



June/July, 2017



Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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

June/July, 2017

Jefferson County Commissioners:

Peter Onoszko, President

Jane Tabb, Vice President

Josh Compton

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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**

JCHSEM Quarterly Partnership Meeting to be held on July 28 at Skippers

The JCHSEM Quarterly Partnership Meeting will be held at Skippers Downtown Dips and Deli, 114 W Washington St, Charles Town, WV 25414 at Noon on July 28.

The special menu for our group is your choice of Chicken Salad Wrap, Ham Wrap, Turkey Wrap or a Salad with chips and a drink for \$10, payable to Skippers at the event. When you make your reservation, please indicate your choice of which wrap or salad that you want. This will expedite delivery of the meals at the luncheon. To register for the luncheon on Eventbrite, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jchsem-quarterly-partnership-meeting-tickets-35947965332?ref=estw>

If you need assistance with registration, contact Steve Allen at 304-728-3329 or email him at 304-728-3329.

JCHSEM at Bark in the Park in June

JCHSEM staff members, Steve Allen and Brandon Vallee, along with volunteers, Kelly Parsons and Todd Fagan spent the day giving out information and talking to dogs and their human companions about ways to prepare for and stay safe during disasters. Bark in the Park is held annually by the Animal Welfare Society at Jefferson Memorial Park.





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.

2017 Disaster Ready Kids Program



Do you have summer children's programs that you are looking for activities and/or readers for? We can help! Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management is once again sponsoring the Disaster Ready Kids Program for 2017.

This year we will be utilizing the "Mimi Mouse Learns to Prepare for Emergencies" DVD and accompanying materials. The Mimi Mouse program is designed for 4-7 year olds and provides general tips for parents on how to talk about emergencies, teaches children what an emergency kit is and how to build one, informs children about who to contact during an emergency, and how to review and practice for the family's emergency plan.

If your group of children is over the age of 9, we can show them how to put together a Family Disaster Kit or a Pet Disaster Supply Kit. Our staff will come to your facility, present the chosen materials, and begin encouraging everyone to start thinking about emergencies in a positive and interactive way. The only requirements are that you have adults there to be responsible for the children while the activities are taking place, that you let us know how many children to prepare for (estimate), and that you work with us to schedule a time that works well for both organizations.

There is no cost to participate in this program. We are scheduling for the 2017 summer season from May 1 until September 30, 2017. If you have questions, please contact Brandon Vallee at 304-724- 8914 or email to bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org as soon as possible. If you would like to schedule a session, please ask Brandon to send you the list of available programs and the form to set up your session. We do need at least a two-week notice to schedule your activity.

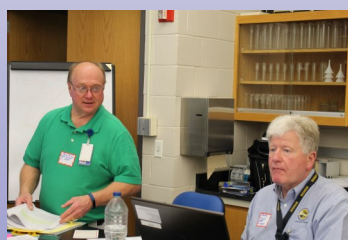
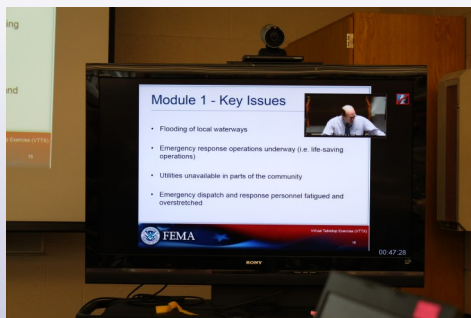


Virtual Tabletop Exercise-Flood, May 23

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management collaborated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct a Virtual Tabletop Exercise (VTTX) with a Flood Focus on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center near Shepherdstown. The Exercise was held from Noon - 4 p.m. in Lab #218.

In the exercise scenario, 100 year flooding occurred throughout the Potomac River basin, including all of the tributaries, as well as, the Potomac River. The exercise on-site facilitator will be Keith Gillan, Master Exercise Planner, who works for U.S. Customs and Border Protection Advanced Training Center in Harpers Ferry.

Agencies participating in the event were: Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management EOC Representatives of Emergency Support Functions; Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency, Shepherdstown Fire Department, Shepherdstown Police Department, Jefferson County GIS, Jefferson County Health Department, Hospice of the Panhandle, Thompson Gas, The Conservation Fund, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Conservation Training Center, Jefferson County Planning, Zoning and Engineering, WVU Medicine-Jefferson Medical Center, American Red Cross, Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES), Jefferson County Schools, Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney, Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, and WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Special thanks to Dick Myers, Stefanie Allemong, and Jody McClintock of Morgan County Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Morgan County Administrator for being our observers and evaluators for the exercise.



SHAKY GROUND FUNCTIONAL EXERCISE HELD JUNE 22

Jefferson County Agencies participated in Shaky Ground, the West Virginia Homeland Security Region 3 (WVHLSR3) Functional Exercise, held on Thursday, June 22 at the Augusta Church of Christ in Augusta, WV. The purpose of the functional exercise was to simulate an emergency in the most realistic manner possible, short of moving resources to an actual site. The exercise was conducted in “real-time” environment and intended to provide more stress and pressure to the participants than a tabletop exercise. A functional exercise is used to test and evaluate the capability of an organization to respond to an emergency using a simulated event. The scenario for this exercise was an Earthquake, with an epicenter near Round Hill, Virginia. The quake caused extensive damage to powerlines, communications grids, buildings, roadways, and other infrastructure. US EPA Region III was the Sponsor for this exercise. Participating Counties were: Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Hardy, Grant, Hampshire, Mineral, Morgan, Pendleton, and WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the US EPA. This was the second in a series of 3 exercises leading up to the Region’s Full Scale Exercise that will be held on Saturday, September 9 in Jefferson County.



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 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.

EF-0 Tornado Hits Charles Town Races Buildings on July 5

An EF-0 Tornado damaged Charles Town Races Horse Barns on July 5, 2017 at approximately 8:15 p.m., according to Steve Zubrick of the National Weather Service. Sustained winds of up to 70 mph were experienced causing damages to 4 barns. No people or horses were injured in this event. The tornado began at about the Jefferson Crossings Sign on Flowing Springs Road and traveled across the road onto the Charles Town Races Property.



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, Shaky Ground.....March 27 at National Guard Armory, Moorefield, West Virginia. (Conducted by EPA & their Contractors)

2017 FEMA Virtual Table Top Exercise-FLOOD, Tuesday, May 23, Noon—4 p.m. at the National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown.

2017 WV Homeland Security Region 3, Functional Exercise, Shaky Ground, Thursday, June 22, Augusta Church of Christ, Hampshire County.

2017 WV Homeland Security Region 3, Full Scale Exercise.....September 9 in Jefferson County

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 examines 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

July Meetings and Events

4-Independence Day Holiday, Office is Closed

6-HAM Radio Night at the Jefferson County EOC

11-LEPC Tour of the new Valley Health Urgent Care Facility, Ranson

12-County Government Diversity Training

12-Annual Review of the 2013 Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan at 2:00 p.m. at the Jefferson County Maintenance Department's Meeting Room

14 Eastern Panhandle Emergency Management Agencies meeting in Hardy County at 10 a.m.

19-LEPC Meeting at IHOP at 0730

26-Meeting with members of the EPA Exercise Planning Team 2 p.m.

28- Quarterly Partnership Meeting at Skippers Downtown Dips and Deli, Charles Town, Noon

Coming Events:

August 20-26-Jefferson County Fair

September 9-Full Scale Exercise in Jefferson County