



May, 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

April Thunderstorms, Flooding in Jefferson County

April, 2011 could well be classified as the rain storm that would not stop. Heavy rains saturated the ground in early April, followed by strong thunderstorms in mid-April bringing about the damages seen below.



This is a picture during the storm of Shenandoah River Road in Shannondale. Run off from the heavy rains was a scene repeated on several roads on the mountain that night. It has kept road crews busy with repairs.

The picture at the right shows what used

to be a culvert at the corner of Renie and Wagon Trail Roads in Keys Ferry Acres.

This damage is on a private road.

A local resident is seen shoveling mud and rock debris from in front of his property on



Shenandoah

River Road Sunday morning. He said he knew it affected the whole mountain and expected it might be awhile before the DOH could get to his road, so he was "trying to help them out." This sink hole opened up on private property near the junction of Rt. 230



and

Nansfield Drive. Sink holes are common in Jefferson County after heavy rains, due to the Karst topography in our region. Below is a picture of a Swift Water River Rescue that was needed when the driver of this truck



ings occur when people try to drive or walk through flooded roadways in our country. Although, the DOH puts up barriers and high water signs, many are ignored. Turn Around, Don't Drown is a national campaign to teach people that trying to drive through standing water is dangerous behavior.

Pictures from the TTX



OPERATION TROUBLED WATERS I & II COUNTY-WIDE EXERCISES

The Jefferson County Local Emergency Planning Committee sponsored two county-wide exercises during the month of April. The first was a TTX (Tabletop Exercise) that was held April 8th at the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in Kearneysville; the second was a FE (Functional Exercise) that was held in 4 venues around the county on April 22nd. These were: The Incident Command Post set up at C.W. Shipley Elementary School; a POD set up at the Jefferson County Health Department; the Jefferson County Emergency Operations Center in its building; and a Simulation Cell that was set up in the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. The exercises brought participation from: Jefferson County LEPC; Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management; Jefferson County Emergency Communications; Jefferson County Sheriff's Department; Shepherdstown Police Department; Harpers Ferry Police Department; WV State Police; Friendship Fire Company; Citizens Fire Company; Blue Ridge Mountain Fire Company; Shepherdstown Fire Company; Independent Fire Company Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency; Jefferson County Department of Health; Eastern Panhandle Chapter, American Red Cross; Jefferson County Commission; Jefferson County G.I.S. Department; Jefferson County Maintenance Department; Town of Harpers Ferry; Corporation of Charles Town; Charles Town Utilities; WV Department of Highways; Jefferson County Schools; Jefferson Memorial Hospital; West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Customs and Border Protection Advanced Training Center at Harpers Ferry; Harpers Ferry National Historic Park; Jefferson County R.A.C.E.S.; Jefferson County C.E.R.T.; WV Region III Homeland Security Coordinator; and WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Additionally, members from the media were invited to participate. Local media represented included: The Spirit of Jefferson; The Journal; and Hagerstown's WHAG-TV. Suzanne Griffin, a subject matter expert in media, assisted with public information under Jennifer Maggio, Jefferson County HSEM's public information officer. They, along with PIOs from the Red Cross and the Health Department formed a JIC for the first time.

Three scenarios were involved in the functional exercise. These included flooding on the Shenandoah River that exceeded 30 feet; a chlorine gas leak at the Harpers Ferry water plant; and rising floodwaters derailed a train carrying several tanks full of hydrochloric acid.

"I was very happy with the turn out of people and agencies for both exercises," said Barbara Miller, Jefferson County's Emergency Manager. "No one knew the scenario ahead of time other than the contractors who developed the exercise, so we reacted to the injects as we have been trained to do and as we would do in a real incident. We had a good mix of people who had never participated in something like this in the past, working alongside seasoned participants. Exercises are a great place to learn, and to try new things before a real incident happens. This exercise

“It’s simulated, but it’s as close to real life as we can get it,” said Doug Britvec, a project manager for J.H. Consulting and the director of the Friday night exercises. “It lets responders have an opportunity to see how they would respond, areas that need improvement, as well as areas they did well in,” he said. Dave Withers of Friendship Fire Company said that he thought the exercise had been a success. “I think things went very well,” he said. “I think it highlighted the fact that there’s a lot of readiness in the county, that the EOC and the incident commanders and so forth are really good. We found a couple of things that need tweaking. Those will be tweaked and we’ll be ready if it really happens.”

A YouTube Video about Operation Troubled Waters was made by Bryan Clark at The Spirit of Jefferson and can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bE115Pb0tM>

Pictures from the FE



WV Floodplain Managers Association Receives Charter; Elects Officers for the Coming Year

The WV Floodplain Manager's Association is now a part of the national Association of State Floodplain Managers. The West Virginia Association has completed all of their requirements and their charter has been approved by the national association. They will receive their official charter at the national conference later this month. The state association held their annual conference at the Canaan Valley Institute in Davis in April. Board Members elected for the coming year include: Jerry Gilbert, President; Charlie Baker, Vice President; Kelly Banton, Treasurer; and Bill , Secretary. Board Members include: Barbara Miller, Terry Hough, Dean Meadows, Kevin

Sneed, and Roger Goodwin.



EPOCC Begins Animals in Disaster Regional EOP Annex Jefferson Animals in Disaster Committee Helping

West Virginia's Homeland Security Region 3 (The Counties of Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral and Grant) were recently awarded a Homeland Security grant to develop a regional annex for their respective Emergency Operations Plan. After reviewing responses to an RFP, J.H. Consulting, LLC was the low bidder and the group recommended hiring them to develop the annex. Work on the project has begun and is expected to continue through August, with a final document due by September. Each of the seven county emergency managers will serve as the point person within their respective counties and anyone interested in having input into the project should contact their county EM. In Jefferson County, JCHSEM's Animals in Disaster Committee will serve to review documents, do any needed research, and to assist with updating a list of animal resources.

Volunteer Opportunities

Need 4 Volunteers to work at Bark in the Park in the JCHSEM Booth on Saturday, June 4th. Set up at 8 a.m. through tear down at 2 p.m. Preference will go to members of the Animals in Disaster Committee.

Need Volunteers to participate in the 2011 Disaster Resistant Kids Program. These volunteers will be reading to children's groups or making presentations to children's groups throughout the summer, as programs are scheduled. The program runs from May through September. Volunteers working with children must consent to have and successfully pass a background check prior to being assigned. If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please contact JCHSEM's volunteer coordinator, Jennifer Maggio at 304-724-8914.

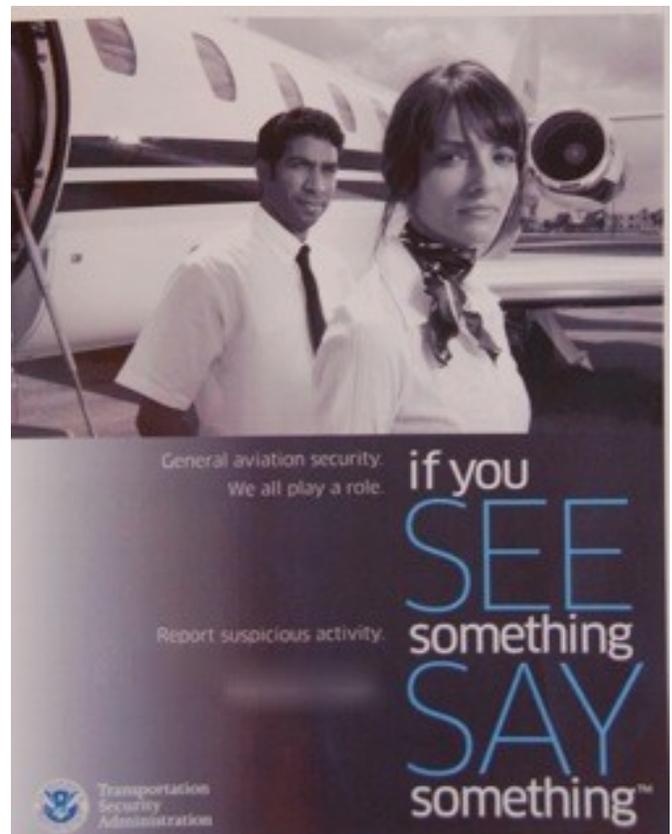
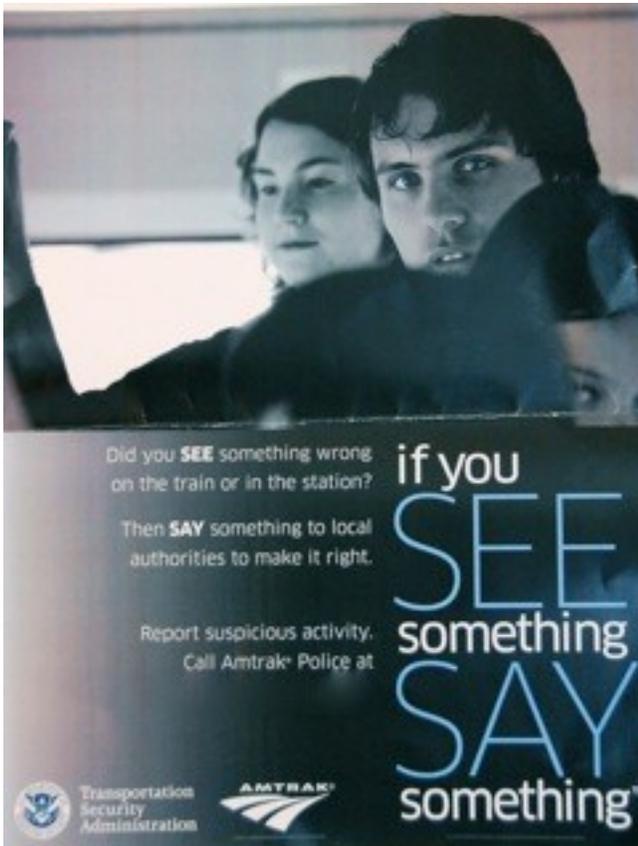
Statement by Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano on the Death of Osama Bin Laden



The death of Osama bin Laden is an important success not only for the United States, but the entire world. Our efforts to combat terrorism, however, do not fixate on one individual, and we remain completely focused on protecting our nation against violent extremism of all kinds.

We remain at a heightened state of vigilance, but the Department of Homeland Security does not intend to issue an NTAS alert at this time. I have been clear since announcing NTAS in January that we will only issue alerts when we have specific or credible information to convey to the American public. However, our security posture, which always includes a number of measures both seen and unseen, will continue to respond appropriately to protect the American people from an evolving threat picture both in the coming days and beyond.

I commend the President and offer my gratitude to the men and women who defend and protect our nation at home and abroad, whether they wear a military or law enforcement uniform or serve as one of thousands of unsung heroes in the intelligence and homeland security community. It is true that we are stronger and safer than we were on 9/11 – not only because Osama bin Laden is dead, but because of the unflagging dedication and hard work of so many people throughout the world committed to freedom and security.



Training Opportunities



The Discover the Real West Virginia Foundation, in partnership with the West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety, and Marshall University, invite you to the fourth West Virginia Homeland Security Summit and Expo. As we approach the tenth anniversary of 9-11, the summit will examine the progress made at the Federal, state and local level and will combine dynamic keynote speakers, exhibits and panel discussions on practices, coordination, funding and other issues vital to the security of our State. This year's event will include topics such as critical infrastructure and public health preparedness, protecting your business from cyber security attacks and crimes, and advancements in emergency communications, including the impact of federal broadband funding and 4G deployment. Featured keynote speakers are U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller and U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary, Janet Napolitano. It will be held on June 1 and 2 at Marshall University's Memorial Student Center, 5th Avenue, Huntington, WV 25755. Registration is \$100. Includes Dinner, Continental Breakfast, Lunch, Beverage Breaks, and Summit materials. Lodging is the responsibility of the attendee. For more information or to register online, go to <http://www.drwvfoundation.org/wvhs2011.php> or contact Sara Dearing at sdearing@drwvfoundation.org



MAY 17 & 18, 2011
Cacapon Resort
G358, Evacuation and Re-entry Planning Course
12 Hours

Instructor: Dave Bradley

The course is designed to provide participants with knowledge and skills needed to design and implement an evacuation and re-entry plan for their jurisdictions. It uses a community's vulnerability analysis and evacuation plan. It also addresses behavior and recommends methods to make evacuation and re-entry more efficient. This course does not address the decision to evacuate or re-enter.

Selection Criteria: The persons responsible for planning, implementing, and carrying out evacuations within a jurisdiction should attend this course as a team. This course includes, but is not limited to, local and State government emergency program managers, emergency planners, and response personnel. If interested, contact Barbara Miller, Emergency Manager at 304-728-3290 if you are from Jefferson County. Or contact Herb Lattimore, State Training Officer at 304-558-5380.



JUNE 14, 15, & 16
G110, Emergency Management Operations Course (EMOC) for Local Governments
24 Hours
Instructors: Larry Allen/Jeff Harvey

The EMOC is an exercise-based program with planning sessions that begin weeks prior to the actual course, and it includes classroom sessions and exercises. The purpose of the EMOC is to improve operational capabilities as they relate to managing emergencies in the local community. The course places emphasis on the Emergency Operations Center as the focal point for managing a simulated emergency. Selection Criteria: Elected and appointed city and county officials. These include mayor, city manager, city council, county commissioner, county manager, and other key positions, such as emergency management director and public information officer. Also included as eligible participants, are upper and mid-management personnel, including supervisory, operational, and communications staff from the fire service, law enforcement, public works, and emergency medical services. Volunteer groups should also participate.

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 9:00 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 JCOHSEM 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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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.



May/June Meetings and Events

May Meetings/Events

- 3 Counter Terrorism Committee at 1400 hours in the Jefferson County EOC
- 18 Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee at 8:30 in the Jefferson County EOC
- 21 Ranson Festival-JCHSEM will have a booth
- 30 Memorial Day Holiday, County Offices are Closed.

June Meetings/Events

- 1-2 Senator Rockefeller's Homeland Security Summit in Huntington, WV
- 4 Bark in the Park, Sponsored by Jefferson County Animal Welfare Society. 10-2 at Jefferson Memorial Park, Charles Town
- 7 May/June meeting of the JCHSEM Steering Committee at 9:00 a.m. in the Jefferson County EOC.
- 7 Counter Terrorism Committee at 1400 hours in the Jefferson County EOC
- 8 Jefferson County LEPC meeting at 7:30 a.m. at Billie's Restaurant in Ranson
- 8 Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee at 8:30 at Jefferson County EOC
- 14-16 EMOC Training at North Bend State Park. WVDHSEM Training
- 20- West Virginia Day Holiday-County Offices are Closed
- 27 Emergency Planning for People with Special Needs Committee at 9:30 at JCHSEM