



May, 2012

Jefferson County Commissioners:

Patsy Noland, President

Dale Manuel, V. President

Frances Morgan

Walt Pellish

Lyn Widmyer

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Steering Committee:

John Sherwood, Chair

Amy Jones, Vice Chair-
Jefferson County Dept. of Health

Katherine Dunbar, Good Shepherd Inter-Faith Caregivers

Mason Carter, Jefferson County Department of Engineering

Jeffrey Polczynski, ENP, Jefferson County Emergency Communications Center

Dale Manuel, County Commission Representative

Kelly Parsons, Nichols, DeHaven & Associates

Ed Smith, Fire Representative

Bobby Shirley, Jefferson County Sheriff

Paul Espinosa, Frontier Communications, Utility Representative.

Lane Donley, Jefferson County Development Authority

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

Holly Morgan-Frye, Shepherd University Service Learning Program

Lorraine Kelly, American Red Cross

Staff:

Barbara Miller, CEM, CFM Director

Terri Mehling, Planner/Program Manager/Deputy Director

Jennifer Maggio, Administrative Assistant, Public Information Officer and Volunteer Coordinator

“Operation Crazy Train” LEPC Tabletop Exercise Simulated a Train Derailment, Major Fire, Hazardous Materials and Mass Fatalities

Over 40 people gathered on April 30th to participate in the Jefferson County LEPC's Tabletop Exercise, "Crazy Train". The scenario was a derailed train, a major fire, hazardous materials, and mass fatalities. It was held at the new Jefferson County Maintenance Department's meeting room in Bardane.

"Everything they came up with is a real possibility and I think the worst case scenario is what you should study and get people working together so they know what they are supposed to do," said Dr. Bob Johnson, Chairman of the Jefferson County Board of Health, who was a participant in the exercise.

The tabletop exercise enabled emergency responders and emergency management personnel to work through the exercise injects face-to-face.

"The purpose of a tabletop exercise is to go through our plans, policies and procedures to identify any weaknesses that we might have and to meet those that everyone will be working with when a real event happens," said Jennifer Maggio, Public Information Officer for Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

"Norfolk-Southern Railway assisted the planning team for the exercise to make it as real as possible, based upon chemicals that regularly are transported through our community. While safety is a main priority of those who transport hazardous materials, there is always a chance that something can go very wrong," said Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director, Barbara Miller. "Everyone here has a common goal of protecting lives, protecting property and the environment, and protecting our community. Everyone worked well through the scenarios and ended the evening by identifying strengths and weaknesses."

Jennifer Lee, from WHAG-TV, Hagerstown, covered the exercise, which aired on April 30, 2012.





Thanks to our partners at River Riders for their donation of a Free Rafting Trip for our Quarterly Partnership Meeting in May. It was won by County Assessor, Angie Banks. For more information about River Riders, go to www.riverriders.com



Quarterly Partnership Meeting on May 2nd.



David Hoge, of the Cabinet Secretary's Office, WV Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety spoke about the new National Preparedness Grant Program.

Bits & Pieces

The Jefferson County Department of Health has started a new Mass Fatalities Committee. Sandy Hite, Threat Preparedness Coordinator is the POC for this committee.

Attention all NIMSCAST Coordinators!!! It is time to update your NIMSCAST accounts for each Department and Agency. Please do your update and rollup as soon as possible. If your agency has had a replacement in personnel for doing this task since last year, contact Chuck Bennett, the state's NIMS coordinator and he will assign someone in your agency with a new password and user account.

Representatives from FEMA were visiting Jefferson County's mitigated properties recently. There are properties where the County did mitigation projects during the late 1990's so that future floods would not be harmful to those properties. The County had to agree to keep these properties as Open Space forever. FEMA representatives visit the properties every two years to assure that we are holding up to our end of the bargain.

Watch your June issue of this newsletter for information about the 2013 Jefferson County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Plan and THIRA update. The Mitigation Committee will reconvene in June to review our current plan and projects, as required and start moving towards the new plan. This plan, updated and revised every 5 years, is a requirement for all communities so that they can receive FEMA funds after a disaster. Additionally, if the community receives any funds for the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, the Severe Repetitive Loss Program, the Repetitive Flood Claim Program, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program, or the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, this plan is also a requirement. Jefferson County is a Community Rating System of the National Flood Insurance Program and receives a number of points towards its reduction of flood insurance rates to residents, due to the planning process and contents of our Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan. The planning committee is made up of agencies, private businesses, representatives of county and local governments, non-governmental agencies, PSDs, responder agencies, and other interested parties. Mason Carter, Jefferson County's Floodplain Manager, serves as the Chairman of the Mitigation Committee.

THIRA-The Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment has been anticipated new guidance. The THIRA process provides a common way to more fully understand all of the risks communities face and is now required for homeland security and emergency management grantees. The process ties the risk of a threat or hazard to capabilities to look at gaps as a part of a comprehensive preparedness cycle. What makes THIRA unique is that it doesn't just look at natural hazards or terrorist threats. Instead it takes into account the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to a community—regardless of the cause. The preparedness guide lays out a five-step process on how to do that, and it is adaptable to the needs and resources of our local, and state homeland security and emergency management partners. The five steps are:

- ⇒ Identify the threats and hazards of concern—What could happen in my community?
- ⇒ Give the threats and hazards context-Describe how a threat or hazard could happen in my community, and when and where it could happen.
- ⇒ Examine the core capabilities using the threats and hazards-How would each threat or hazard affect the core capabilities identified in the National Preparedness Goad?
- ⇒ Set Capability Targets-Using the information above, set the level of capability a community needs to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from its risks
- ⇒ Apply the results-Use the capability targets to decide how to use resources from the Whole Community. Throughout the THIRA process, our goal is for communities to find out what data and information they should check regularly and keep updated so that they can recognize when their community's threats and hazards change. THIRA helps jurisdictions focus on key information about their community and how that jurisdiction and community interacts with its partners at all levels. It is important to note that while the THIRA will be used to inform resource allocation and planning, the THIRA will not replace hazard mitigation plans. The THIRA will take into account these plans.

May is National Pet Month

10 Ways to Celebrate and Prepare your Pet for Disasters

What better time to prepare your pets for future disasters than during May, which is National Pet Month! Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management offers the following advice to help you with your planning:

1. If you are like most Americans, your pets ARE family, so include the needs of your pets in your family's disaster planning. Who will be able to take care of your pet if something happens while you are away from home and you can't get back to him or her? If you should have to evacuate from your residence, have you identified pet-friendly hotels to stay in along the way to your family's identified back up location? Is your pet tagged or micro-chipped to identify it in case you should get separated? Do you have your vet's contact information on your cell phone?
2. Include a disaster supply kit for your pets, as well as your human family. Your pets needs will include food and water for at least a week; some favorite toys; a leash/harness; a pet carrier with plenty of room for him to move around and contact info for you; a pet first aid kit; a copy of the pet's vet records/proof of vaccinations; and pictures of you with your pet, in case you are separated.
3. Keep your pets up-to-date on their vaccinations. Keep their rabies tags and ID tags on them, and have a hard copy of proof of vaccinations in case of emergencies.
4. Take a class to learn more! FEMA (The Federal Emergency Management Agency) offers there IS-10, Animals in Disaster-Preparedness and Awareness Course online for free. You can find it at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is10a.asp>
5. The American Veterinary Medical Association has a booklet, available in both English and Spanish called, "Saving the Whole Family" that has lots of tips on preparing pets for disasters. You can download it for free at <https://ebusiness.avma.org/EBusiness50/ProductCatalog/product.aspx?ID=140> for the English version. The Spanish version is at <https://ebusiness.avma.org/EBusiness50/ProductCatalog/product.aspx?ID=257> They also have large quantities of the book for sale at the same url.
6. Ready.gov has a brochure, titled, "Preparing your Pets for Emergencies Makes Sense-Get Ready Now. Also free from: http://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/pets_brochure.pdf
7. Remember your pet's sanitation needs when planning and keep needed supplies in your pet disaster kit.
8. Contact the American Red Cross for information and costs of their Pet First Aid Books. They have one for cats and one for dogs.
9. Consider becoming trained by the Humane Society of the United States to become a member of the National Disaster Animal Response Team. Find out more at http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/animal_rescue/ndart/ndart.html
10. Visit the JCHSEM Booth at Bark in the Park on June 2nd, at the Jefferson County Fair August 19-25th, or call us at 304-724-8914 to find out more.



The Animal Welfare Society of Jefferson County will hold Bark in the Park at Jefferson Memorial Park in Charles Town on June 2nd. JCHSEM will have a booth where you can pick up brochures about how to prepare your pets for disasters.

Below is the day's schedule of events:

9 am Vendor setup
 9:30 am Event Registration
 10:00 am Blessing of Animals
 10:15 am Interactive Dog Walk
 10:30 am Raffle, Dog Games
 10:45 am Demonstrations
 11:15 am Biscuit Walk
 11:45 am Lunch/ Dog Games
 Noon Demonstrations
 12:15 pm Group Dog Games
 12:30 pm Canine Contests
 1:00 pm Fashion Show
 1:15 pm Canine Contests
 1:45 pm Pledge/Raffle winners



Pictures from the 2011 Bark in the Park



UPCOMING EXERCISES

There are many opportunities this year for agencies and departments to participate in exercises. Below is a list that our County will be involved with during 2012. If your agency or group is interested in participating in any of the exercises below, please contact JCHSEM as soon as possible. Those agencies and volunteers that serve in the EOC will be contacted to serve in the full scale exercises that involve their emergency function. Exercises are designed to test plans, procedures, and resources in a safe learning environment.

January

Regions 8 & 9-WV Hospital Association Exercise—COMPLETE

WV Department of Agriculture Workshop/Seminar-Avian Flu Scenario-COMPLETE

February

167th Air Guard TTX-Active Shooter Scenario-COMPLETE

County Government Continuity of Operations-Workshop/Seminar-COMPLETE

County Government Continuity of Operations-TTX-COMPLETE

EPA/Corp of Engineers-Jennings Randolph Lake Dam REGIONAL-Workshop/Seminar-COMPLETE

March

28-National Capitol Region-Mass Dispensing Full Scale Exercise-COMPLETE

April

30-Jefferson County LEPC Table Top Exercise. Hazardous Materials/Commodity Flow scenario-COMPLETE

June

7 in Mineral County, WV. EPA/Corp of Engineers-Jennings Randolph Lake Dam REGIONAL Table Top Exercise. This will include the counties of: Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Hampshire, Hardy, Grant, and Mineral. This exercise involves a breach of the DAM that will bring heavy flooding to the communities along the Potomac River. Please contact your local emergency manager in your county if you are interested in participating. Planning for this regional exercise is being done by the EPA-Don McLaughlin and Chris Behr.

September

8-EPA/Corp of Engineers-Jennings Randolph Lake Dam REGIONAL Full Scale Exercise. This will include the counties of Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Hampshire, Hardy, Grant, and Mineral. This exercise involves a breach of the DAM that will bring heavy flooding to the communities along the Potomac River. Please contact your local emergency manager in your county if you are interested in participating. Planning for this regional exercise is being done by the EPA-Don McLaughlin and Chris Behr.

*Other exercises will be considered as they are presented.

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.

Animals in Disaster Committee, Kelly Parsons, Chair

Any interested person can serve on this committee. The Animals in Disaster Committee is responsible for developing and updating the Animals in Disaster Plan and to work with the JCHSEM to make recommendations regarding the Animals Annex of the Emergency Operations Plan. They will also identify potential resources for animals before, during and after a disaster. The committee meets on the 3rd Monday of the months of January, April, July, October at 9:30 a.m. in the JCHSEM EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

Emergency Planning for People with Special Needs Committee-Amy Jones, Chair

Any interested person can serve on this committee. The Emergency Planning for People with Special Needs Committee is responsible for training and planning for issues of people who have mobility problems, people who have sight or hearing problems, people who speak a language other than English as their first language, the elderly and the very young, people who use oxygen or other medical devices and anyone who may need special assistance during times of disasters and/or evacuations. This committee will work with the JCHSEM to update the portion of the Emergency Operations Plan that deals with these special needs. This committee meets on the 3rd Monday of the months of March, June, September, and December at 9:30 a.m. in the JCHSEM EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced. This room IS handicapped accessible.

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 is setting up speaking engagements and public awareness events. This committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month except December at 8:30 a.m. in the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville unless otherwise announced.

Partnership and Volunteer Development Committee, Holly Morgan-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 8:30 a.m. on the last Monday of January, April, July and October.

Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning Committee, Mason Carter, Chair

Any interested person may serve on this committee. The Risk Assessment/Mitigation Planning Committee will examine the community's risks and vulnerability to all hazards and assess the community's vulnerability to those risks. Additionally, they will look at specific buildings, infrastructure, etc. to determine which are most susceptible to risks. A Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan was completed and adopted by the Jefferson County Commission, all Jefferson County municipalities, WVOHSEM, and Federal Emergency Management Agency in July, 2003; updated the original document in 2008. Next update in 2013. This committee meets on an "as needed basis". Please call the office at 728-3329 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 tmehling@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

Terri Mehling, Dep. Director, Planner and
Program Manager
Phone 304-728-3329
Email: tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org

Jennifer Maggio, Administrative Assistant,
Public Information Officer and Volunteer
Coordinator
Phone 304-724-8914
Email: jmaggio@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; Emergency Planning for Special Populations; Public Awareness, Education and Training; Counter Terrorism; Partnership Development and Retention; Animals in Disaster, and a Steering Committee that acts as an advisory group. We are responsible for the Citizen Corps/CERT, Storm-Ready, Community Rating System, and Project Impact programs. JCHSEM is also responsible for the Jefferson County R.A.C.E.S group.



Meetings & Events

MAY, 2012

- 2 Quarterly Partnership Luncheon at The Anvil in Harpers Ferry at Noon.
- 3 HAM Radio Testing at the Jefferson County EOC at 1800
- 7 Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting at 1400 in the Jefferson County EOC. Note: This is on Monday, due to the holiday on Tuesday!
- 8 Election Day. County Offices are Closed.
- 13-16 WV Floodplain Manager's Conference at Canaan Valley Institute, Davis, WV
- 16-20 WV Public Safety Expo and WV Emergency Management Council Conference, Charleston, WV
- 22 Steering Committee at 0830 at the Jefferson County EOC
- 28 Memorial Day Holiday-County Offices are Closed

JUNE, 2012

- 2 Bark in the Park- 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Jefferson Memorial Park, Charles Town
- 7 WV Homeland Security Area 3 Regional Tabletop Exercise in Mineral County, WV.
- 12 Counter Terrorism Committee at 1400 hours in the Jefferson County EOC
- 18 Emergency Planning for People with Special Needs at 9:30 at the Jefferson County EOC.
- 20 WV Day Holiday; County Offices are Closed
- 26 Steering Committee Meeting at the Jefferson County EOC at 0830