



July, 2012

Jefferson County Chosen to Participate in Resilient Neighbors Network Pilot Project

Seven communities throughout the country were chosen to participate in a new Pilot Program, Resilient Neighbors Network. Developed by the Natural Hazards Mitigation Association (NHMA) in conjunction with Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (FIMA), this grassroots peer-to-peer community program is designed to help communities work together, strengthen, and expand local hazard-mitigation programs. This co-mentoring network will also offer ideas and feedback to FIMA on how they can help increase community resilience to natural hazards. FIMA has developed a "Mitigation Model" to establish mechanisms and incentives to facilitate and enable local risk reduction actions.

Resilient Neighbors Network will help create a widely-dispersed network of peer-to-peer communication, sharing, and support among communities working on resilience and hazard mitigation. The seven communities were chosen because NHMA felt that we have an existing and/or developing grassroots network that could assist with this program. The charter Resilient Neighbors Network includes FEMA Project Impact Communities that embrace mitigation as a community value; FEMA-HUD pilot sustainable communities; as well as existing Smart Growth Communities and others working with NOAA and other Federal Programs. All seven communities have unique experiences and expertise they can share to help refine, develop, and implement the framework. Focus communities will be working on livability, sustainability, hazard mitigation, disaster recovery, resilience, planning, and related issues.

The first step in this program is to gather representatives of the selected communities at the NHMA Practitioner's Workshop in Broomfield, Colorado in July. Funding is provided for a community representative, JCHSEM Director, Barbara Miller, to attend the workshop. A second representative, John Sherwood, Chair of the JCHSEM Steering Committee, has also committed to be a contact for peers to call upon.

Communities chosen to participate in the program include: Jefferson County, WV; Tulsa, OK; Hillsborough County, FL; Pasadena, TX, Grays Harbor, WA, Rockford, IL; and Vermont.

NHMA has established a facebook page for Resilient Neighbors at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Resilient-Neighbors/114981628639754>

Director Miller will be sharing information from the practitioner's meeting at a future community meeting.

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

Administrative Assistant, Public Information Officer and Volunteer Coordinator

2012 Hurricane Names

Alberto
 Beryl
 Chris
 Debby
 Ernesto
 Florence
 Gordon
 Helene
 Isaac
 Joyce
 Kirk
 Leslie
 Michael
 Nadine
 Oscar
 Patty
 Rafael
 Sandy
 Tony
 Valerie
 William

Hurricane Season started on June 1 and will continue through November 30.



The last two hurricanes to cause inland problems in Jefferson County were:

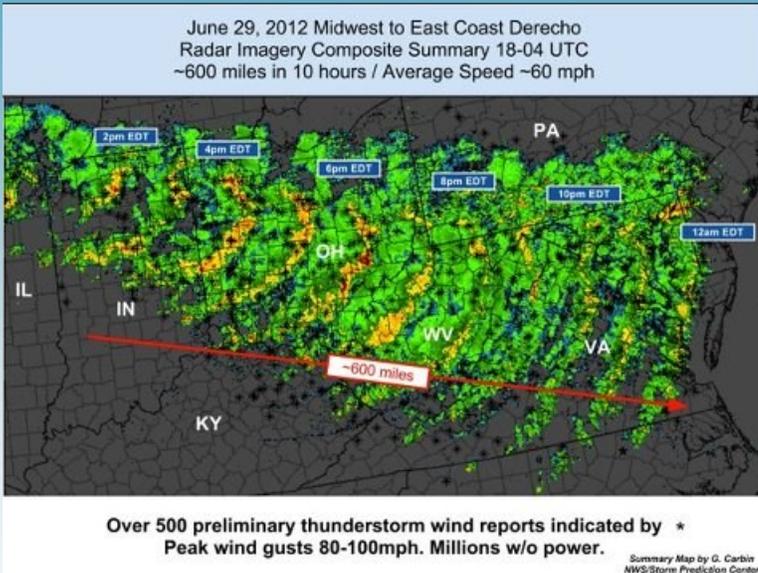
Hurricane Ivan in 2004
 And
 Hurricane Isabel in 2003

Jefferson County Earns a CRS Class 8 Rating 10% Reduction to Flood Insurance Policies



Jefferson County was awarded a plaque from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management recognizing Jefferson County as a CRS Class 8 Community! As a Class 8, residents who live in the unincorporated areas of the County will receive a 10% discount on their flood insurance premiums because of the 18 areas of activities undertaken by the Jefferson County Commission, JCHSEM, and the County's Engineering Department. Shown in the picture above: Jennifer Maggio, JCHSEM; Patricia Noland, President of Jefferson County Commission; Kevin Sneed, NFIP Coordinator for WVDHSEM; Commissioner Frances Morgan; JCHSEM Director, Barbara Miller; Commissioner Dale Manuel; Commissioner Lyn Widmyer; Commissioner Walt Pellish; Mason Carter, Flood Compliance Officer for Jefferson County Engineering Department; Deputy Director, Terri Mehling, JCHSEM; and Director of Engineering, Roger Goodwin.

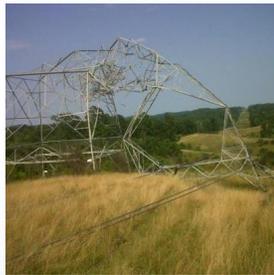
DERECHO, 2012



A Derecho, (pronunciation day-RAY-cho) is a widespread, long lived, straight-line wind-storm that is associated with a fast-moving band of severe thunderstorms. Generally, derechos are convection-induced and take on a bow echo form of squall line, forming in an area of divergence in the upper levels of the troposphere, within a region of low-level warm air advection and rich low-level moisture. They travel quickly in the direction of movement of their associated storms, similar to an outflow boundary, except that the wind is sustained and increases in strength behind the front, generally exceeding hurricane-force. A warm-weather phenomenon, derechos occur mostly in summer during the months of June and July

in the Northern Hemisphere, within areas of moderately strong instability and moderately strong vertical wind shear. They may occur at any time of the year and occur as frequently at night as during the daylight hours.

“Assistant Chief 6 to Jefferson. Be advised that Middleway is experiencing strong shear winds at this time.” Within minutes of this communication, high winds, thunder and lightning lit up our world in Jefferson County. The National Weather Service in Sterling had issued severe thunderstorm warnings after a day of unusually-high temperatures in the Panhandle. By the time the storm passed, over 14,000 Jefferson Countians were without power. Critical infrastructure relied on purring generators for the next several days, including water and sewage pump stations, communications towers and equipment, some of our fire stations, busi-



nesses and farms. When this picture of a Potomac Edison Transmission Tower went viral on Facebook the next morning, we realized that we had experienced something historic.

Locally, the roof off of The Jefferson County Commission’s administrative office building, known as



“Hunter House” blew off during the storm, the wind damaged a horse barn near Ranson, and a roof on one of the buildings in the industrial park; and there was some structural damages to some houses done by trees falling onto them and/or wind damage.

The front page of the local newspaper, The Spirit of Jefferson, showed the picture of a tree that fell onto a truck in Charles Town.

DERECHO Continued....

The aftermath of the storm left downed trees and power lines, and roads completely blocked. Even the trains had to be stopped while crews cleared the tracks of trees, lines and debris. States of Emergency



were declared by the Governor and the Jefferson County Commission as citizens were suffering and widespread outages would last for a week for some of our residents. The Emergency Operations Center was activated to coordinate information and resources and to act as a liaison between the County and state and federal resources. Two tractor trailers of water were brought into the County from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) that was tasked to the Jefferson County Department of Health to distribute, along with the operation of cooling shelters for local residents. Boy Scout Troops, Fire Fighters and the Health Department

assisted with unloading water and water distribution. Some of the Fire Companies delivered water to local farms for their livestock.



DERECHO HEROS

Cooling Stations were set up by the Department of Health at the Health Department, Wildwood Middle School, Jefferson High School and Washington High School initially. Faith-based organizations in the community stepped up to open additional cooling stations at the Camp Hill United Methodist Church in Bolivar/Harpers Ferry, the Covenant Baptist Church in Shepherdstown, Oakland United Methodist Church in Charles Town, and St. Andrews Mountain Community Center on Mission Road, some offering cooling and water, others offering showers, recreation, food, and the opportunity to plug in and charge electronic devices. Jefferson County Parks and Recreation opened their doors for a cooling station and as a place where parents could let their children come to play during the hot days, and offered showers.



Some of the heros of the storm: First of all, our emergency responders who were out in the storm volunteering to keep their community safe and the 911 dispatchers that were keeping it all straight behind the scenes. The power company crews were working as many hours as was legal to get power restored, as well as Comcast and Frontier Communications. Lets not forget our WV Department of Highways crew as they worked endlessly to get trees removed and the roads back open.

Jefferson County Schools provided us with the use of their schools for cooling stations, use of their buses to transport if needed, and basically anything else that they had that we needed. The Jefferson County Maintenance Department is always there during the storm for the EOC and for the community as they assist the EOC with things that don't seem to fall in anyone else's duty.



Several businesses in the County suffered economic loss from the storm, but those still running stepped up. River Riders held a BBQ for local residents still without power. Wal-Mart donated water and snacks to begin the distribution with the Health Department, The Bavarian Inn gave discounted rates to locals who had no power, Vivo Day Spa donated Happy Meals to local children whose families didn't have power, Martins teamed up with First Energy and the Red Cross to give away water and ice, No disaster would be complete without the assistance of the WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, who were there coordinating at the state level and ordering resources for local Emergency Managers. Gov. Thomblin, General Hoyer, Chuck Runyon, and Director Gianato visited Jefferson and Berkeley Counties during the days following the storm. JCHSEM wishes to commend the residents for their patience and their willingness to help one another throughout the recovery!

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. -COMPLETE

14 Director was an evaluator for the Bluestone Dam Functional Exercise in Preston County-COMPLETE

July 30 at The Augusta Church in Augusta, Hampshire County. Jennings Randolph Lake Regional Functional Exercise.

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 in 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

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Keameysville, WV 25430

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Terri Mehling, Dep. Director, Planner and Program Manager
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Administrative Assistant, Public Information Officer and Volunteer Coordinator
Phone 304-724-8914
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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; 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

JULY, 2012

June 29-July 6, EOC was activated for June 2012 Derecho

4 Independence Day Holiday-EOC was activated

10 Counter Terrorism Committee at 1400 hours in the Jefferson County EOC—This will be the After Action Meeting from the Derecho

11 Public Awareness Committee at Jefferson County EOC at 8:30 a.m.

16 Animals in Disaster Committee at 9:30 a.m. at Jefferson County EOC

24 Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning Committee Annual Review of 2008 Plan's Projects

25 Quarterly Partnership Meeting at the Bavarian Inn at Noon. Lunch is \$15 all inclusive. Charlene Gilliam of Potomac Edison is the speaker! RSVP to Terri Mehling at 304-728-3329 or tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org no later than July 18.



Jennifer Maggio's last day with JCHSEM is July 11th. She graduated from Mountain State University with a B.S. in Organizational Leadership this summer and has accepted a job with the firm, 2020., They are a contractor for NOAA. If you have the opportunity, please stop in to say goodbye. She will be missed by our department and many of you. We wish her every success and happiness as she moves on. Good Luck, Jennifer!!