



July, 2015



Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

www.jeffersoncountywv.org/homeland-security.html

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Jane Tabb, County Commission Representative

Kelly Parsons, Nichols, DeHaven & Associates

Pete Dougherty, Jefferson County Sheriff

Chuck Ellison, Frontier Communications, Utility Representative.

John Reisenweber, Jefferson County Development Authority

Sanford H. "Sandy" Green, Region 3 Homeland Security Area Liaison

Holly Frye, Shepherd University Service Learning Program

Staff:

Barbara Miller, CEM, CFM Director

Sandee Niles, Planner/Program Manager/Deputy Director

Brandon Vallee, Administrative Assistant, Public Information Officer and Volunteer Coordinator

JCHSEM Quarterly Partnership Meeting to be held at The Anvil Restaurant on July 22

JCHSEM will hold their Quarterly Partnership Meeting at The Anvil Restaurant on July 22 at Noon.

The speakers for the event will be Doug Pixler and Cheryl Keyrouse with the Eastern Panhandle Transit Authority (EPTA). Exciting changes are happening with transportation in the Eastern Panhandle! Their new Transit Development Plan (TDP) is ready and has been communicated to local governments. A TDP is a comprehensive study of an area and the transportation that is available in it. The TDP is a review of on-going studies and resources available, as well as trends that affect transit. It includes a route level analysis to see what routes were working and which ones were not. Updated route information is now available at <http://www.eptawv.com/>

Lunch options for this event include a choice of:

- Homemade Chicken Salad, Fresh Fruit and Tomatoes in season, served with crackers,
- Blackened salmon atop mixed greens with almonds, blue cheese crumbles, your choice of dressing,
- Angus Cheeseburger with lettuce and tomato, mayo and pickle with French fries,

Home baked cookie

Iced tea and/or water

\$16.00 per person, inclusive of WV Sales Tax and gratuity.

Reservations for the luncheon need to be received no later than July 17th. To make your reservation, contact Sandee Niles at sniles@jeffersoncountywv.org or call 304-728-3329. Be sure to include which lunch option you want, along with your reservation. Payment is to The Anvil at the event.



Jefferson County Preparedness Corner:**Thunderstorm, Tornado, and Lightning Safety and Preparedness**

During the spring and summer months, there is most always a risk of severe storms popping up. In the last part of June this year, severe thunderstorms affected our area by bringing high winds, heavy downpours, and even power outages. It is up to each of us to ensure that we are prepared for such storms both at home and on the road.

Some of the summer severe weather hazards that can affect Jefferson County are listed below: lightning, tornadoes, straight-line winds, flash floods and floods, and hail.

Lightning

- ◆ Lightning causes about 60 deaths and around 400 serious injuries each year in the United States.
- ◆ There is some form of lightning with ANY thunderstorm.
- ◆ Can be dangerous to persons, strike trees, and cause power outages.

Tornadoes

- ◆ While rare in Jefferson County, there is still the threat of isolated tornadoes in large thunderstorms. An EF-2 tornado with wind speeds were between 113 and 206 mph, happened in Jefferson County in 1989. The damage path was four (4) miles long, and 100 yards wide. The tornado resulted in three (3) injuries, and the property damage was estimated at \$100,000.
- ◆ Myth: Tornadoes do not happen in the mountains, or they skip over them. This is false. Tornadoes can strike any geographical location in the United States.
- ◆ Tornadoes cause over 1500 injuries in the United States each year.

Straight-Line Winds

- ◆ Can be just as destructive as tornadoes with winds up to 125 miles per hour.
- ◆ Can occur without warning in large thunderstorms.
- ◆ Can cause tree damage and power outages (See Figure 1).

Figure 1: Tree Damage response on Charles Town Road at Mission Road on 6/23/15. Source: JCHSEM

Flash Floods/Floods

- ◆ The #1 cause of deaths in thunderstorms- more than 90 fatalities/year.
- ◆ Flash-flooding can occur anywhere the rain is falling faster than the ground/road can drain it off and are especially dangerous at low-elevation areas, near rivers and creeks, and at low bridges.
- ◆ “Turn around...don’t drown”. It only takes 6-inches of water to wash a sedan off of the road, and 2 inches of moving water to sweep a person off of their feet.

Hail

- ◆ Can be as large as softballs (over 5-inches in diameter). A severe thunderstorm can have hail the size of quarters within it.
- ◆ Can cause damage to vehicles and property.



Tips to be prepared for spring/summer storms:

- ♦ Find out if you live in a floodplain. Review your insurance policy information to ensure that if you live in a floodplain that your policy has flood insurance included.
- ♦ Check your NOAA weather radio to ensure it is programmed properly for Jefferson County. The Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) for Jefferson County is: 054037.
- ♦ Ensure that all members of your household know how to respond during a severe weather watch or warning.
- ♦ Identify a safe area in your home and office to shelter from severe weather. A safe area is one without external doors or windows on a lower floor such as a bathroom, basement, or interior stairwell.
- ♦ Check to ensure that your emergency supply kit has all needed supplies- especially batteries, food, water, and a first aid kit.
- ♦ JCHSEM offers alert notifications by text, email, Twitter, and in Facebook through the Nixle Alert system. To sign up for these alerts, text your Jefferson County zip code to 888777 then text JCHSEM to the same number.
- ♦ Storm safety and preparedness is everyone's responsibility. Using the tips above and signing up for weather alerts, we can all take the step toward preparedness together.

Recommended Independent Study Courses for July, 2015

Each month, JCHSEM recommends one or more of the FEMA Independent Study Courses for all volunteers to take to increase their knowledge base. The course chosen for July is **IS-360: Preparing for Mass Casualty Incidents: A Guide for Schools, Higher Education, and Houses of Worship**. This course provides leading practices and resources to assist elementary and secondary schools, institutions of higher education, and houses of worship in developing emergency plans for preparing for, responding to, and recovering from mass casualty incidents. At the end of this course, the participants will be able to identify key considerations and strategies for preparing for mass casualty incidents, including:

- ♦ Understanding the threats and challenges.
- ♦ Establishing planning processes.
- ♦ Assessing and mitigating vulnerabilities.
- ♦ Establishing response procedures.
- ♦ Planning for recovery.
- ♦ Staying prepared.

You can access this course at <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-360>

Once completed and the student has passed the online test, a certificate from FEMA will be emailed to you recognizing your course completion.

Climate Change Conference at Blackwater Falls State Park

The Allegheny Highlands Climate Change Initiative is proud to announce an October 16-18 2015 Conference at Blackwater Falls State Park, Davis, WV. The title of the October Conference is "Climate Change and the Highlands: Impacts, Preparedness, and Solutions." Conference registration is open. Early Bird Registration through August 1 is \$75, which includes lunch and conference materials. Conference fee after August 1 is \$100. A block of rooms for the conference has been set aside at Blackwater Falls State Park. For the group rate, be sure to tell them you are with the Friends of Blackwater. Registration is through Eventbrite.

For more information including a partial list of speakers, go to <http://www.alleghenyclimate.org/> Climate Outreach Coordinator Brian Bellew is doing community presentations about their new Report, "On the Chopping Block – the Impacts of Climate Change on the Mid-Atlantic Allegheny Highlands." You can read and download a copy of the Report here:

<http://www.alleghenyclimate.org/documents/Updated%203-16-15%20OTCB%20Report%20twr.pdf>

2015 Disaster Ready Kids Program

JCHSEM is still scheduling for the 2015 Disaster Ready Kids Program through September 30, 2015. If you have questions, please contact Brandon Vallee at 304-724-8914 or email to bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org as soon as possible. If you would like to schedule a session, please ask Brandon to send you the list of available programs and the form to set up your session. We need at least a two-week notice to schedule your activity.

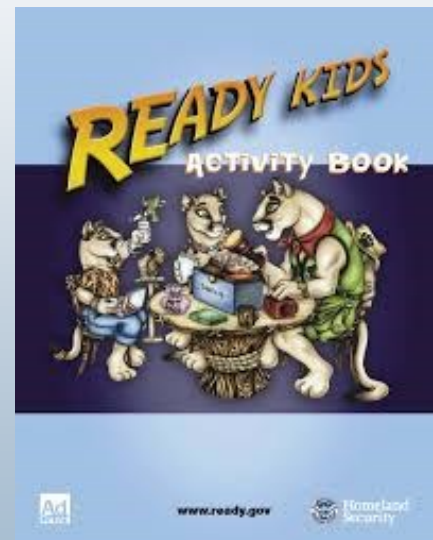
This year we will be utilizing the “Mimi Mouse Learns to Prepare for Emergencies” DVD and accompanying materials. The Mimi Mouse program is designed for 4-7 year olds and provides general tips for parents on how to talk about emergencies, teaches children what an emergency kit is and how to build one, informs children about who to contact during an emergency, and how to review and practice for the family’s emergency plan.

If your group of children is over the age of 9, we can show them how to put together a Family Disaster Kit or a Pet Disaster Supply Kit.

Children in the picture to the right are participating in an activity to learn about flooding and simple mitigation techniques, as well as putting together family disaster preparedness kits.



Through June 30, JCHSEM has presented to approximately 75 children and 15 adults. Call Brandon Vallee today to schedule your group’s presentation!



ASPCA Mobile App

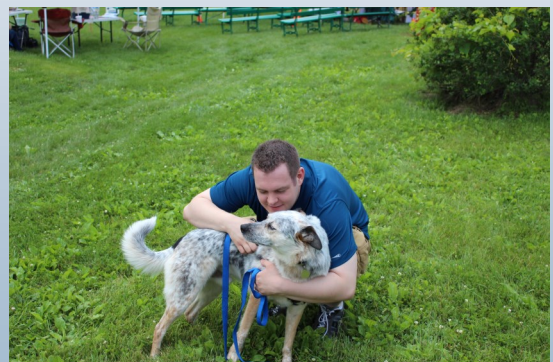
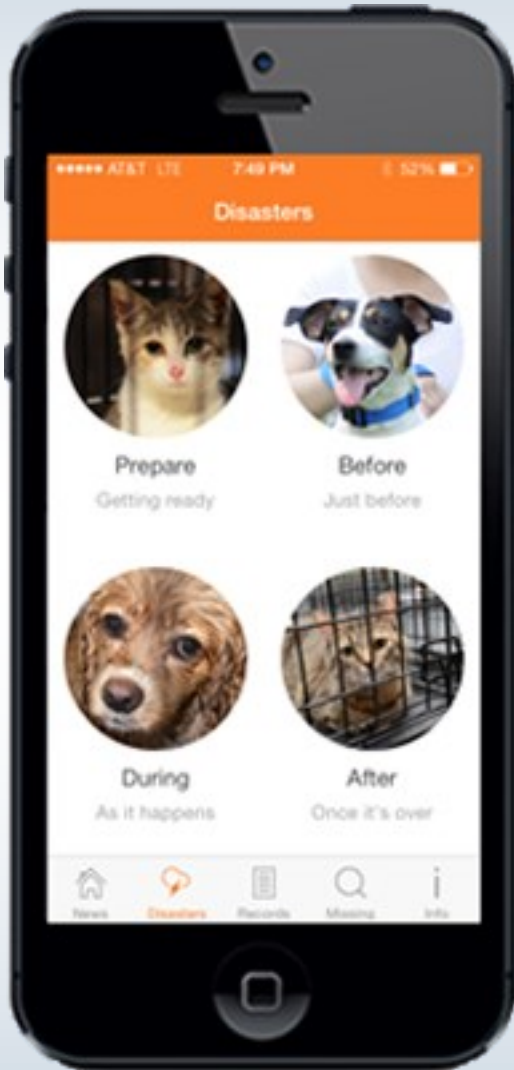
Make pet preparedness easy with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) mobile app.

With the start of hurricane season, the ASPCA mobile app shows pet owners exactly what to do in case of a natural disaster. Available for free download in the App Store and Google Play, users are able to access critical advice on what to do with your pet before, during and after a major storm—even if there's no data connectivity. It also includes a section to store and manage a pet's personal health records, as well as step-by-step instructions on how to search for a lost animal in a variety of circumstances. Get the app by visiting www.bit.ly/ASPCAapp.

Learn more about pet preparedness from the Ready campaign at www.ready.gov/caring-animals. Additionally, pet owners can order a free rescue alert sticker at www.aspc.org/form/free-pet-safety-pack.

With a few swipes, you can:

- Access critical advice on what to do with your pet before, during, and after a major storm—even if there's no data connectivity.
- Store and manage your pet's critical health records.
- Receive a personalized missing pet recovery kit, including step-by-step instructions on how to search for a lost animal in a variety of circumstances.
- Build a lost pet digital flyer that can be shared instantly on your social media channels.
- Get the latest and most relevant news about pets and animal welfare.



Disaster Exercises, 2015

WV Homeland Security Region III (WVHSR3) Initial Planning Workshop was held in Moorefield in December, 2014. Representatives of all of the Counties of WVHSR3 were in attendance. Additional planning meetings are upcoming.

WV Hospital Association, Regions 8 & 9 After Action Meeting.....January 20, 2015 in Hampshire Co.

Jefferson County Government, Continuity of Operations Training and Tabletop Exercise, January 23, 2015

THIRA Training Workshop, Berkeley County.....April 13, 2015

WV Homeland Security Region III Tabletop Exercise.....April 22, 2015

WV Homeland Security Region III Functional Exercise.....July 20, 2015

Jefferson County LEPC Table Top Exercise.....July 23, 2015

WV Homeland Security Region III EM Communications Drill.....August 1, 2015

WV Homeland Security Region III Full Scale Exercise.....September 19, 2015 in each of the Counties of WV Homeland Security Region III. The Jefferson County EOC will be activated, as well as, Emergency Responders in the field.

WV Homeland Security Region 3 Improvement Planning Workshop ..To Be Announced.

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.



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 on the 4th Tuesday of February, March, May, June, August, September and holds a Nov/Dec meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the JCHSEM EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced. The Quarterly Partnership meetings held in January, April, July, and October also serve as the Steering Committee meetings for those months.

Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee, Katherine Dunbar, 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 at 0830 in the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

Partnership and Volunteer Development Committee, Holly Frye, Chair

Any interested person can serve on this committee. The Partnership Development committee assists the staff in identification and recruitment of potential partners and what they have to offer in community preparedness. This committee will be responsible for activities to promote partnership or membership development and recruitment of volunteers. This committee meets quarterly in the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced. at 0830 on the last Monday of January, April, July and October.

Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning Committee, Jeff Jefferies, Chair

Any interested person may serve on this committee. The Risk Assessment/Mitigation Planning Committee examines the community's risks and vulnerability to all hazards and assess the community's vulnerability to those risks. A Risk Assessment and 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. This committee meets Quarterly. Please call the office for exact dates and times.

Counter Terrorism Committee, Barbara Miller, 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 either bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org or bvallee@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.

**Jefferson County Homeland
Security and Emergency
Management**

28 Industrial Blvd., Suite 101
Kearneysville, WV 25430

Barbara Miller, Director
Phone: 304-728-3290
E-mail: bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org

Sandee L. Niles
Dep. Director, Planner and Program Manager
Phone 304-728-3329
Email: sniles@jeffersoncountywv.org

Brandon Vallee, Administrative Assistant,
Public Information Officer and Volunteer
Coordinator
Phone 304-724-8914
Email: bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org

Fax: 304-728-3320

PUBLIC SAFETY; PUBLIC TRUST

The Jefferson County Commission's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department 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 Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning; Public Awareness, Education and Training; Counter Terrorism; Partnership Development and Retention; and a Steering Committee that acts as an advisory group. We are responsible for the Citizen Corps/CERT, StormReady, 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

July 2015

- 2 HAM Radio Night at the EOC 1730
- 3 Independence Day Holiday-Office is Closed
- 8 Public Awareness Committee Meeting at EOC Conference Room 0830
- 14 Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting at the EOC 1400
- 20 WV Homeland Security Region 3 Functional Exercise in Hampshire County 0900
- 22 JCHSEM Quarterly Partnership Luncheon at The Anvil Restaurant, Noon. Reservations required-see page 1
- 23 Jefferson County LEPC Meeting at JC Maintenance Department Meeting Room at 1700
- 23 Jefferson County Propane Risk Assessment Table Top Exercise at JC Maintenance Department Meeting Room at 1800.

August 1-WVHS R3 Emergency Management Communications Drill, throughout Region 3

August 16-22 -Jefferson County Fair Booth, Building 2.

September 19-WV Homeland Security Region 3 Full Scale Exercise-Venues throughout Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Hardy, Grant, Hampshire, Mineral and Pendleton Counties.

September 27-30-Statewide Interoperable Radio Network Conference at Camp Dawson, Kingwood, WV Contact: Bobby Hoge, Vice Chairman, WVSIRN (304) 425-4911 mercer911@citlink.net

October 13-15 WV State Emergency Response Commission/Local Emergency Planning Committee Conference at Camp Dawson, Kingwood, WV Contact: Melissa Cross 304-558-5380

October 27-28, 2015 for the Jefferson County LEPC's Mass Fatalities Conference at The Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Shepherdstown. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2015-mass-fatalities-conference-tickets-15444450768>