



October, 2017



Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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

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Quarterly Partnership Meeting to be held at The Anvil on October 12 Allen Keyser, Speaker



Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management will hold its Quarterly Partnership Meeting at The Anvil in Harpers Ferry on Thursday, October 12 at Noon.

Our guest speaker for the event will be Allen Keyser, Volunteer Fire Recruitment Coordinator for the Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency (JCESA). He will talk about their volunteer recruitment campaign, "Can You Stand The Heat?" and the progress that they have been able to make so far. Additionally, there will be updates on JCHSEM programs and activities.

Lunch Choices are:

Chef salad with ham, turkey, cheese, etc. with choice of dressing

1/4 Cheeseburger with fries

Smoked Pork BBQ Sandwich with fries

Price inclusive is \$15 per person, payable to The Anvil when you arrive. Remember to bring your business cards, as this is a networking event!

All reservations must be made no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, October 9th (Columbus Day). To make your reservation, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jchsem-quarterly-partnership-meeting-tickets-38373169182>

If you need assistance making your reservations, contact Brandon Vallee at 304-724-8914 or bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org

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



Jefferson County Lowers Flood Insurance Premiums through CRS



PHILADELPHIA – Residents of Jefferson County, West Virginia have received a reduction in their flood insurance premiums through increase of various floodplain management measures encouraged by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) oversees the NFIP, which administers a program called the Community Rating System (CRS). The CRS is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed minimum NFIP requirements. “The Community Rating System change for Jefferson County shows their commitment to protecting themselves from the dangers of flooding,” FEMA Region III Regional Administrator MaryAnn Tierney stated. “By taking actions to protect lives and properties, the county has reduced their risk to flooding and seen a drop in their insurance premiums to reflect those efforts.” The program includes 10 different class rating levels based on the number and type of activities voluntarily initiated by the participating community. Each level corresponds to a percentage discount on National Flood Insurance policy premiums within the municipality.

As a member of the Community Rating System, Jefferson County is within an elite group of eight West Virginia communities and counties that have received this recognition. With the continued steps taken by Jefferson County to protect its citizens and increase its resiliency, it has moved from a Class 8 to a Class 6 Community Rating System participant. The Class 6 rating qualifies eligible National Flood Insurance Program policy holders in the City an average of over \$289.00 in savings on their annual premiums. In total, the upgrade in class rating level accounts for a total savings of over \$45,634 annually for citizens of Jefferson County; an increase of \$22,817.00 from Class 8.

Under the CRS, local officials are asked to meet three goals: (1) reduce flood losses; (2) facilitate accurate insurance rating; and (3) promote the awareness of flood insurance. Communities can earn a CRS rating by submitting an application explaining the projects they have in place or development. Once the information is verified and approved, FEMA provides flood insurance premium discounts through the NFIP. The amount of a property owner's policy discount is based on the community's CRS rating.

For each Class that a community moves up to, it provides its residents with an additional 5% reduction in their flood insurance premiums up to the 45% reduction that a Class 1 community receives. As a Class 6 community, Jefferson County enables its residents to receive a 20% reduction on their flood insurance premiums.

For information about flood insurance, property owners should contact their insurance agent, visit <https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program>, or call the NFIP's toll-free information line at 800-427-4661. To learn more about the CRS, visit <https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-community-rating-system>.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. FEMA Region III's jurisdiction includes Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. Stay informed of FEMA's activities online: videos and podcasts are available at fema.gov/medialibrary and youtube.com/fema. Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/femaregion3.



2017 Preparedness Survey Monkey Results:

Q. What is your preferred way to communicate on a daily basis?

58.96% Text Messages

17.34% Cell Phone

16.76 Email

4.62% Landline Phone

2.31% other

Q. What kinds of social media do you regularly use?

96.53% Facebook

21.39% YouTube

20.81% Instagram

Other forms of social media were below those percentages.

Q. Do you have a family disaster supply kit?

28.32% said yes

52.02% said no

12.14% said yes, with a smaller kit in their car

15.03% said they don't know what a disaster supply kit is

7.51% said yes they have a disaster supply kit for their pets

3.47% other

Q. Do you have a family disaster plan?

13.70% said yes

18.97% said yes, plus a plan that includes their pets

3.49% said they don't have family, but they do have an individual plan

1.15% said they don't have family, but they do have a pet plan

62.64% said NO, they do not have a family disaster plan.

Q. What method do you prefer to receive Emergency Public Information, such as weather watches and warnings; locations of where shelters are set up; locations of where emergency commodities are available?

77.01% said Text Messages. None of the other percentages exceeded 5%

The age range for those taking the survey was 21-90, with the largest group being age 41-50 (28.16%)

Q. Do you have domestic pets?

Most responses were dogs, cats, dogs and cats, with a very small percentage of other "pets"

All zip codes in Jefferson County were represented in the survey, with Charles Town being the largest percentage, 34.68 percent, with Harpers Ferry being second largest at 23.12%

When asked what types of disasters Jefferson County is at risk from, 100% said Winter Storms, 96% said Thunderstorms, 93% Structure Fires, 91% said Train wrecks, 90% said Active Shooter, 86% said Tornado, 83% said Flooding, 81% said Hazardous Materials accident; 81% said Public Health disaster. Others listed were: Earthquakes, straightline winds, drought, wildfire, landslide, land subsidence, hurricane, pandemic, cyber attack, nuclear incident, dam failure, bridge failure, civil unrest, and a couple indicated tsunami and volcano. There were some answers that only one individual listed.

Q. Do you know that most homeowner's insurance does NOT cover flooding or subsidence from sink holes, 84.80% said yes, and 15.20% said no.

2017 Preparedness Survey Monkey Answers Continued from Page 3

Q. Do you currently have adequate homeowner's insurance to cover any hazard that may impact your property?

60.82% said yes

7.02% said they need to consider a flood insurance policy

1.75% said they do not have adequate homeowner's insurance

15.79% said they do not know if they have adequate homeowner's insurance.

13.45% said they are not homeowners

Q. If you rent your home, do you have renter's insurance?

21.33% said yes

29.33 said no

4 % said they don't know

45.33 said they were homeowners

Q. If you have flood insurance, do you know that Jefferson County is a Community Rating System Community that saves you money on your flood insurance premium?

5.06% said Yes, I do know that I currently save 10% on my flood insurance.

1.90% said Yes, I do know that I will soon begin to save 20% on my flood insurance.

50% said No, I did not know this.

39.24% said they do not have a flood insurance policy.

3.80% said something else.

Q. Are you signed up for NIXLE Alerts?

35.67% said Yes/ 64.33% said No


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 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

For registration assistance contact:
Christian Fernley- gregory.c.fernley@wv.gov
304-558-5380

NDPTC REGIONAL CENTER
NORAD Regional Center
1845 West Main Building 116, Shenandoah, HI 96218
PHONE: 808.725.5230 • FAX: 808.725.5230

As a member of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium, the NDPTC is a DHS/ FEMA training partner 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-Only 6 seats left!

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 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. 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.

How to Help After a Disaster—From F.E.M.A

Thank you to all of the generous individuals who donated their time, money, and supplies to people affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

If you still want to help, whether through financial donation or personal volunteerism, make sure you do so responsibly.

Cash is the most efficient method of donating. Financial contributions to recognized disaster relief organizations are the fastest, most flexible, and most effective method of donating. Organizations on the ground know what items and quantities are needed. They often buy in bulk with discounts and, if possible, purchase through area businesses, which supports economic recovery. To make a cash donation directly to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, visit www.unitedforpuertorico.com. You may also make financial donations to a National VOAD member organization to help voluntary or charitable organizations continue to provide services to Hurricane Maria survivors.

Confirm donations needed. Critical needs change rapidly – confirm needed items BEFORE collecting; pack and label carefully; confirm delivery locations; arrange transportation. Unsolicited goods NOT needed burden local organizations' ability to meet survivors' confirmed needs, drawing away valuable volunteer labor, transportation, and warehouse space.

Connect to volunteer. Trusted organizations operating in the affected area know where volunteers are needed, and can ensure appropriate volunteer safety, training, and housing.

Donate through a trusted organization. Find trusted national and state level agencies to donate or volunteer from the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. Do not self-deploy. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is currently seeking talented and hard-working people to help support the response and recovery.

If you need help in determining where and how to give, the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster website has a list of major non-profits active in disaster work. For more information, visit www.fema.gov/volunteer-donate-responsibly and Three Ways to Help After Hurricane Maria.



PHOTOS From 2017 JCHSEM Disaster Preparedness Month



Brown Bag Learning Series
EOC Training
National Weather Service at
Moulton Park
Shaky Ground Full Scale Ex-
ercise
CRS Class 6 Rating



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 Cyber Coordination Exercise, December 12, 2017. Watch for more details as they become available!

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

October Meetings and Events—October is Fire Safety Month!

- 4 County Department Head Meeting at Charles Town Library 0830**
- 5 Amateur Radio Equipment Testing at EOC 1730**
- 9 Columbus Day Holiday—Office is closed**
- 11 Public Awareness Committee Meeting—Review of the PPI Program**
- 12 Quarterly Partnership Meeting at The Anvil in Harpers Ferry at Noon**
- 13 EPEMA (Eastern Panhandle Emergency Management Agencies) meeting at the Hardy County EOC 0900-1700**
- 17-Winter Weather Hazards: Science & Preparedness, AWR-331**
- 17 Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Emergency Responder Recognition Banquet at Hollywood Casino**
- 18 Jefferson County LEPC Meeting at IHOP at 0730**
- 18 WV Ethics and Open Meetings Training at the Jefferson County Commission Training Room at 1900**
- 24 Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting @ 1400 at the Jefferson County EOC**