



April, 2015



Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

www.jeffersoncountywv.org/homeland-security.html

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Jefferson County Commissioners:

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Patsy Noland, Vice President

Eric Bell

Dale Manuel

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Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Steering Committee:

John Sherwood, Chair

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Katherine Dunbar, Good Shepherd Inter-Faith Caregivers

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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

Vacancy, Planner/Program Manager/Deputy Director

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

Quarterly Partnership Luncheon on April 29 at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Center's National Conservation Training Center

JCHSEM will hold their Quarterly Partnership Luncheon on April 29, 2015 at Noon at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center near Shepherdstown. The address is 698 Conservation Way, Shepherdstown, WV 25443. Following the luncheon, NCTC's Karin Christensen will lead a tour of the facility for those who are interested. If you wish to go on the tour, bring or wear comfortable sturdy shoes. Need directions? Go to <http://nctc.fws.gov/campus/getting-here.html>

Since April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month, we have asked one of the volunteer agencies that assists with Mass Care during activations to speak at the Luncheon. Karen Allen, of the West Virginia Red Cross has been invited to be the speaker and to focus on volunteers and recent changes to the West Virginia Northeast Chapter of the American Red Cross.

You must pre-register to attend this event prior to April 17th. You may do so by contacting Brandon Vallee at 304-724-8914 or by emailing Brandon at bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org

Attendees should start arriving just after 11:30 a.m. for a Noon start time. Our group should park in the Orange Lot and come straight into the Commons Dining Building. Lunch tickets can be purchased in the gift shop for \$9.00 one time through or \$13.00 all you can eat. Once you have purchased your lunch ticket, you may go upstairs to collect food in the servery and bring your tray downstairs into the Lounge. An elevator is available for anyone who wishes to use it.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center is a Federal facility that may search your vehicle upon your arrival to their gate. You have to be on their security's guest list and show your identification to enter the facility.

NCTC is home to a family of eagles again this spring. To watch them live, go to <http://outdoorchannel.com/eaglecam>



West Virginia Floodplain Managers Use Harpers Ferry National Historic Park as their Classroom

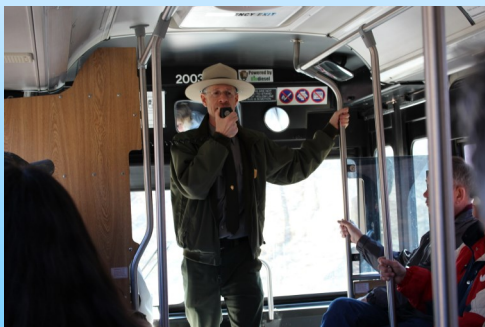
An instructor team of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and West Virginia Homeland Security and Emergency Management (WVDHSEM), Mitigation Division representatives were at the Quality Inn and Conference Center near Harpers Ferry for their L273 Floodplain Management Course at the end of March. Approximately 25 floodplain managers, surveyors, and emergency managers from around West Virginia attended the four-day course. At the end of day one, the group enjoyed a Park Ranger-led tour in the Harpers Ferry National Historic Park to learn about its long flooding history at the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers.



West Virginia Floodplain Managers ready to get on the Shuttle to Harpers Ferry National Historic Park



FEMA representatives: Jon Janowitz, Molly Kaput, and Sarah Wolfe; State representatives: Kevin Sneed and Richard Carte; and local Emergency Manager Barbara Miller At the Point in Harpers Ferry National Historic Park



Ranger Dave



Board showing the history of flood heights in lower town

Recommended Independent Study Courses for April, 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 April course is IS-322, Flood Mitigation Basics for Mitigation Staff. The online course can be found at

<http://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-322>

Topics covered in this module include: How floods cause damage, mitigation measures for personal safety, and structures, and mitigation publications beneficial to local officials, building professionals, and the public. The course takes approximately 1 hour to complete.

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Disaster Ready Kids Program:

JCHSEM is looking for a few people to add to our cadre of volunteers to be trained to become a part of our Disaster Ready Kids Program for the Summer of 2015. The program runs May through September. Volunteers must fill out a Jefferson County Government Volunteer application, successfully pass a background investigation, and complete a training before being accepted for this program. Volunteers will assist JCHSEM staff to present age-appropriate information to children at daycare centers, schools, camps, scout troops, and other youth groups. The presentations may include reading children's disaster preparedness books, showing DVDs, working on activities, teaching pet preparedness, or teaching children how to help their family to prepare a disaster supply kit. Interested persons should contact Brandon Valley, JCHSEM Volunteer Coordinator at 304-724-8914 to apply. Volunteers should love children, be animated readers, and have a passion for teaching preparedness activities. Teachers/counselors of the groups remain with the children at all times.

West Virginia Council of Churches Disaster Spiritual Care Trainings – Spring 2015

Disaster spiritual care is one of the most unique and profound ministries that clergy and laity can provide in the event of a disaster. It is critically important that clergy and laity are able to provide disaster spiritual care according to best pastoral practices, while adhering to local incident command protocols.

This spring, the West Virginia Council of Churches, in conjunction with state and local agencies and organizations will offer Disaster Spiritual Care training in six locations across the state of West Virginia. The purpose of this two-day course is to assist the participants in learning how pastoral interventions and traditional psychological crisis interventions may be effectively integrated in disaster situations. This training qualifies for Level 2, Tier 2 of the West Virginia Council of Churches Disaster Spiritual Care program guidelines.

Dates of the trainings are:

April 13 – 14, Huttonsville

April 20 – 21, Wheeling

April 28 – 29, Martinsburg

May 14 – 15, Bluefield

May 28 – 29, Parkersburg

June 1 – 2, Charleston

There is no cost for the training and lunch is provided on both days, although housing and other meals are on your own. To register for the training or for more information, please go to wvresiliency.com or contact Rev. Jeff Allen by phone at (304) 344-3141 or by email at director@wvcc.org.

Jefferson County Community Ministries/Homeless Coalition Cold-Weather Shelter Season Comes to a Close

Reprinted from the Jefferson County Community Ministries Newsletter

Beginning in January of this year, the Jefferson County Homeless Coalition became a formal ministry of Community Ministries. This organization has partnered with many local churches and organizations to provide emergency cold-weather sheltering for those experiencing homelessness and, at the end of March, will be completing the fifth shelter year. Thanks to the many volunteers who staffed shelter nights beginning in November and the churches who hosted the shelter this season: Asbury United Methodist in Charles Town, Charles Town Baptist, Zion Episcopal, St. James Catholic, Oakland United Methodist, St. Thomas Lutheran, Shepherdstown Presbyterian, Fellowship Bible, and our two newest churches, Kingdom Life Cathedral and Asbury United Methodist in Shepherdstown. Thanks also to the many churches and organizations which have provided a hot meal each and every night of the week.

Jefferson County to Participate in the 2015 America's PrepareAthon!



JCHSEM will again participate in America's PrepareAthon! America's PrepareAthon! is an opportunity for individuals, organizations, and communities to prepare for specific hazards through drills, group discussions, and exercises. While the National PrepareAthon! Day is April 30, 2015, Jefferson County will have a series of preparedness events that will revolve around taking the actions to prepare for all hazards. The first of the local events is participation in the West Virginia Homeland Security Region 3 Tabletop Exercise on April 22 in Berkeley County. (See page 5) The next activity will be the Quarterly Partnership Luncheon on April 29 at the National Conservation Training Center. (See page 1) The final event will be on National Pet Preparedness Day on May 9. (Watch for next month's newsletter!)

If you would like more information about America's PrepareAthon! and how you, your family or organization can become more involved, visit <http://www.community.fema.gov/connect.ti/AmericasPrepareathon/view?objectId=3222352>

WV Homeland Security Region 3 to hold annual Table Top Exercise

West Virginia Homeland Security Region 3, which is comprised of the counties of Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Grant, Hardy, Hampshire, and Mineral Counties will hold their annual Table Top Exercise on April 22 in Berkeley County.

This year's exercise series, which includes the TTX on April 22, a Functional Exercise in July, and culminates with a Full Scale Exercise on September 19, is being designed and directed by representatives of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and their contractors. The scenario of the exercise series will not be announced until the TTX begins on April 22.

Participants include representatives from Emergency Management, Emergency Communications, Fire Service, Haz Mat, EMS, Law Enforcement, Military Assets, National Weather Service, Mass Care, Public Health, Hospital representatives, Environmental Health, Transportation, Amateur radio, Engineering and Public Works, Volunteer Agencies, as well as, Federal, State and Local elected officials from each of the seven counties.

Below are pictures from last year's exercise series:



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 Date To Be Announced

Jefferson County LEPC Tabletop Exercise.....To Be Announced

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**

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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

April, 2015

- 2 HAM Radio Testing at Jefferson County EOC
- 8 Public Awareness Committee Meeting at Jefferson County EOC at 0830
- 15 Jefferson County LEPC Meeting at the Jefferson County EOC at 0730
- 22 WV Homeland Security Region 3 Table Top Exercise, 1000-1500 in Berkeley County.
- 29 Quarterly Partnership Luncheon at U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Conservation Training Center at Noon. You must RSVP to attend. See page 1.
- 30 America's PrepareAthon! See page 4

Other dates to plan for:

May 9-National Pet Preparedness Day

June through September-Disaster Ready Kids Program

June 6-Bark in the Park

June 7-10 West Virginia Emergency Management Conference at Canaan Valley State Park

July-Date & Place TBA-WV Homeland Security Region 3 Functional Exercise

August 16-22 -Jefferson County Fair Booth

September-National Preparedness Month

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

October 27-28, 2015 for the Jefferson County LEPC's Mass Fatalities Conference at The Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Shepherdstown! Watch for more information in the coming months!!