



Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

www.jeffersoncountywv.org/homeland-security.html

September, 2011

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Dale Manuel, V. President

Frances Morgan

Walt Pellish

Lyn Widmyer

Jefferson County Homeland Security
and Emergency Management Steering
Committee:

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Jefferson County Dept. of
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Katherine Dunbar, Good Shep-
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ty Department of Engineering

Jeffrey Polczynski, ENP, Jeffer-
son County Emergency Commu-
nications Center

Dale Manuel, County Commis-
sion Representative

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ven & Associates

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Bobby Shirley, Jefferson Coun-
ty Sheriff

Paul Espinosa, Frontier Com-
munications, Utility Repre-
sentative.

Tom Bayuzik, Jefferson County
Development Authority

Pamela Holstein-Wallace,
Region 3 Homeland Security
Planner

Holly Morgan-Frye, Shepherd
University Service Learning
Program

Staff:

Barbara Miller, CEM, CFM
Director

Terri Mehling, Planner/
Program Manager/Deputy
Director

Jennifer Maggio, Administra-
tive Assistant, Public Infor-
mation Officer and Volunteer
Coordinator

SPECIAL NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH ISSUE



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, "National Preparedness Month" creates an important opportunity for every resident of Jefferson County to prepare their homes, businesses, and communities for any type of emergency including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks; and

WHEREAS, investing in the preparedness of ourselves, our families, businesses, and communities can reduce fatalities and economic devastation in our communities and in our nation; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's *Ready* Campaign, Citizen Corps and other federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, private, and volunteer agencies are working to increase public activities in preparing for emergencies and to educate individuals on how to take action; and

WHEREAS, all citizens of Jefferson County are encouraged to participate in citizen preparedness activities and asked to review the Ready campaign's websites at Ready.gov or Listo.gov (in Spanish) and become more prepared.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Commission hereby proclaims September, 2011 as National Preparedness Month, and encourages all citizens and businesses to develop their own emergency preparedness plan, and work together toward creating a more prepared society.

Dated this 11th Day of August, 2011 by the Jefferson County Commission:

Patricia Noland, Jefferson County Commission President

On August 11, the Jefferson County Commission passed the above resolution. The municipalities have all been invited to pass similar resolutions. As we get them, they will be posted on the National Preparedness Month section of our website. Please check the website often for updates on activities and events for NPM! <http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/government/departments/homeland-security/national-preparedness-month.html>

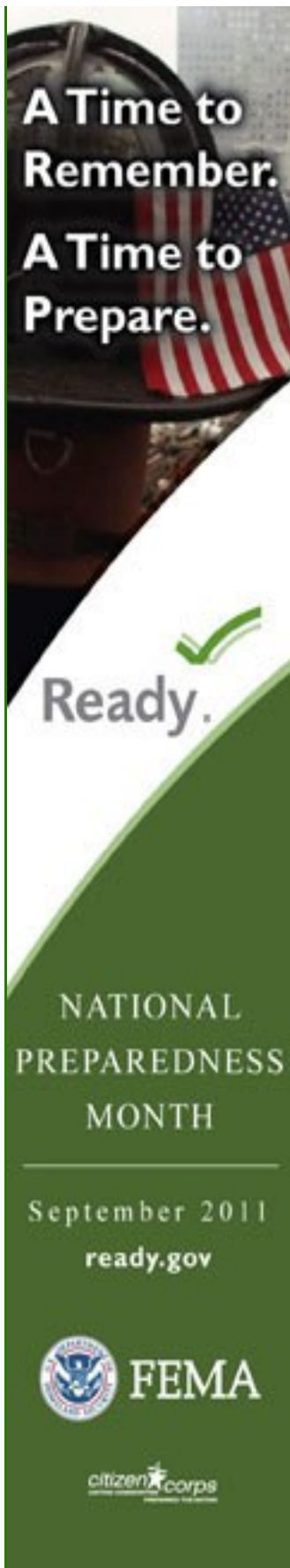
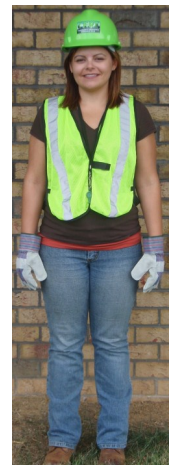
Area Group Trained in Mass Fatalities



A team from Jefferson County spent a few days at Pipestem State Park in late August to participate in Mass Fatalities Training with instructors from West Virginia Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The team included: John Mills, LEPC Chairman; Doug Pittinger, Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency; Donald Shirley, Medical Examiner; Chief Bill Roper, Ranson Police Department; Jeff Jefferies, Jefferson Memorial Hospital; Barbara Miller, Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management; Sandy Hite, Jefferson County Health Department Threat Preparedness Coordinator; Jeff Levesque, Hospice of the Panhandle and Eastern Panhandle Chapter, American Red Cross; Ed Boober, Jefferson County LEPC, and Larry Neal, U.S. Customs and Border Protection. A project concept is being developed by some members of the group to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a Mass Fatalities event in Jefferson County. The Project Concept, will be sent to Volunteer, WV in hopes of receiving a grant to purchase supplies, develop a mass fatalities plan, and to hold an HSEEP compliant-exercise after receiving the equipment and finalizing the plan.

Coming Soon: C.E.R.T. Course

Registration is now being accepted for our next Community Emergency Response Team Training. The C.E.R. T. course teaches Disaster Preparedness, Fire Safety, Disaster Medical Operations, Terrorism Awareness and Crime Prevention, Light Search and Rescue, Emergency Planning for People with Special Needs, Animals in Disaster, and there is a final test and exercise. The course is taught in 8 three hour sessions. You must pre-register to attend. To register, contact Terri Mehling at 304-728-3329 or email to tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org



September 11 Remembered at Independent Fire Company



More than 100 people gathered on Sunday, September 11, 2011 outside Independent Fire Company in Ranson for the 10th annual commemoration of 9/11. The remembrance ceremony included remarks by guest speaker, Randy Gray, a resident of Avon Bend, and who is a retired assistant chief of operations for the Arlington County, Virginia Fire Department. Randy was a first responder to the terrorist attack at the Pentagon. He expressed the importance of community and personal preparedness during his remarks. He told the group that the After Action Report for their response is available from the Department's website. www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Fire/Documents/after_report.pdf and it still has information that is useful for today, ten years later.





Independent Fire Company

Proudly serving Ranson/Charles Town and surrounding Communities Since 1884

Located at: 200 West 2nd Ave, Ranson, WV 25438
Mailing Address: PO Box 925, Charles Town, WV 25414



Phone: (304) 725-2514
Fax: (304) 728-6006



**A Time to Remember.
A Time to Prepare.**


Ready.

**NATIONAL
PREPAREDNESS
MONTH**

September 2011
ready.gov



FEMA



citizen corps

2011 LEPC/SERC Conference

West Virginia's State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) held their 2011 Conference for SERC and Local Emergency Planning Committees in Canaan Valley during September. Included in this year's training sessions: FEMA and Local Governments, What you should know; Food Borne Illnesses and Emergency Responders by Linda Whaley, WVBPH; The National Weather Service by Jamie Bielinski, NWS, Charleston; Emergency Planning for Special Populations by Christine Smith, Mid Ohio Valley ARC; Revision of Annex V and the Department of Energy by Dr. John Saymanský, WVU; Social Media in Emergency Preparedness and Response by Todd Beane, WV State University; Homeland Security Grant Program: Mass Care and Community Preparedness Grants by David Hoge, WVDMAAPS, and Heather Foster, Volunteer, WV; EMPG Grant Exercise Requirements by David Hoge, WVMAPS, and Herb Lattimore, WVDHSEM, and the LEPC Round Table Discussion. The State's SERC Board Meeting was also held during the conference. This year's conference was sponsored by: Kenwood, United States EPS, Region III; Motorola, Capitol Electronics, Inc; CISCO Systems, Mid-America Business Systems, ZUMRO, Inc., and Smart Solution Technologies, L.P. Attending from Jefferson County were: Barbara Miller, JCHSEM and John Mills, LEPC Chairman.

Walter Smittle Named 2011 Emergency Manager of the Year



Walter Smittle, Director of Jackson County Emergency Management Agency was selected by his peers as the recipient of the John Tagg Memorial Emergency Manager of the Year for 2011 for his outstanding service and dedication to the residents of the State of West Virginia.

Drills Held During September

Numerous volunteers participated in a Texting Drill on September 8th. They participated from wherever they were on that date. The message was simply "im ok r u ok? Where r u?" The reply to that was, "Im ok 2." The purpose of the drill was to educate people on the advantages of using texting instead of using the phone after a disaster. People in our area noticed that cell phone towers were overloaded when the earthquake was felt recently in Jefferson County and making a call wasn't immediately available to them. It takes far less bandwidth to text than it does to make a cell call. We are educating our public to use text instead of cell calls during emergencies, leaving the available band width for true emergencies.

The second drill held on September 8th was an internal drill for those who participate in the Emergency Operations Center when it is activated. A test call went out to everyone who would normally serve from JCHSEM's EOC Alert System.

A Technology Transition Work Group (TTWG) Video Conferencing (VTC) Demonstration is being held at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Advanced Training Center on September 20.

Volunteer Opportunities!

Need additional presenters for our Disaster Ready Kids Programs and Fire Safety Month Programs. These volunteers will need their own transportation to and from the venue where they will be presenting. All are in Jefferson County. Must pick up books, DVDs, and supplies from JCHSEM office ahead of time and return them when finished. All volunteers working with children must consent to and successfully pass a background check and be a registered volunteer with JCHSEM. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Maggio, JCHSEM Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer at 304-724-8914 for a list of available dates/times.

Trainings In September



Business Continuity Planning Workshops were on September 1, 2011 at The Clarion in Shepherdstown. Two sessions were held. These courses were taught by David Skeen, the WV State Continuity Planner; Barbara Miller, JCHSEM Director; and Neal Nilsen from AskNeal.com.

These classes were free to local businesses and organizations. All businesses, organizations, and governments should have a plan of how to continue after disaster strikes. The workshop covered risks, threats, how to plan, and how to protect your computer hardware and software.



National Flood Insurance Program for Insurance Agencies. Monday, September 19 from 8 a.m. —Noon at the Jefferson County Emergency Operations Center. The course will be taught by

Rich Walkus from H2O, a FEMA Contractor. WV Insurance Commission will issue CEUs for this free workshop. To sign up, please email Barbara Miller at bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org

or call at 304-728-3290. You must be an insurance agent and you must be pre-registered to attend,



Friday Lunch-N-Learn sessions were held at the Jefferson County EOC throughout National Preparedness Month. This year's topics included: Personal/Family Disaster Preparedness by JCHSEM Director, Barbara Miller; Public Health Issues by Sandy Hite, Threat Preparedness Coordinator, Jefferson County Health Department; Using Social Media during a Disaster by

Mitzi Miller, Volunteer, WV; Protecting your Hardware and Software at home by Neal Nilsen, AskNeal.com; and Greg Schoor, National Weather Service-Sterling.



A Public Health Emergency overview will be held at the EOC on September 27th for CERT Volunteers. Sandy Hite, Jefferson County's Threat Preparedness Coordinator will be the instructor. For more information, contact Terri Mehling, CERT Program Coordinator at 304-728-3329 or email to tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org

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 –, 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 Information Officer and Volunteer
Coordinator
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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.



THANKS TO THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH SPONSORS:

AskNeal.com

BCT

Books-A-Million

Clarion Hotel

Hagerstown Suns

Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce

Sheetz

Volunteer, WV

Weis Market

WV Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management