



March, 2017

Jefferson County Commissioners:

Peter Onoszko, President

Jane Tabb, Vice President

Josh Compton

Caleb Hudson

Patsy Noland

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Steering Committee:

John Sherwood, Chair

Ed Smith, Vice Chair, Fire and Rescue Representative

Michele Goldman, Eastern Panhandle Care Clinic

Katherine Dunbar, Good Shepherd Inter-Faith Caregivers

Mason Carter, Jefferson County Department of Engineering

Jeffrey Polczynski, ENP, Jefferson County Emergency Communications Center

Jane Tabb, County Commission Representative

Kelly Parsons, Nichols, DeHaven & Associates

Pete Dougherty, Jefferson County Sheriff

Chuck Ellison, Frontier Communications, Utility Representative.

John Reisenweber, Jefferson County Development Authority

Sanford H. "Sandy" Green, Region 3 Homeland Security Area Liaison

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

FOCUS GROUP STUDY SEEKS PARTICIPANTS

Jefferson County Area Residents

Have you experienced flooding?
Do you rely on flood forecasts to decide when to prepare?



Nurture Nature Center is recruiting participants for focus groups, as part of a research project with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, about the use of National Weather Service flood forecast and warning tools.

Participants will be asked to answer questions and provide input about various flood warning tools and products issued by the National Weather Service.



Participants should live in Jefferson County area and be at least 18 years of age. Each participant will receive \$30 for their time and input. Light refreshments will be provided.

Wednesday, March 15 — 7 p.m.
Jefferson County Maintenance Department
128 Industrial Blvd.
Kearneysville, WV 25430

Focus groups will also be held for residents in Frederick County, MD and Water Resource and Emergency Managers in both Jefferson County, WV and Frederick County, MD. For information on those sessions, see socialscience.focusonfloods.org or contact Rachel Hogan Carr at rhogan@nurturenature.org or 610-253-4432.

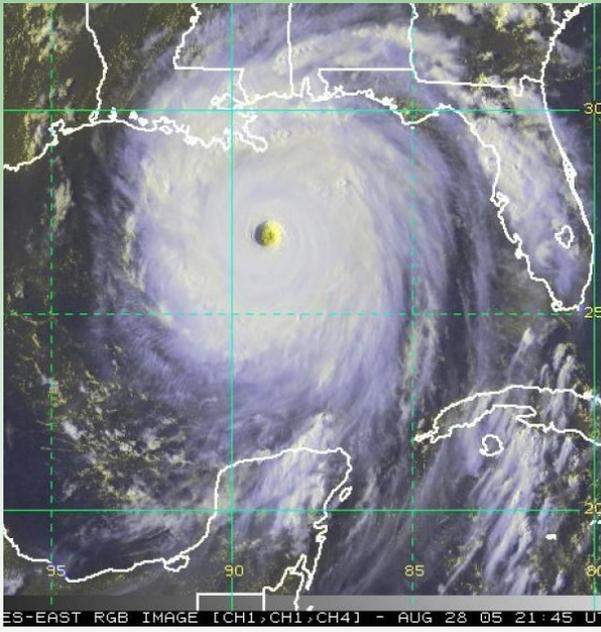


The Nurture Nature Center is a non-profit organization whose focus is on flood education.



This project was funded by the NOAA National Weather Service, Grant number NA16NWS4680004.

Register online at socialscience.focusonfloods.org
or by email or phone at: rhogan@nurturenature.org or 610-253-4432.



Lessons Learned from Hurricane Katrina Brown Bag Lecture at Shepherd

Hurricane Katrina, which struck the Gulf States in late August of 2005, was one of the most devastating natural disasters that our nation has ever experienced. One of the casualties, in addition to human tragedy and significant social and economic consequences, was the loss of credibility and faith in the competence of governmental authorities at all levels. Even now, more than 11 years after the incident, there are important lessons to be learned and significant policy implications as the Trump Administration assumes its emergency preparedness role. Major policy implications are involved, such as: determining shared responsibility between state and federal governments; the division of labor between the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security; adequacy of oversight of Army Corps of Engineers civil projects dealing

with flood control and disaster response; the role of public media in responsibly reporting; and the ultimate need for individual families to assume responsibility for their own safety and well-being. There are several strategic considerations that involve changing our approach to disaster response and recovery knowing that significant climate change and deteriorating national infrastructure will make future disasters more devastating. Retired Federal Emergency Management Agency Officer Mike Austin will discuss these issues and their implications based on his career as FEMA's planning officer, civil emergency planning representative at NATO, and senior advisor for international affairs.

Instructor: Michael Austin

Date: Wednesday, April 19

Location: Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education, Multipurpose Room

Time: 12:30-2 p.m.

Cost: \$15 per participant or Free for Shepherd University Lifelong Learning Gold Members.

To register, go to:

<http://www.shepherd.edu/wordpress-1/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Spring-2017-Registration-Form.pdf>

For additional information, contact Karen Rice at 304-876-5135 or krice@shepherd.edu





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.

ICS Overview for Executives and Public Officials on April 5 at Independent Fire Company

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management is sponsoring the Incident Command System Overview for Executives and Public Officials Course on April 5, 2017 at Independent Fire Company, 200 West Second Street, Ranson, WV 25430. This course is available to all executives and senior officials, including elected officials, city/county managers, agency administrators, etc. from throughout West Virginia Homeland Security Region 3 counties. (Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, and Mineral Counties.) The course is from 0800-1330. All course completers will receive a Certificate from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency).

This course provides executives and senior officials (including County Commissioners, Mayors, City Council Members, other elected officials, city/county managers, agency administrators, etc.) an orientation to the Incident Command System (ICS).

Course Objectives:

- Describe the Incident Command System (ICS).
- Describe the various ways ICS can be applied.
- Define the role of an executive/senior official relative to the ICS.
- Describe the major responsibilities of an executive/senior official as related to an incident.
- Demonstrate basic familiarity with ICS terminology.
- Describe the basic organization of ICS and know the functional responsibilities of the Command and General Staffs.
- Describe issues that influence incident complexity and the tools available to analyze complexity.
- Describe the differences between on-incident ICS organizations and activities and the activities accomplished by Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), Area Commands, and Multi-Agency Coordination Systems (MACS).
- Explain the administrative, logistical, financial, and reporting implications of large incident operations.
- Describe the sources of information regarding the incident and how to access them.
- Describe types of agency(ies) policies and guidelines that influence management of incident or event activities.

Registration is on Coursemill. Go to www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6/home.html to register for this class. Questions may be addressed to WV State Training Officer, Christian Fernley at 304-558-5380 or email him at: gregory.c.fernley@wv.gov

JCHSEM sponsoring the Advanced Skywarn Stormspotter Class for Flooding April 12



JCHSEM will sponsor the National Weather Service's (NWS) Advanced Skywarn Stormspotter Class for Floods on Wednesday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Independent Fire Department in Ranson. The class is free and a National Weather Service meteorologist will teach the class and bring related materials.

The classes are designed to educate the public on weather threats in the area, as well as strengthen the ties between the NWS and the local community. The more volunteer spotters the NWS has, the faster vital ground truth information gets to the NWS forecasters who make the decisions to issue life saving weather warnings.

Advanced classes, including the Flood class, require SKYWARN® Basics as a prerequisite. JCHSEM has sponsored the Basics class in the past, but if you missed it, you may take in at another location prior to this course. You may attend a class even if it is not in the county you reside in. For a complete listing of National Weather Service Skywarn Stormspotter offerings, go to <http://www.weather.gov/lwx/skywarn>.

Course Description: NWS Skywarn Stormspotter Class for Flood

Training in the Flood class is a good overview of flood threats in this area. It is intended for everyone. Basics I is a prerequisite for this class. The Flood class includes:

- Role of spotters & review of area
- What to report & how
- Types of Flooding
- Forecasting and Meteorology of Flooding
- Flooding Case Studies
- NWS products for flooding

The National Weather Service has a total of 267 trained Skywarn stormspotters in Jefferson County!

To register for the Flood Skywarn Program, go to <https://skywarnfloodjefferson.eventbrite.com>

If you have any questions, contact Brandon Vallee at bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org or call him at 304-724-8914.

Training Opportunities

Emergency Management is a constantly-changing field. While we all strive to keep up with the latest technology, the best ways to work with stakeholders to develop plans, how to conduct successful floodplain management, performing damage assessments, how to handle the debris after a disaster, help our communities to recover, or just learning the fundamentals, there are plenty of options available to you. Here are some great opportunities for training that you may or may not know about:

West Virginia Military Affairs and Public Safety's Training Center, CourseMill. If you are involved in emergency management in West Virginia, you can set up your free account at <http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6/home.html> Once you set up your account, you can log on and look at the list of available courses being taught in West Virginia. Current courses include:

- The Basics of Floodplain Management
- HazMat Highway Containers in a Tunnel Specialist
- Search and Rescue in Community Disasters
- Disaster Preparedness for Hospitals and HealthCare Organizations within the Community Infrastructure
- National Emergency Management Basic Academy Train the Trainer
- Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts
- Hazard Mitigation Planning for Local Governments
- Rail Care Incident Response for Crude, Ethanol and Other Flammable Liquids-Rail Car Response
- ICS for Elected Officials and Executives
- Various Mitigation Courses
- ICS 300

The courses are always changing, so check back often!

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute's url is <https://training.fema.gov/emi.aspx>. From this training portal, anyone can take their online independent study courses for free. There are over 100 courses to choose from. You can also browse the schedules and information about their on-campus resident courses for those who are involved in emergency management at the federal, state, local or tribal governments.

March 19-25 West Virginia Severe Weather and Flood Safety Week

March 19-25 is West Virginia Severe Weather and Flood Safety Week. Our state has a high flood risk and has cost millions of dollars for flood recovery in recent years. Watch our Facebook Page during March for information about how you can protect yourself, your family, and your property from flooding and severe weather and other information about upcoming events and information.

You can also explore the Jefferson County Flood Information section of our website at www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6/home.html

where you can find information about our flood risk, the history of flooding in Jefferson County, information on Flood Insurance and FEMA Flood Insurance Rating Maps; information about the floodplain ordinance, permits, elevation certificates, real-time river data for the Potomac, Shenandoah, and Opequon; a link to the WV Flood Tool, and more! It is your one-stop for everything "floods" in Jefferson County, WV! We hope that you will enjoy it and find it to be a useful tool. Bookmark it and come back often.



2017 Emergency Responder RAILROAD Training and Exercises:

Norfolk Southern Railroad Training for Emergency Responders

What: Norfolk Southern Rail Safety Emergency Response Training

When: March 21-23, 2017—4 Hour Classes repeated multiple dates!

Tuesday & Thursday 8 a.m. – Noon and 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday, 1-5 p.m. and 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Where: Norfolk Southern Railroad Yard, 1265 Maryland Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740

Register at www.transcaer.com/events.aspx

CSX Railroad Emergency Response to Railroad Incidents Training (ERRI) for Emergency Responders

What: CSX Railroad Emergency Response to Railroad Incidents Training

When: Thursday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Wildwood Middle School, 1209 Shenandoah Junction Rd, Shenandoah Junction, WV 25442

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/csx-emergency-response-to-railroad-incidents-tickets-31883857476> no later than April 13, 2017

CSX Railroad Combined Management Exercise for Emergency Responders

What: CSX Railroad Combined Management Exercise

When: Saturday, April 22 from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Where: Wildwood Middle School, 1209 Shenandoah Junction Rd, Shenandoah Junction, WV 25442

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/csx-railroad-combined-management-exercise-tickets-31883959782> no later than April 15

West Virginia Homeland Security Region 3 Exercise Series

What: Regional Tabletop Exercise

When: Monday, March 27, 2017, 9 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Where: WV National Guard Armory, 157 Freedom Way, Moorefield, WV 26836

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wv-homeland-security-region-3-ttx-tickets-31881452282> no later than March 22

Rail Car Incident Response for Crude, Ethanol and other Flammable Liquids for Emergency Responders

What: Rail Car Incident Response for Crude, Ethanol and other Flammable Liquids

When: Saturday, April 8, 2017 0800-1700

Where: Veterans Administration Post Theater, Building 317, Martinsburg, WV

For information on registration contact Scott Smoot at 540-671-1249 or scottleesmoot@gmail.com. Registration deadline is March 31, 2017.

WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Offers Flood Management and Mitigation Training Opportunities

What: Basics of Floodplain Management

Where: 104 East 4th Avenue, Williamson, WV 25661

When: April 28, 2017 8:30-4:30 p.m.

To register: www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6

What: Mitigation Planning for Local Government

Where: Days Inn, Flatwoods, WV

When: March 29-31, 2017 8 a.m.—5 p.m. daily

To register: www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6

What: Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Developing Quality Application Elements

Where: Days Inn, Flatwoods, WV

When: March 13-15, 2017 8 a.m.—5 p.m. daily

To register: www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6

What: Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance, Application Review and Evaluation

Where: Days Inn, Flatwoods, WV

When: March 16-17, 2017 8 a.m.—5 p.m. daily

To register: www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6

What: Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance: Project Implementation and Programmatic Close-out

Where: Days Inn, Flatwoods, WV

When: March 27-28, 2017 8 a.m.—5 p.m. Daily

To register: www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6

More information on each course can be found at www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6. Questions about the courses should be addressed to Brian Penix, State Hazard Mitigation Officer at 304-558-5380 or email to

Disaster Exercises, 2017

WV Homeland Security Region III (WVHSR3) Initial Planning Workshop and the After Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) Meeting for the Dark Grid Exercise Series was held in Jefferson County in December, 2016. Representatives from all counties in WVHSR3 were in attendance.

2017 WV Homeland Security Region 3, Tabletop Exercise.....March 27 at National Guard Armory, Moorefield, West Virginia. (Conducted by EPA & their Contractors)

CSX Combined Management Railroad Incident Exercise.....April 22 at Wildwood Middle School, Shenandoah Junction, West Virginia. (Conducted by CSX)

2017 WV Homeland Security Region 3, Functional Exercise.....TBA

2017 WV State Emergency Response Commission TTX.....TBA

2017 WV Homeland Security Region 3, Full Scale Exercise.....TBA

2017 WV Homeland Security Region 3, AAR/IP Meeting.....TBA

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 in 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**

28 Industrial Blvd., Suite 101
Kearneysville, WV 25430

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Public Information Officer and Volunteer
Coordinator
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Email: bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org

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; 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

March Meetings & Events

- 01-Jefferson County Commission Department Head Meeting, 0830
- 02- HAM Radio Testing at the Jefferson County EOC, 1730
- 03-EPEMA (Eastern Panhandle Emergency Management Agencies) Regional Meeting in Keyser.
- 03-Quarterly Testing of all EM/EOC Equipment
- 07-JCHSEM Steering Committee Meeting, 0900 at the Jefferson County EOC
- 08-Faith Based Community Organizations Ad Hoc Workgroup, 1330 at Public Services Bldg. Meeting Room, Bardane
- 09-WV Emergency Management Council Meeting-Frontier Building, Charleston (Jefferson attending by phone bridge)
- 14-Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting, 1400 at the Jefferson County Public Services Building, Extension Service Meeting Room
- 15-RIC (Regional Interoperable Committee), Phone Bridge Meeting at 1000 hours
- 15-Nurture Nature Center Flood Focus Group Meeting-MUST be preregistered. (See page #1)
- 21-23 Norfolk Southern Railroad ERRI Training (for emergency responders only), various times.
- 27-WV Homeland Security Region 3 Tabletop Exercise at the National Guard Armory in Moorefield. 1000-1500
- 28 JCHSEM Steering Committee Meeting 900 at Jefferson County EOC
- 28 County Government IT Meeting at 1500 in Library Meeting Room

* Sterling National Weather Service Calls every Monday at 0900

*Weather Calls every Monday and Friday at 1000 a.m. with State EOC and National Weather Service