



March, 2011

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.****Tom Bayuzik, Jefferson County Development Authority****Pamela Holstein-Wallace, Region 3 Homeland Security Planner****Holly Morgan-Frye, Shepherd University Service Learning Program****Amy Grove, Eastern Panhandle Chapter, 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**

EPOCC to Develop a Regional Animals in Disaster Annex

The Eastern Panhandle Office of Emergency Management Coordinating Committee (EPOCC) will work together to develop one Regional Animals in Disaster Emergency Operations Plan Annex that will be used by all seven counties. The counties that make up EPOCC are Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Hampshire, Hardy, Grant and Mineral. The group recently was awarded a \$15,000 Homeland Security Grant from the State Administrative Agency to hire a contractor to work with them to develop the annex and identify all of the animal resources in the region. The annex will address domestic pets, agricultural animals, service animals, and unique animal issues that face the Eastern Panhandle region. "We all have similar issues when it comes to dealing with pets and other animals during disasters," said Barbara Miller, Jefferson County's Emergency Manager. "If you think back to Hurricane Katrina, you will remember seeing pictures of dogs and cats that had been left behind when their owners had to evacuate. Additionally, some people refused to evacuate because they couldn't take their pets with them. Humane groups worked for months to rescue animals after that disaster and to try to identify and reunite found animals with their owners. Thus, the PETS Act (The Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006) was born, which now requires all jurisdictions to include pets in their disaster planning, among other things. We are all facing even more difficult times planning for emergencies when all of the local animal shelters are full. There are different challenges when the economy isn't as strong as it once was. Rather than all of us struggling with the same requirement, we have decided to work on it together and look at it from a regional perspective." A Request for Proposals has been released. Any company wishing to receive a copy of the RFP or if there are people or groups in the region that would like to participate in the planning process, they can contact their local county emergency manager. The plan should be complete by mid-August, 2011.



Community Mourns the Loss of K-9 Andy

The community is mourning the loss of Jefferson County Sheriff's Department K-9 officer, G.W. Kilmer's longtime four-legged partner, a retired police canine named "Andy" who passed away from unexpected health problems. Kilmer, a six-year veteran of the Sheriff's Department, said the purebred long-haired German Shepherd passed away after undergoing emergency surgery in Winchester, Va. "His stomach was flipped and we rushed him to Winchester. He made it through the surgery fine, and then I guess he had heart failure," Kilmer said. Andy, who came from Czechoslovakia, was Kilmer's partner on the road for about three and a half years. The police canine was allowed to retire about five months ago after he was diagnosed with spinal arthritis. Andy conducted drug work, building searches, tracking and other duties while he was a member of the police force. Kilmer estimated that Andy was responsible for at least \$300,000 in narcotic seizures during his career. The officer, who now works with a new police canine named "Max," said he plans to have Andy cremated, and will keep his beloved friend's ashes. He also asked anyone who would like to honor Andy's memory to make a donation to the Briggs Animal Adoption Center in Jefferson County. The nonprofit center provided free food and medical care to Andy for his entire life, even taking care of the more than \$4,000 surgery prior to the animal's unexpected death. "Since Briggs put so much money into this dog, I'd ask if anybody who is a dog lover to give donations to Briggs," Kilmer said. "They've done a lot for us. I can't say enough about Briggs, and they all loved Andy too." Information on how to donate is available at www.baacs.org or 304-724-6558. Donations also can be mailed to BAAC, P.O. Box 1023, Charles Town, WV, 25414.

Nominations Being Accepted for Governor's Service Awards

Each year, West Virginia's volunteers quietly perform amazing things all around us everyday. Volunteer West Virginia's annual WV Governor's Service Awards showcases outstanding examples of volunteerism and community leadership from throughout the state. Each year at the State's Volunteer Conference, Faces of Leadership, West Virginians with exemplary dedication to service and volunteerism are celebrated at a banquet where they are given an award from the Governor. To nominate an outstanding individual, family, or organization, that displays enduring commitment to the Mountain State through volunteerism, visit, http://www.volunteerwv.org/nd/index_facesofleadership_GSA2011.cfm, download the nomination form, and following the instructions. Nominations must be received by Volunteer WV! no later than April 11, 2011.

Jefferson County Officials Attend Security Conference

Several Jefferson County officials recently attended a conference in Charleston to discuss methods to improve courthouse security. The conference, which brought together over 70 people from around the state, was funded by a grant from the West Virginia Court Security Fund, took place February 22-24, 2011.

“The Supreme Court and the Administrative Office are concerned about the safety and well-being of judicial employees, county employees and the public who access Judicial buildings every day,” said Angela Saunders, director of court services.

“The purpose of this conference is to provide training to the counties on emergency preparedness and court security, provide technical assistance and work out ways to communicate better with each other and the administrative office.” The Supreme Court asked that each county designate two people to be in charge of security planning at each court facility in case of a disaster. Jefferson County was represented by Ed Boober, former sheriff and chairman of the committee; Magistrate Gail Boober; public defender, John McFarland; head bailiff and co-chair of the security team, Louis Brunswick; and Barbara Miller, director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Jefferson County was one of five counties in the state to be chosen as a test county in preparation for emergency planning to be implemented in all 55 counties. “There is an interest in responding to emergencies that could occur in our community,” said Ed Boober. “In spite of the emergency, we need to continue our services to the community and relocate to other sites for short and long periods of time and then return to business as usual when the emergency has ended.” he said. The conference hosted several nationally recognized experts in court security, including Timm Fautsko, principal court management consultant for the National Center for State Courts; Jessica Pitts, director of emergency preparedness and court security for the Maryland Judiciary; and Zygmunt Pines, Pennsylvania court administrator. “We want Jefferson County to be proactive in the security of the courts, and we find that in the partnership of joining these different entities involved we are raising issues we would have otherwise not thought about,” Gail Boober said. “It’s an honor to be one of the first counties chosen to help others in the state plan for emergencies.”

Jefferson County Day at the Capitol on 02/21/2011



Jefferson Countians visiting the rotunda.



Delegate Lawrence welcomes the group before the resolution proclaiming Jefferson County Day is read on the floor of the House.



Commissioners Widmyer and Manuel speak to the crowd.

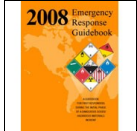


Training Opportunities



C.E.R.T. Training to start in March

Community Emergency Response Team training will begin on March 14. The course consists of 8 evenings of training (3-hours each). The modules are: Disaster Preparedness; Fire Safety; Disaster Medical Operations I and II; Light Search and Rescue; Crime Prevention and Terrorism Awareness; Animals in Disaster; Emergency Planning for People with Special Needs. The final night of the course is an exam and practical exercise. Participants must be over the age of 18, and live, work or volunteer in Jefferson County. For more information, contact Terri Mehling at 304-728-3329 or email to tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org



Emergency Response Guidebook Training

JCHSEM is sponsoring Emergency Response Guidebook Training on March 3, 2011 at the Jefferson County EOC. The instructor will be Bob Jaffin. Mr. Jaffin is the Vice Chair of the International Association of Emergency Managers Training and Education Committee, and soon-to-be author of *Hazardous Material Life Cycle Management: Corporate, Community and Organizational Planning and Preparedness*. The **Emergency Response Guidebook 2008 (ERG2008)** is primarily a guide to aid first responders in quickly identifying the specific or generic hazards of the material(s) involved in the incident, and protecting themselves and the general public during the *initial response phase* of the incident. This is a one night course that will be held from 6-9 p.m. To register, contact Terri Mehling at 304-728-3329 or email tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org.



Skywarn Stormspotter Basics I Class

The National Weather Service in Sterling, VA and JCHSEM will host a NWS Basics I Skywarn Stormspotter Class this spring. The Basics I class is the starting point for all new Stormspotters and is a prerequisite for all other Stormspotter Classes. Skywarn Stormspotters are the first line of defense against severe weather in their community. Once you have completed the course, you are eligible to volunteer with NWS to assist them to verify what their Doppler radar is and is not telling them. You will be issued a Stormspotter number and learn how and what to report. We are currently working with NWS officials and the date and place for this class will soon be announced. You may refer to this website for a current list of Skywarn Classes in our area: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/skywarn/classes.html>. Teaching Skywarn Stormspotter Classes is a requirement for Jefferson County under their StormReady Community Designation. For more information, contact Terri Mehling at 304-728-3329 or email to tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org

North Bend State Park, 22 MAR 0800 – 1600-23 MAR 0800 – 1600. 16 Hours.

G108, Community Mass Care Management

Instructor: Dave Bradley

This 2-day course is intended to equip emergency management staff and voluntary agency personnel with the knowledge and skills necessary to perform as effective mass care coordinators in a broad range of disaster situations. The course covers how to assess and size up mass care needs; how to plan for mass care; recruitment, training, and exercises for mass care personnel; and actions to take in short-term and long-term mass care operations (response and recovery). This training is offered through the WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. If interested, you must fill out a training request form (can be found on either the WVDHSEM website or the JCHSEM website). The form must be signed by your local emergency manager before being forwarded on to WVDHSEM training officer, Herb Lattimore. For more information, contact Herb Lattimore, State Training Officer at 304-558-5380.

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 each month at 8:30 a.m. in the JCHSEM EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

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-Chair –Pamela Holstein-Wallace, 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 9:30 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. The committee currently updated the original document. 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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PUBLIC SAFETY; PUBLIC TRUST

The Jefferson County Commission's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management 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.



March Meetings and Events

MARCH

- 1 Disability Workshop (Regional) at USDA Fruit Research Center. 1000-1400. Lunch will be provided.
- 3 Emergency Response Guidebook Training. At Jefferson County EOC. Course taught by Robert Jaffin.
- 8 Counter Terrorism Committee at 1400 hours at Jefferson County EOC
- 9 Skywarn Stormspotter Basics I Class at Independent Fire Company, 200 W.Second Street, Ranson, 7-9 pm Instructors from National Weather Service.
- 10 Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee at 8:30 in EOC Conference Center
- 14 C.E.R.T. Disaster Preparedness Module. 6-9 p.m. Barbara Miller, Instructor-at Jefferson County EOC. Must pre-register to tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org
- 16 C.E.R.T. Fire Safety Module, David Holmes, Instructor 6-9 p.m. at Jefferson County EOC.
- 21-C.E.R.T. Disaster Medical Ops I-Gene Rice, Instructor 6-9 p.m. at Jefferson County EOC.
- 22/23 Mass Care Training at North Bend State Park. Info-Call Herb Lattimore, State Training Officer at 304-558-5380.
- 23 C.E.R.T. Crime & Terrorism Awareness, Dave Colbert, Instructor. 6-9 pm at Jefferson Co. EOC
- 28 C.E.R.T. Disaster Medical Ops II-Gene Rice, Instructor 6-9 p.m. at Jefferson County EOC.
- 30 C.E.R.T. Light Search & Rescue-Mike Kanehl, Instructor 6-9 p.m. at Jefferson Co. EOC