



November, 2016



Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

<http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/county-government/departments/homeland-security-and-emergency-management>

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Holly Frye, Shepherd University Service Learning Program
Clair Brendel, American Red Cross

Staff:

Barbara Miller, CEM, CFM Director
Stephen Allen, Planner/Program Manager/Deputy Director
Brandon Vallee, Administrative Assistant, Public Information Officer and Volunteer Coordinator



SKYWARN Storm Spotter Winter Storm Course to be held in Jefferson County on November 15, 2016

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management has invited the National Weather Service to teach a SKYWARN Storm Spotter Winter Storm course on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. The class will be held at the Independent Fire Company, located at 200 West 2nd Avenue, Ranson, WV 25438, please use the West 3rd Avenue entrance of the building. This class is free and open to the public.

The SKYWARN courses are designed to educate the public on weather threats in this area, as well as strengthen the ties between the National Weather Service and the local community. The more spotters the National Weather Service has out there, the faster vital ground truth information gets to the National Weather Service forecasters who make the decisions to issue lifesaving weather warnings.

The Skywarn Winter Storm course provides a more in depth training of winter weather hazards and the role of spotters during these events. The course is intended for everyone above the age of 14, however the Skywarn Basics I is a prerequisite for this course. The winter storm course includes:

- Winter weather hazards in the Mid-Atlantic
- Formation and development of winter storms
- Winter weather statistics
- Winter preparation and safety
- NWS winter weather products
- The role of Skywarn spotter in winter weather

You must pre-register for the course. You may do so at <https://jeffersonskywarnwinter.eventbrite.com>

A man in a light blue button-down shirt and dark pants stands in the center of a classroom, holding a small object in his right hand and gesturing with his left. He is facing a group of students whose backs are to the camera. The room has a whiteboard behind him, a large window to the left, and a television mounted on the wall to the right. A white storage cabinet is visible on the left side of the frame.

Jason Elliott, Hydrological Meteorologist for the National Weather Service was the speaker for the JCHSEM Quarterly Partnership Meeting on October 29 at The Anvil

JCHSEM held their Quarterly Partnership Meeting on Friday, October 29th at The Anvil in Harpers Ferry. The speaker for the event was Jason Elliott from the Baltimore/Washington National Weather Service. The long-time hydrological meteorologist has assisted Jefferson County with several projects, of which the current one has been in the making since 2004. The river gauge on the Potomac River in Shepherdstown has been replaced after several years of being absent. The gauge will help the weather service to give more accurate forecasts of the Potomac River, helping points downstream from the gauge, including Harpers Ferry, Point of Rocks, and other communities to the East of Jefferson County.



Director Miller with Jason Elliott



New USGS stream gauge on the Potomac River in Shepherdstown.



Some of the JCHSEM partners enjoying lunch and networking.



Steering Committee Chairman, John Sherwood

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Reminds Residents about Preparing for Extreme Winter Weather

With the winter season rapidly approaching, Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) is encouraging all residents of Jefferson County to be prepared for winter storms and extreme cold.

It is essential to know the terms used to describe changing winter weather conditions as they impact what actions you must take to stay safe. These terms can be used to determine the timeline and severity of an approaching storm. (Advisory / Watch / Warning). The NWS also issues advisories and warnings for other winter weather, including blizzards, freezes, wind chill, lake effect snow, and dense fog. Be alert to weather reports and tune in for specific guidance when these conditions develop.

Freezing Rain - Rain that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on roads, walkways, trees and power lines.

Sleet - Rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes moisture on roads to freeze and become slippery.

Wind Chill- Wind-chill is the temperature it “feels like” when you are outside. The NWS provides a Wind-chill Chart to show the difference between air temperature and the perceived temperature and the amount of time until frostbite occurs. For more information, visit: www.nws.noaa.gov/om/windchill.

Winter Weather Advisory - Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. When caution is used, these situations should not be life threatening. The NWS issues a winter weather advisory when conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences that may be hazardous. If caution is used, these situations should not be life-threatening.

Winter Storm Watch - A winter storm is possible in your area. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for more information. The NWS issues a winter storm watch when severe winter conditions, such as heavy snow and/or ice, may affect your area but the location and timing are still uncertain. A winter storm watch is issued 12 to 36 hours in advance of a potential severe storm. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, local radio, TV, or other news sources for more information. Monitor alerts, check your emergency supplies, and gather any items you may need if you lose power.

Winter Storm Warning - A winter storm is occurring or will soon occur in your area.

Blizzard Warning - Sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 miles per hour or greater and considerable amounts of falling or blowing snow (reducing visibility to less than a quarter mile) are expected to prevail for a period of three hours or longer.

electricity. Your flashlight and radio should be either hand-cranked or battery-powered, and stored with extra batteries. Your cell phone charger should be hand-crank, solar, or able to be charged from a car outlet.

MEDICAL – Include first aid kit, prescription and non-prescription/over-the-counter medications, and medical supplies.

SANITATION – Pack supplies for sanitation, such as hand sanitizer, towelettes, paper products, diapers, and plastic bags, for use when water resources are limited.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY – Include battery backup power for power-dependent mobility devices, oxygen, and other assistive technology needs.

EXTRA CLOTHING, BLANKETS, and SLEEPING BAGS – Dress in layers to keep warm if you lose power. Ensure you have enough clothing, hats, mittens, and blankets or sleeping bags for everyone in the house.

ITEMS FOR SNOW AND ICE – Stock up on rock salt to melt ice on walkways or sand or kitty litter to improve traction and snow shovels or other snow removal equipment.

WOOD – Store a supply of dry, seasoned wood if you have a working fireplace or wood-burning stove with a safe flue or vent. Please note that this is a basic list of supplies that should be in your emergency preparedness kit. Your kit should reflect your family’s specific needs (such as access and functional needs, pets, or infants). For a more suggestions on what to include in your emergency preparedness kit, please check out: <http://www.ready.gov/kit>

It is also a good idea to prepare your automobile and house for the winter months. Ensure your car is winterized (checking key components, fluids, and safety measures) and has its own emergency preparedness kit. Ensure your home is ready for colder weather by insulating water pipes, cleaning out gutters, maintain heating equipment and chimneys, checking smoke detectors, and insulating walls and attics. For more general emergency preparedness tips, please check out: <http://www.ready.gov>

Finally, before the snow starts flying, be sure to sign up for Nixle Alerts. Using the Nixle program, Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management is able to send out emergency alert notifications by text, e-mail, Twitter, and Facebook. In order to sign up for these alerts, go to <http://local.nixle.com/register> or text your Jefferson County zip code to 888777 and then text JCHSEM to the same number. This is a free service.

American Red Cross Holiday Mail for Heroes Card Signing Party

November 29, 2016

At the Jefferson County Public Services Building Meeting Room
1948 Wiltshire Road, Suite 2, Kearneysville, WV 25430
6:30-9:00 p.m.

Holiday Mail for Heroes annual campaign where the American Red Cross affords Americans with the opportunity to send messages of thanks and holiday cheer to military members, veterans, and their families. This is an easy way to give something to our nation's 2 million service members and 24 million veterans. The cards will be distributed locally and since there are 170,000 veterans in the State of West Virginia the cards should be geared towards those brave men and women who have previously served our county.

In order to reach this goal, the American Red Cross will be hosting a Holiday Mail for Heroes Card Signing Party on November 29, 2015 from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. at the Jefferson County Public Services Building Meeting Room located at 1948 Wiltshire Road, Suite 2, Kearneysville, WV 25430.

Wearing Festive Sweaters to the event is optional.
Light refreshments will be provided. Feel free to bring a dessert or cookies to share!

Card Guidelines:

- Some cards will be provided, and donated cards are appreciated.
- Cards can be designed using construction paper, crayons, markers, and other art supplies.
- Envelopes are not needed.
- Use generic greetings and do not include glitter or card inserts like letters, pictures, or money.
- Please refrain from using any religious quotes, comments, or closings as we do not know the religious affiliation of the service members receiving your card.
- However, you are permitted to use "God Bless." Other examples are "Thank you for your service to your county, Happy Holidays, or Thank you for making our country safe."

Please sign your name to the cards but please don't include your address or contact information; city and state are acceptable.

If you are unable to come to the party, you can still send or drop off bundles of signed cards without envelopes to the American Red Cross at 1948 Wiltshire Road, Suite 2, Kearneysville, WV 25430.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact Clair Brendel, Disaster Program Specialist, Northeast West Virginia Chapter of the American Red Cross at 304-725-5015 or clair.brendel@redcross.org



Mobilizing Faith-Based Community Organizations in Preparedness of Disasters

Date: November 3, 2016

Time: 8am to 5pm

Location: Believer's Victory Center - 160 Victory Lane, Moorefield, WV

Course Description:

This 8-hour, planning and management-level course trains faith-based community organization (FBCO) representatives, management-level emergency managers, and first responders from small and rural communities to strategically mobilize and engage members of FBCOs, including religious charities, nonprofits such as the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross, churches (both affiliated and unaffiliated), temples, synagogues, mosques, and NGOs etc., in a reciprocal approach to disaster planning that is integrated into current local and statewide emergency management efforts. This course emphasizes grassroots mobilization and coordination efforts as a means of engaging all faith communities, thereby reaching those marginalized communities most vulnerable to disaster, most frequently excluded from the planning process, and ultimately, most difficult to aid in recovery. This course introduces vital emergency management concepts to FBCO leaders, many of whom will have had no prior experience with emergency management and also seek to educate emergency managers and first responders about the critical role FBCOs can play in strengthening preparedness. PRE-REQUISITES: IS-100.b - Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS)

To enroll for this course, go to www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6



City of Ranson Employees Learn about Winter Preparedness

JCHSEM Deputy Director, Steve Allen, and Brandon Vallee, Administrative Assistant and Public Information Officer teaching the Mayor and City Staff of Ranson about Winter Preparedness at Ranson City Hall during a JCHSEM Lunch-N-Learn on November 1st.



Sign Up to Receive NIXLE ALERTS!



Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management uses NIXLE Alerts to send emergency alert notifications by text, e-mail, Facebook and Twitter. We send out weather watches and warnings, as well as Emergency Public Information during disasters. Examples include tornado, flood, severe snowstorm, and severe thunderstorm watches, warnings, advisories, and emergencies, as well as, where emergency shelters are located, where commodities can be obtained, etc. Signing up is easy and its FREE! To sign up, go to <http://local.nixle.com/register> or text your zip code to 888777 and then text JCHSEM to the same number.

In addition to NIXLE, we still use traditional media, such as newspapers, TV, and radio, however, receiving NIXLE alerts on your phone is the fastest way to receive emergency public information. Make sure that everyone in your family that has a phone, receives our emergency alerts in case that you are not together when a disaster happens. Make receiving NIXLE Alerts a part of your family's communication plan. If you have questions about NIXLE Alerts, you can go to www.nixle.com and click on "resident". You can always call our office if you have local questions or need assistance with getting registered.

USGS Shepherdstown River Gauge returns to the Potomac River!

Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) is an essential component of our Climate, Water, and Weather Services. AHPS is a web-based suite of accurate and information-rich forecast products. They display the magnitude and uncertainty of occurrence of floods or droughts, from hours to days and months, in advance. These graphical products are useful information and planning tools for many economic and emergency managers. These products enable government agencies, private institutions, and individuals to make more informed decisions about risk based policies and actions to mitigate the dangers posed by floods and droughts.

The USGS Shepherdstown River Gauge was damaged and removed several years ago, but has now been returned to Potomac River so that forecasters can now make better predictions for interests along the Potomac downstream. "Having the Potomac River gauge live again is great news for our community and for those downstream of Shepherdstown on River Road, in the Glen Haven Community, and Harpers Ferry, as well as communities in Maryland and Virginia downstream. The USGS gauges are a key component of river forecasting and should help the hydrology forecasters at the National Weather Service to make better predictions for flood watches, warnings, advisories, and emergencies for the Potomac River now and in the future for our residents," said Barb Miller, Jefferson County's Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. "For example, if we know that the river is forecasted to go to 15 feet, we know that River Road below Shepherdstown will be fully covered with water, and residents can plan accordingly. Its great to have this resource back in the Potomac!"



Disaster Exercises, 2016

WV Homeland Security Region III (WVHSR3) Initial Planning Workshop was held in Canaan Valley in November, 2015. Representatives of all of the Counties of WVHSR3 were in attendance. Additional planning meetings are upcoming.

The After Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) Meeting for the 2015 Clandestine Chaos Exercise was held for the region at the Jefferson County Maintenance Department on January 19, 2016 from 0900-1600.

2016 WV Homeland Security Region 3, Tabletop Exercise.....April 19, 2016, Berkeley County
2016 Jefferson County Government COOP Tabletop Exercise.....May 24, 2016, Bardane
2016 WV Homeland Security Region 3, Functional Exercise..June 21, 2016, Hampshire County
2016 WV State Emergency Response Commission TTX-Active Shooter/Power Plant..Camp Dawson
2016 WV Homeland Security Region 3, Full Scale Exercise.....September 17, 2016
2016 WV Homeland Security Region 3, AAR/IP Meeting.....December 9, 2016

An effective exercise program is an essential component of our preparedness as it validates plans, tests operational capabilities, maintains leadership effectiveness, and examines ways to utilize the whole community. Exercise program management involves a collaborative approach that integrates resources, organizations, and individuals in order to identify and achieve program priorities.



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 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.

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 is setting up speaking engagements and public awareness events. This committee meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of the at 0830 in the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

Partnership and Volunteer Development Committee, Holly 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 0830 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 examine the community's risks and vulnerability to all hazards and assess the community's vulnerability to those risks. A Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan was completed and adopted by the Jefferson County Commission, all Jefferson County municipalities, WVHSEM, and Federal Emergency Management Agency in July, 2003. The plan was updated in 2008 and 2013. The 2013 Plan was approved by WVDHSEM and FEMA in June, 2013. This committee meets Quarterly, and holds an Annual Meeting to review status of projects that were identified in the plan. Please call the office 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 Barbara Miller at bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org, Stephen Allen at sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org, or Brandon Vallee at bvallee@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; Public Awareness, Education and Training; Counter Terrorism; Partnership Development and Retention; and a Steering Committee that acts as an advisory group. We are responsible for the Citizen Corps/CERT, StormReady, Community Rating System, Resilient Neighbor Network and Project Impact programs. JCHSEM is also responsible for the Jefferson County R.A.C.E.S group.



Meetings & Events

November Meetings

- 3-Faith Based Training for the region in Moorefield, WV 0800-1500*
- 6-Daylight Savings Time Ends, Set your clock back 1 hour*
- 7-Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting, 1400 hours*
- 8-Election Day-County Offices are Closed*
- 10-WV Emergency Management Council, Southridge, Charleston, WV*
- 11-Veteran's Day-County Offices are Closed*
- 15-TSA Industry Day in Jefferson County-by TSA, Pittsburgh*
- 15-Skywarn Stormspotter Winter Storm Class, 6:30—9:30, Independent Fire Company, Ranson*
- 16 Jefferson County LEPC Special Meeting at IHOP, Charles Town 0730*
- 24/25-Thanksgiving Holidays-County Offices are Closed*
- 29-LEPC Special Meeting at IHOP, Charles Town, 0730*

December Meetings (Watch your December newsletter for more!)

- 5-Disaster Preparedness Presentation at the Jefferson County Council on Aging*
- 6-JCHSEM Steering Committee Meeting (Combined November/December meeting)*
- 6-Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting*
- 9-Dark Grid Exercise AAR/IP Meeting at the Jefferson County Maintenance Department Meeting Room 0900*
- 13 & 20-Counter Terrorism Committee Meetings*