



November, 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

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 &amp; 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

Jessica Owens, Administrative Assistant, Public Information Officer and Volunteer Coordinator

# SUPER STORM SANDY

As the National Hurricane Center and National Weather Service made predictions for Hurricane Sandy, Jefferson County started preparing for a variety of scenarios, tropical storm strength winds, possible heavy downpours, and possible flooding. The Emergency Operations Center was activated at 8 p.m. on Sunday, October 28 to coordinate information and resources throughout the storm, and closed at 8 a.m. on October 31.

At one point on the night of October 29, the National Weather Service predicted 18 ft. historic flooding on the Opequon Creek. Evacuation notices were given out by both Jefferson and Berkeley Counties on their respective sides of the creek. Thankfully, not as much rain was received as originally predicted and the creek crested at a much lower level than expected. That, combined with counties west of us getting snow instead of rain, further reduced the threat. By Wednesday, all of the rivers in Jefferson County had crested and Jefferson Countians considered themselves very fortunate. "We had devastation to our East and heavy snow and downed trees and power lines to our West. Somehow, we got through this one unscathed," said Barbara Miller, Jefferson County's Emergency Manager.



RESA To Hold ICS 300 and 400 Classes for local Emergency Responders.

JCHSEM will host the Class.

The Regional Education Service Agency (RESA) will be teaching an ICS 300 and 400 Class at the Jefferson County Maintenance Department, 128 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, WV 25430, on January 8, 9, and 10, 2013, from 9 a.m.—5p.m. daily. This class is being held for Emergency Responders throughout WV Homeland Security Region 3 and is being hosted by Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Responders interested in this course should either register on the RESA website or call 304-728-3290 to register. This course is free, as it is paid for by West Virginia Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

The instructor will be Dr. Mike Athey.

## Jessica Owens Joins JCHSEM as Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer/Volunteer Coordinator



JCHSEM is happy to announce the addition of Jessica Owens to their staff as Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer/Volunteer Coordinator.

Jessica recently received her Masters Degree in Political Science from James Madison University.

She served as an Intern on Capitol Hill for Senator Kit Bond of Missouri, her home state. She has also done internships at Northern Shenandoah Valley Planning District where she assisted with their All Hazards Mitigation Plan and worked in an attorney's office in Virginia. She currently resides in Shepherdstown. She was sworn into her new position on November 7 by Jefferson County Clerk, Jennifer Maghan. Please join us in welcoming Jessica to our staff!

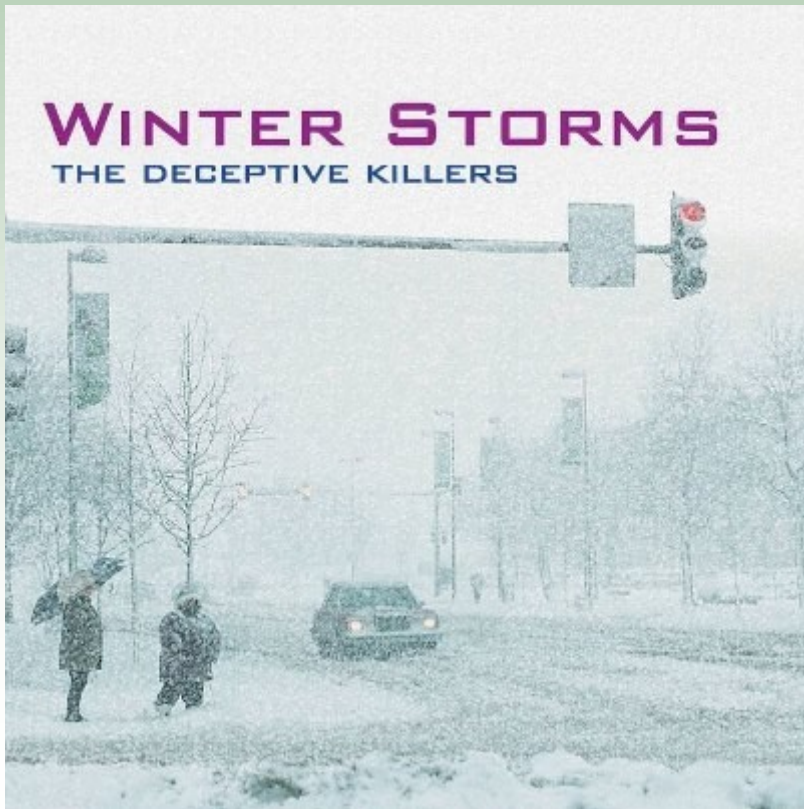
## CERT Class Finished Before the Holidays

The final night of Community Emergency Response Team Training was held at the Jefferson County EOC in November. Five members of the 13-member class completed the training. "Those who missed one or more of this round of training will be able to make it up and graduate with the next class, which will be held in the Spring of 2013," said Terri Mehling, JCHSEM Deputy Director/Planner/Program Manager.





## Are You Prepared for Winter Weather?



Each year, dozens of Americans die due to exposure to cold. Add to that number, vehicle accidents and fatalities, fires due to dangerous use of heaters and other winter weather fatalities and you have a significant threat.

Threats, such as hypothermia and frostbite, can lead to loss of fingers and toes or cause permanent kidney, pancreas and liver injury and even death. You must prepare properly to avoid these extreme dangers. You also need to know what to do if you see symptoms of these threats.

A major winter storm can last for several days and be accompanied by high winds, freezing rain or sleet, heavy snowfall and cold temperatures.

People can become trapped at home or in a car, without utilities or other assistance.

Attempting to walk for help in a winter storm can be a deadly decision.

The aftermath of a winter storm can have an impact on a community or region for days, weeks or even months.

Extremely cold temperatures, heavy snow and coastal flooding can cause hazardous conditions and hidden problems.

For more information, please refer to the NWS Publication: Winter Storms...The Deceptive Killers at [http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/resources/Winter\\_Storms2008.pdf](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/resources/Winter_Storms2008.pdf)





2012—A year that brought West Virginia four declared disasters. Two of those affected Jefferson County—The Derecho (Straight Line Wind Storm) on June 29, 2012 and Super Storm Sandy on October 29, 2012. We also participated in twelve disaster exercises over the course of the year testing our plans, our equipment, our ability to communicate, and sometimes, our patience. We also updated plans, signed Memoranda of Understanding, formed new partnerships and said good-bye to some very special people. Below are some of our favorite pictures from 2012. Thank you to all who helped in a variety of ways throughout the year by volunteering, allowing us to use your resources, and for your cooperation and support. Happy Holidays. Whatever 2013 brings, we'll be here to support your efforts and to help you get the information you need to get prepared, stay prepared, and assist you when it all goes South! Wishing you safe and happy holidays!



## 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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-

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. The 2013 Plan is now being developed. 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 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 either [bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org) or [tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto: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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**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**

### **November, 2012**

- 1 HAM Radio Testing in the JCHSEM Ham Room 1730
- 6 General Election Day, Offices are Closed
- 7 C.E.R.T. Crime Prevention and Terrorism Awareness Class, Jefferson County EOC 1800
- 8 C.E.R.T. Disaster Psychology, Animals in Disaster, and Emergency Planning for People with Special Needs
- 13 Counter Terrorism Committee at EOC at 1400 hours
- 13 C.E.R.T. Light Search and Rescue at EOC at Jefferson County EOC at 1800
- 14 Public Awareness Committee Meeting at 0830 in Jefferson County EOC
- 15 C.E.R.T. Final Exercise and Graduation, Jefferson County EOC at 1800
- 16 Mass Fatalities Meeting at Ranson Police Department at 1400
- 27 Steering Committee at 0900 at Jefferson County EOC
- 27 Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning Committee in the Jefferson County EOC

### **December, 2012**

- 11 Counter Terrorism Committee at EOC at 1400 hours
- 12 LEPC Meeting at 0730 at Quality Conference Center, Harpers Ferry