



Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

www.jeffersoncountywv.org/homeland-security.html

November 2011

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**Pamela Holstein-Wallace,
Region 3 Homeland Security
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**Holly Morgan-Frye, Shepherd
University Service Learning
Program**

Vacancy, American Red Cross

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**

Rare October Storm Causes Power Outages Throughout the County

A rare late October snowstorm hit Jefferson County and the surrounding area on Saturday, October 29, 2011 causing several power outages in the area. The heavy wet snow on trees that still had their leaves on caused trees and limbs to break. As the tree limbs and trees came down, so did the power lines and telephone lines in some areas of the County. At the height of the storm, approximately 5100 customers were without power in the County; about 45,000 customers without power in the Eastern Panhandle and northern Maryland. At one point on Saturday, telephone



service to some of the 724 and 725 exchanges were also down for a short period of time. Electricity was out at some of the water plants in the county, but was able to be restored before the water went off to critical infrastructure or businesses.

Community Ministries opened a temporary overnight shelter for the homeless people that they normally serve. It closed on Sunday morning after breakfast.

Three schools remained without power on Monday morning, at Blue Ridge Elementary, Wildwood Middle School, and Jefferson High School.

Power was out at the Jefferson County Emergency Communications Center/Homeland Security and Emergency Management building, complicated by the backup generator throwing a bolt through its radiator on Sunday morning. The center's power was shut down except for the critical communications used by the dispatchers until another generator could be brought in. Potomac Edison restored power to the facility on Sunday afternoon. Temperatures warmed up and Potomac Edison power crews that worked throughout the storm, were able to restore power in most areas on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. According to Charlene Gillium at Potomac Edison, 50 additional crews were brought in from Virginia that were specifically for Berkeley and Jefferson Counties on Sunday.

All residents, businesses and organizations are encouraged to prepare now for the upcoming winter weather. Have a plan for winter weather at your home, your place of business, and for your vehicles. Include plans for what you will do if the power goes out for an extended period of time. Have food stored at your home and place of business that does not need to be heated. Have drinking water stored. If you are on medications, be sure to keep enough on hand to get you through a long storm. For all emergencies, call 9-1-1. Keep other numbers either stored in your mobile device or printed out by your landline phone that you might need during winter storms or power outage.

For All Emergencies, Call 9-1-1

To report a power outage at your home, call Potomac Edison at 800-255-3443

To report a problem with Comcast Cable, call 800-266-2278

To report a problem with Frontier Telephone Service, call 800-921-8101

For more information on what to do before, during or after a snowstorm, go to:

www.fema.gov/hazard/winter/wi_before.shtm

Or www.ready.gov

Storm Spotter Class to be Held in Frederick County, VA

On November 18th at 18:00 hours (6:00 p.m.), the National Weather Service Skywarn Basics I course. At the Frederick County (VA) Public Safety Building at 1080 Cornerstone Drive in Winchester.

This course is a prerequisite for all other National Weather Service Skywarn courses. Basics I is a good general overview of severe weather for the general public. Upon completion of the course, you will be registered in the Skywarn Spotter program by the NWS. You will receive a spotter code from the NWS within 6 weeks. Training in Basics I includes:

The basic organization of the National Weather Service

The role and importance of the Skywarn spotter
NWS Products and the Watch/Warning/Advisory system

Thunderstorms

Thunderstorm threats:

Lightning

Flooding

Hail

Tornadoes

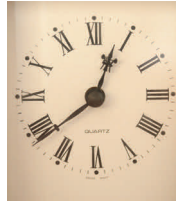
Downbursts

How to report vital info to the NWS

The role of amateur short-wave (HAM) radio in the Spotter Program

To sign up for the class, contact Chester Lauck at 540-665-5618 or email him at clauck@co.frederick.va.us

Time Changes on November 6th



Time will fall back to standard time again on Sunday, November 6, 2011, when daylight saving time ends. Remember to “fall back”.

Fall C.E.R.T. Class Underway!

The C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team) Training has been updated by F.E.M.A. We now have the new modules and this class will be the first one taught using the new materials! We will be meeting with our instructors in October to review the new materials with them and to go over changes to each of their curriculum. We will then be ready to start our Fall C.E.R.T. Course offering. Below is the schedule:

The Class Schedule is still being developed. Classes are from 6:00pm – 9:00pm (Some class dates may change due to Instructor scheduling and/or weather conditions or E.O.C. activation.) The modules and instructors are as follows:

Disaster Preparedness, Barbara Miller or Lucas Pierce, Instructor

Fire Safety and Fire Simulation, David Holmes, Instructor

Disaster Medical Ops I, Gene Rice, Instructor

Disaster Medical Ops II, Gene Rice, Instructor

Crime Prevention & Terrorism Awareness, Lt. Dave Colbert, Instructor

Light Search & Rescue, Mike Kanehl, Instructor

Disaster Psychology, Jeff Levesque, Instructor; Animals in Disaster, Terri Mehling, Instructor; and People with Special Needs, Terri Mehling, Instructor

CERT Volunteerism, Test, Final Exercise & Graduation

Questions about the C.E.R.T. program should be addressed to Terri Mehling at 304-728-3329.

Public Assistance Local Officials and Eligible Applicants Workshop Planned for November

JCHSEM and the WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management will hold two Public Assistance Workshops for Local Officials and Eligible Applicants on Wednesday, November 30.

The Public Assistance Program, which is authorized by the Stafford Act, awards grants to assist State and local governments and certain Private Non-profit entities with the response to and recovery from disasters. Specifically, the program provides assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and permanent restoration of infrastructure. The Federal share of these expenses typically cannot be less than 75% of eligible costs. The program also encourages protection from future damage by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.

“The most recent use of PA funds in Jefferson County was during the 2010 snowstorm,” said Barbara Miller, JCHSEM Director. “This workshop is designed to teach local officials about what Public Assistance is, what is it not, what kinds of expenses are considered eligible expenses, which ones are not, and how the whole process works.” This workshop is by invitation only and only for local officials, their financial staff, and eligible public assistance applicants. For more information, you may contact Barbara Miller at 304-728-3290 or email to bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org

National Emergency Alert System Test on November 9, 2011

On November 9, 2011, at 2 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, the FCC and FEMA will conduct the first-ever, nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS). EAS alerts are transmitted over radio and television broadcast stations, cable TV and other media services. This test will NOT be done on the NOAA Weather Radios. The purpose of the November 9th test is to assess the reliability and effectiveness of the system as a way to alert the public during emergencies. Although FEMA and the FCC are taking steps to ensure that broadcast announcements are made during the test, some people may not see or hear these announcements and, as a result, 9-1-1 Call Centers may receive calls. There are monthly tests of the EAS, and the public will notice that this test will go for a full 2.5-3 minutes, compared to the usual 2 minute monthly test. Additional information can be found at the FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau website at www.fcc.gov/ps/shs.

Joint Meeting of the Jefferson And Berkeley County LEPCs.

There will be a combined meeting of the Jefferson and Berkeley County Local Emergency Planning Committees on Monday, December 12 at 2:30 p.m. in the Berkeley County EOC. The purpose of the meeting is to meet with Don McLaughlin of the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA is going to assist the Counties of the Eastern Panhandle with developing, carrying out and documenting a Regional Full Scale Exercise next Spring. Additionally, this meeting will provide an opportunity for members of the two LEPCs to network and get to know each other and each County's intricacies. Lite refreshments will be served. All members from both county's LEPCs are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting. Agencies that have specific things that they would like to test during the functional exercise should contact their respective Emergency Manager with details. This can include new plans, protocols or SOGs, new pieces of equipment, etc.

A 60-Year Legacy of Training and Education in Emergency Management

FEMA Training Center Celebrates a Significant Milestone in Emergency Training

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in Emmitsburg, Maryland, is commemorating 60 years of emergency training in 2011. EMI is the largest training facility for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and is located in Emmitsburg, Maryland, on the grounds of the National Emergency Training Center.

EMI traces its heritage from the former Civil Defense Staff College that was created to develop and conduct emergency training at all levels of government in response to the Cold War. To facilitate meeting this national threat, the federal government opened the training facility and rescue school in Olney, Maryland, in 1951. This tremendous task of conducting national civil defense training was later transferred to Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1954. In 1980, the Staff College moved to its current location and was renamed the "Emergency Management Institute." The new name reflected a change in its training mission to that of a broader responsibility. EMI trains and educates emergency personnel to effectively and efficiently respond to disasters regardless if it is natural or manmade in origin.

The year 2011 represents another milestone of emergency training. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the beginning of emergency training at EMI. For trivia fans, the very first course taught at EMI was a Radiological Emergency Planning course held January 12-16, 1981. There were 25 students who were the first of many thousands that have received nationally recognized emergency training at the Emergency Management Institute since then.

Emergency training by the numbers:

- Nearly 22 million student course completions since the beginning of 1951.
- Nearly 73,000 classroom based training opportunities since 1981.
- Over 5 million individual active student accounts on the EMI database.
- 15 million Independent Study online course completions – nearly 2 million during FY 2010 alone.

Exciting Past, Dynamic Future

EMI possesses an exciting history of emergency training for state, local, tribal, territorial and international emergency personnel and its future is very bright too.

In addition to scores of existing training programs, there are a number of initiatives that support the dynamic and innovative nature of emergency management with new training opportunities for our nation's emergency response community.

A small representation of these innovative training initiatives include revisions to three of the four courses in the current EMI Tribal Curriculum and the development of a new emergency management seminar for tribal elected officials; position-specific training for Incident Command System (ICS) practitioners; exercise-based training that instructs state, local, tribal and territory Emergency Operation Center professionals on what role the Federal government will take during a presidentially declared disaster; and floodplain management training, all hazards emergency management planning for schools and higher education, and using geographical information systems in planning for disasters.

In addition, EMI develops and implements training curriculum for FEMA disaster workers who represent this agency's disaster response capability. These professionals take an active role in supporting state and territory governments during catastrophic events and help them assist the state's local communities in returning to normal as quickly as possible. This capability even extends to meeting the emergency response needs internationally, such as FEMA-trained disaster workers responding to the earthquake in Haiti and as far away as Indonesia with the Tsunami of 2004.

Whatever threat that has confronted the United States over the last 60 years, EMI possesses a legacy of developing and delivering the necessary all-hazards training that strengthens our nation's response community's ability to meet any challenge now and well into the future.

The Emergency Management Institute is located in Emmitsburg, Maryland on the campus of the former St. Joseph's College, which is called the National Emergency Training Center (NETC). EMI is co-located on the NETC campus with the National Fire Academy. These two schools provide training opportunities for emergency responders at all levels of government. The United States Fire Administration is housed on the NETC campus as well.

For more information about courses at EMI, visit their website at: <http://training.fema.gov/emi/>



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 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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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

1 through December 15th– C.E.R.T. Training. Please contact Terri Mehling at 304-728-3329 to sign up or to ask questions.

2-4 Volunteer West Virginia's Strength-Based Grant Workshop at Priest Field Pastoral Center, 9:30-5:00 each day. \$175 fee. Questions to Moya Doneghy at 304-558-0111. Taught by Trish Hatfield and Alice Ruhnke.

7 Partnership Development Committee Meeting at the EOC Conference Room at 08:00 a.m.

8 Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting at the EOC at 14:00 (2:00 p.m.)

9 Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee at 9:00 a.m. in Jefferson County EOC Conference Room.

11 Holiday, Office is Closed

13-15 Regional Emergency Managers Planning session for the Regional Functional Exercise at 6:30 p.m. Sunday; WVDHSEM Training and Exercise Planning Workshop and State Emergency Manager's Directors Meeting in Flatwoods

24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday, Office is Closed

29 JCHSEM Steering Committee at 9 a.m. at Jefferson County EOC.

30 Public Officials and Eligible Applicants Workshop. Sponsored by JCHSEM and held at Independent Fire Company. One workshop from 1-3; the other from 7-9. Attend only one or the other. Taught by WVDHSEM and FEMA

December 5 Joint Meeting of the Jefferson and Berkeley County Local Emergency Planning Committees at the Berkeley County EOC at 2:30 p.m.