designated in 1990 by President George H.W. Bush. This month focuses on celebrating the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and their histories. In addition, it focuses on acknowledging the important contributions of

Native American people to our society today. Native American Heritage Month is an opportune time to educate the general public about tribes and their roles in society today. It is also a time to raise a general awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced, both historically and presently, and the ways in which they have worked to overcome these challenges.



## Holiday Safety

The holiday season is nearly upon us. In just a few short weeks many families will gather to celebrate Thanksgiving. The smell of turkey will soon fill houses, stores will become busy with shoppers, and roads will be filled with hungry travelers ready to feast. During this time it is important to be prepared for the hustle and bustle of the holidays.

If you are traveling this Thanksgiving holiday, remember to be patient. Thanksgiving is the busiest travel holiday and travel during this time of year can be hectic.

Follow these tips to help you and your family stay safe while traveling during the holiday season:

- Get a good night's sleep before driving. It is important to avoid driving while drowsy.
- Leave early. There will likely be heavy traffic during your travels, be prepared by leaving extra time in your travel arrangements.
- Buckle up. Be sure every individual in the car is properly buckled in.
- Put your cell phone away. Avoid distractions while driving.
- Designate a sober driver. In 2017, 463 people died on Thanksgiving day. Alcohol impairment was involved in one third of these deaths. Be smart, drive sober!



HAVE A SAFE THANKSGIVING  
~REMEMBER TURKEY!~



T	U	R	K	E	Y
Thaw turkey at a safe temperature - 40°F or below	Use extra caution when frying a turkey and oil-free fryers if possible	Remember to clean all cooking surfaces regularly	Keep children away from hot foods and surfaces, and kitchen utensils	Ensure turkey is cooked and has reached minimum temperature of 165°F	Your smoke detector should be tested prior to cooking
					

Brought to you by: American Safety Council  
**American Safety Council**

Many people will spend countless hours in the kitchen this Thanksgiving preparing a meal for their families. Raw turkey, cooking appliances, and busy kitchens can sometimes lead to holiday mishaps! It is important to keep these safety tips in mind while cooking this holiday:

- When cooking a turkey, make sure to handle it safely. Raw poultry can contaminate anything it touches with harmful bacteria. Be sure to clean all surfaces thoroughly to prevent the spread of bacteria to you and your family.
- Make sure your turkey is thoroughly cooked. Nobody likes a dry turkey, but nobody likes food poisoning either! Make sure your turkey has reached an internal temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit before serving it. You can check this by inserting a food thermometer into the center of the thickest part of the breast.



- Wash your hands often. Washing your hands before and after you handle food will help prevent the spread of germs.
- Do not leave perishable foods out for more than 2 hours. Be sure to refrigerate foods quickly to ensure they don't spoil.
- Keep children away from hot surfaces and fryers.

Learn more about how you and your family can stay safe this holiday at <https://www.cdc.gov/family/holiday/index.htm>.

Pets are often a part of our holiday travels and gatherings. But don't let those puppy dog eyes and cute faces persuade you. Many of the holiday foods we love can cause health problems for our pets! When deciding to feed your pet some of that Thanksgiving turkey be sure it is a small amount and is boneless and well cooked. As much as you may want to, don't give that dog a bone! Bones can cause dogs to choke or they could perforate their stomach causing serious health issues. Be sure that all



alcohol is out of reach of your pets. Even a small amount of alcohol can be toxic to animals. Chocolate is also toxic to dogs, so keep those tasty treats to yourself. Raw bread dough can cause serious problems for your dog or cat. When a dog or cat ingests raw bread dough, the yeast continues to convert the sugars in the dough to carbon dioxide gas and alcohol. This can result in bloated drunken pets, which could become a life-threatening emergency, requiring hospitalization. A bite of mashed potatoes, a small piece of boneless turkey, and even a lick of pumpkin pie shouldn't cause a problem for your pet. However, overindulging in these human treats can cause stomach issues for your furry friend. Learn more about pet food safety at <https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/people-foods-avoid-feeding-your-pets>.

## Fire Safety

Public fire departments responded to 1,318,500 fires in the United States in 2018. These fires included outside, structural, and vehicle fires. Every 24 seconds, a fire department in the United States responds to a fire. A fire occurs in a structure at the rate of one every 63 seconds, and fire in the home occurs every 87 seconds.

It is important to ensure you know your local burn laws and keep up to date on any burn bans in your area. The burn ban in West Virginia was lifted on October 10th, however, it is still important to be safe while burning outside.





The West Virginia Division of Forestry offers these guidelines to help you stay safe any time you burn outdoors:

- All fires must have a ring or safety strip.
- Fires must be attended until completely extinguished.
- Only vegetative materials such as leaves, brush and yard clippings are permitted to be burnt.
- Follow all burning season guidelines, which state that between March 1 and May 31 as well as October 1 through December 31, outdoor burning is prohibited during the daytime hours of 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

It is important to protect your home from the threat of brush and wildfires. Be sure to sweep porches and decks, clearing them of leaves and pine needles. Rake under decks, porches, sheds, and play structures. Clear all leaves, pine needles, debris, and brush from around your home and properly dispose of debris.

There’s nothing quite like enjoying the great outdoors with a roaring fire, gooey s’mores and a night sky full of stars. But that wonderful campfire is also a big responsibility. When camping or having a bonfire at



When camping, prevent wildfires by only starting fires in designated areas.

#BeInformed



- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stove top so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and children should stay 3 feet away.
- Make sure children stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don’t trip over children, toys, or anything that could be a fall or trip hazard.

**5:00 P.M.  
BURNING LAW**

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**MARCH 1—MAY 31  
5:00 P.M.—7:00 A.M.**

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**OCTOBER 1—DECEMBER 31  
5:00 P.M.—7:00 A.M.**

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**MAXIMUM FINE: \$1,000.00  
FOR VIOLATING THE BURNING LAW**

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**BURNING LAWS IN BRIEF**

- \* NO BURNING FROM 7 A.M. UNTIL 5 P.M.
- \* FIRE MUST BE ATTENDED AT ALL TIMES
- \* AREA MUST BE CLEARED DOWN TO MINERAL SOIL FOR A MINIMUM DISTANCE OF 10 FEET AROUND WHAT IS BEING BURNED.
- \* IF YOUR FIRE ESCAPES, YOU ARE LIABLE FOR THE COSTS OF FIGHTING THE FIRE AND ANY DAMAGE THE FIRE MAY CAUSE TO OTHERS.

**WILLFULLY SETTING FIRES IS A FELONY AND PUNISHABLE  
BY FINE AND/OR IMPRISONMENT!  
(WEST VIRGINIA ARSON HOTLINE 1-800-233-FIRE)**

home, please be informed about current and forecasted weather conditions as well as burning regulations in your area. As Smokey Bear says “Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires”. Visit <https://smokeybear.com/en/prevention-how-tos/campfire-safety> for tips and tools about how to enjoy campfires responsibly.

Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment. Safety in the kitchen is an important responsibility to ensure you and your family stay safe. The National Fire Protection Association offers these tips to help keep you safe this Thanksgiving.



- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are properly plugged in and not hanging off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children.
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them monthly by pushing the test button.



For more information on Thanksgiving and cooking safety visit: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Seasonal-fire-causes/Thanksgiving>.

## Quarterly Partnership Meeting



The Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Quarterly Partnership Meeting took place on Friday October 25 at 12 p.m. Guest speakers from various agencies in Jefferson County addressed drought, how it impacts our community, and best management practices for water conservation.

JCHSEM would like to extend our thanks to the following individuals for being a part of our panel discussion: Brandon Chualvas, Harpers Ferry Water; Heather Duncan, West

Virginia Conservation Agency; Kristen Bisom, West Virginia Water Conservation Agency; Tanner Haid, West Virginia Rivers Coalition; Emily Morrow, West Virginia University Extension Service; Lee Orr, West Virginia Bureau for Public Health; Robyn Potter, Farm Service Agency; Tyler Williamson, West Virginia Division of Forestry; and Monica Whyte, West Virginia Bureau for Public Health.



## 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 simultaneous arsons 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 serious threats. In addition, there are several related and unrelated hazardous materials incidents that have occurred, exhausting available resources in the area.



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

- Activate the Incident Command System (ICS) and define the incident response structure; use the Emergency Operations Plan (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](mailto:jchsem@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, 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: November 6, 2019

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

Location: Wyoming County 911 Center, 1022 River Road, Pineville, WV

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.

### 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.

## Basics of Floodplain Management– A356

Date: December 4, 2019

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

Location: 1340 Smith Street, Charleston, WV

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.

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](mailto: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 111 - Livestock in Disasters

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

IS 394 - Protecting Your Home or Small Business From Disaster

IS 906 - Workplace Security Awareness

IS 916 - Critical Infrastructure Security: Theft and Diversion - What You Can Do

## **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 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meetings held on the third Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Please call the office for exact dates, locations, and times.

### **Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee, Paula Marrone-Reese, Chair**

Any interested person can serve on this committee. The Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee is responsible to communicate the organization's activities to the public and to build support for JCHSEM's programs. They work with the Director and other staff to keep the entire community focused on the objectives of JCHSEM, the opportunities for additional involvement and support by updating citizens and businesses about what the partners are doing and how the community will and is benefiting from these efforts. Additionally, they are responsible to assist the program manager in setting up speaking engagements and public awareness events. This committee meets monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

If you are interested in joining any of our committees, contact Stephen Allen at [sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org)

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.

## November 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
- November 6 - Department Head Meeting
- November 11 - Veteran's Day, County Offices Closed
- November 12 - Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting
- November 1 - Public Awareness Committee Meeting
- November 28 & 29 - Thanksgiving Holiday, County Offices Closed