



September, 2017

## JCHSEM Staff Members Receive Emergency Management Accreditation by WV Emergency Management Council and WVDHSEM



All Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management staff are now Accredited Emergency Managers, by the West Virginia Emergency Management Council and WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The accreditations were announced at the WV State Emergency Response Commission Conference in Charleston, West Virginia in August and a formal presentation was made at the

August 31, 2017 Jefferson County Commission meeting.

The field of emergency management is emerging into higher visibility in communities throughout the nation as they are victimized by disasters that are increasing in severity and numbers. With this, comes greater responsibilities for emergency managers, and the local government leaders that appoint them to their positions. In an effort to professionalize the emergency management workforce, an accreditation program has been developed by the West Virginia Emergency Management Council and West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

The Emergency Manager Accreditation emphasizes applied skills in disaster operations, alongside of and building on professional development, management and coordination skills. The ability to perform essential work in a disaster requires skills in emergency operations and management. We have an opportunity to make emergency management an essential part of everyday life, not something that only matters when we have a disaster. We have an opportunity to help people build safer communities, maintain their economies, and recover more quickly from disasters. The JCHSEM staff and their accreditation levels are:

Brandon Vallee, JCHSEM's Administrative Assistant/Public Information Office/Volunteer Coordinator has earned the Level 1 Accreditation (Beginner Level);

Stephen Allen, JCHSEM's Deputy Director/Planner/Program Manager has earned the Level 3 Accreditation (Highest Level); and

Barbara Miller, JCHSEM's Director has earned re-accreditation at the Level 3 Accreditation (Highest Level).

In most communities the strength of the emergency management system is related directly to the skills of the local emergency management professionals. Protection of life and property begins on the local level where the emergency impact is felt immediately. Prompt, effective response and speedy recovery is the result of planning done over the years. The creation of a viable emergency management system, one that can tap needed resources from both public and private agencies can be attributed to those individuals who took leadership roles in their communities.

In Jefferson County, we are proud to have our entire Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department as Accredited Emergency Management Professional. Accreditation is good for a period of three years, when candidates must submit a new package to the accreditation committee.

### 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**

**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**

# 2017



Disasters Don't Plan Ahead.  
**YOU CAN.**

## 2017 National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month. The purpose of National Preparedness month is to provide an opportunity for individuals, organizations, and communities to prepare for specific hazards in their community through drills, group discussions, planning, and exercises.

One of the goals of JCHSEM is to educate the public on how to prepare for emergencies, including natural disasters, man made disasters, and technological disasters.

During the month of September, Jefferson County Homeland Security will be posting on social media, a variety of tips and ideas for you to get you, your family, your pets, your neighbors, businesses, and community involved in emergency preparedness.

It is important to remember, disaster do not plan ahead, however you can.

### 2017 Weekly Themes

Week 1: September 1-9 Make a Plan for Yourself, Family and Friends

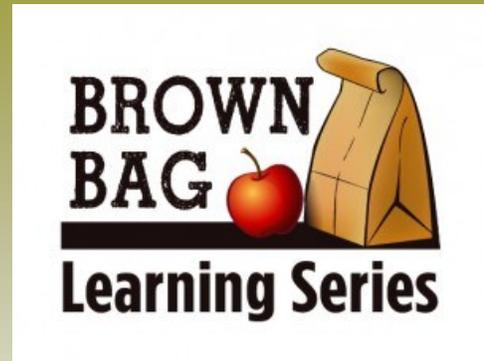
Week 2: September 10-16 Plan to Help Your Neighbor and Community

Week 3: September 17-23 Practice and Build Out Your Plans

Week 4: September 24-30 Get Involved! Be a Part of Something Larger

**Please watch our Facebook Page for more Preparedness Tips!  
@JeffersonCountyHSEM**

## **JCHSEM 2017 National Preparedness Month Wednesdays in September**



We currently have two very special Brown Back Learning Series programs set up. See below and please register for them as soon as possible on Eventbrite. If you have problems signing up on Eventbrite, contact Brandon Vallee at 304-724-8914 or email him at [bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org)

September 06-The speaker will be JCHSEM's Brandon Vallee. He will be teaching you how to put together a family disaster kit, how to develop your Family Disaster Plan, teach you how to sign up for Jefferson County Emergency Alerts, and how to take our Preparedness Survey on Survey Monkey! This will be held at the Charles Town Library in the County Commission Meeting Room. Please enter in the Samuel Street Entrance!  
TWO OFFERINGS 1100-Noon and Noon-1300. To Register, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/emergency-preparedness-training-tickets-37550711188>

September 27-Our speaker will be Jason Elliott, Hydrologist from the National Weather Service, Sterling, Virginia. This will be held at Molten Park on the Bloomery Road. Jason will talk about flooding on the Shenandoah River, new products used by the National Weather Service for flood predictions, and a discussion about recent flooding events. This discussion will begin at Noon and last about an hour. Remember to Bring your Own Lunch! Residents who live along the Shenandoah are encouraged to join us! To Register, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lunch-and-learn-national-weather-service-tickets-37550848599>

Please watch our Facebook Page @JeffersonCountyHSEM for possible additional Brown Bag Series opportunities!

### **All Residents: Please fill out our Preparedness Survey!**

We are inviting all residents of Jefferson County to fill out our preparedness survey. This will help us to understand where and how we need to target our preparedness training and activities, understand our community's perception of risk, and understand how you prefer to get your emergency public information. It is 14 questions and takes only about 3 minutes to complete! We value your input and hope that you will participate. The survey kicked off this week at the Jefferson County Fair and will remain available throughout National Preparedness Month (September). Thanks for your help!

**You will find it at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JCHSEM2017>**



## 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony to be held at Independent Fire Company

The Independent Fire Company will host its 16th annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on Monday, September 11, 2017 at 9:58 a.m. The ceremony will take place at the fire station, 200 W. 2nd Avenue, Ranson, WV. It should last about 1/2 hour.

The guest speaker is to be Dr. Karan Powell, President, American Public University System. Dr. Powell was in New York City that morning.

The commemoration will occur between the times the World Trade Center towers collapsed. The victims at the Pentagon, in Shanksville, PA and in the War on Terror will also be honored. Assisting will be members of the Jefferson High School Cougar Air Force Junior ROTC and the Washington High School Patriot Chamber Choir. Bagpipe music will be presented by Joe Kent.

The public is encouraged to attend to remember with us. Available Police, Fire, EMS, and Military personnel are requested to attend in uniform, if possible.

## Sign Up to Receive Jefferson County Emergency 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](http://www.nixle.com) and click on "resident". You can always call our office if you have local questions or need assistance with getting registered.

**WINTER WEATHER HAZARDS:  
SCIENCE & PREPAREDNESS  
AWR-331**



**HOSTED BY:**  
WV Division of Homeland Security and  
Emergency Management

**October 17, 2017  
8:00am – 5:00 pm**

**LOCATION AND DETAILS:**  
Jefferson County Maintenance Department  
Meeting Room  
128 Industrial Blvd  
Kearneysville, WV 25430

**Register at:**  
[www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6](http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6)

**For registration assistance contact:**  
Christian Fernley- [gregory.c.fernley@wv.gov](mailto:gregory.c.fernley@wv.gov)  
304-558-5380

**NDPTC** NATIONAL DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS TRAINING CENTER  
UNIVERSITY OF WEST VIRGINIA

NSA/Navy Regional Center  
PROCESSED BY: 1345 West 10th Building 116, Honolulu, HI 96818  
PHONE: 808.725.5230 • FAX: 808.725.5230

As a member of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium, the NDPTC is a DHS/ FEMA training center dedicated to providing critical all-hazards training throughout the United States and its territories with an emphasis on natural hazards and island and coastal communities.

**FEMA**

## Training Opportunities

Winter Weather Hazards: Science and Preparedness AWR-331  
October 17, 2017

8:00 a.m.—5 p.m.

Join us for our Winter Weather Hazards: Science and Preparedness course and increase your understanding of the latest in winter weather science, forecasting, warning, and best practices in preparedness. Enhance your ability to identify and describe the hazards associated with winter weather and to better prepare for and mitigate the impacts of snow sleet, freezing rain, and dangerously low temperatures. Who should take this? Citizen/Community Volunteers, Emergency Management, Fire Service, Law Enforcement, Other interested persons. Modules include Science of Winter Weather, Winter Weather Forecast Process, Winter Weather Warning Process and Safety, Winter Storm Scenario. For registration information, see flyer to your left! If you need assistance with registration, contact Christian

Fernley at 304-558-5380.

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 flood-plain 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. 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.

# 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 Jefferson County LEPC's School Bus Accident TTX.....August 10 at Jefferson County Transportation Department's Meeting Room.**

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org), Stephen Allen at [sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org), or Brandon Vallee at [bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto: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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Stephen Allen, Deputy Director, Planner and  
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Brandon Vallee, Administrative Assistant,  
Public Information Officer and Volunteer  
Coordinator  
Phone 304-724-8914  
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**

### **September Meetings and Events—September is National Preparedness Month!**

*4-Labor Day Holiday-Office is closed*

*5-EOC Training, 1400-1600, You must be preregistered to attend*

*6-JCHSEM National Preparedness Month Brown Bag Learning Series @ County Commission Meeting Room, Charles Town Library-1100-Noon and Noon-1300. Presenter-Brandon Vallee, JCHSEM- Disaster Preparedness Kit, Disaster Plan, Emergency Alerts, and our Preparedness Survey Monkey (Bring your own Lunch!)*

*8-Pre-Exercise Preparation*

*9-Shaky Ground Full Scale Exercise in Jefferson County*

*11-Remembrance of 9-11-2001 at 0958 at Independent Fire Company, Ranson*

*12 JCHSEM Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting*

*13-JCHSEM NPM Brown Bag Learning Series. (Bring your own Lunch!)—To Be Announced-Watch our Facebook Page!*

*15th-National Preparathon Day*

*19-JCHSEM Steering Committee Meeting @ Jefferson County EOC at 0900-To Be Announced-Watch our Facebook Page!*

*20-JCHSEM NPM Brown Bag Learning Series. (Bring your own Lunch!)*

*25-27-WV Statewide Interoperable Radio Network Conference at Camp Dawson, Kingwood.*

*26-Disaster Ready Kids Program @ TLC Montessori School*

*27-JCHSEM NPM Brown Bag Learning Series @ Molten Park on Bloomery Road. Presenter is Jason Elliott, National Weather Service. Noon-1300. (Bring your own Lunch!)*

*October 17-Winter Weather Hazards: Science & Preparedness, AWR-331*