



December, 2017



# Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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

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## 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**

## December 4-8 is Winter Weather Awareness Week across the Mountain State

CHARLESTON, West Virginia)- After the mild winter of 2016/2017, it would be easy to let your guard down. However, winter in the Mountain State can bring heavy snow, ice storms, bitter cold, and even severe thunderstorms and floods. Now is the time to prepare for whatever winter may bring and the National Weather Service along with the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management have designated December 4-8 as Winter Weather Awareness Week.

Each year, dozens of Americans die due to exposure to the cold. Even more fatalities occur in vehicle accidents, fires caused by heaters, or due to carbon monoxide poisoning from the improper use of generators during power outages. The aftermath of a winter storm can also have an impact on a community for days, weeks or even months. Ultimately it is up to every citizen to be prepared for what winter may bring!

"Building a Weather-Ready West Virginia starts at home and one of the best ways families can prepare for any disaster is to build an emergency kit," said Jamie Bielinski, Meteorologist-in-Charge of the National Weather Service in Charleston, WV. Bielinski continued, "A basic emergency kit should have a three day supply of food, water and medicine, along with the essential supplies your family will need in the event of a prolonged power outage when travel is not possible." Additional advice on what to include in an emergency kit for your family can be found at [ready.gov/build-a-kit](http://ready.gov/build-a-kit).

Know the risks your community faces and monitor weather forecasts. When a winter storm is in the forecast, communicate with family members and know their location and travel plans. Make sure all family members are able to get emergency alerts.

While the best idea is to just stay home during winter storms, sometimes that's not possible. Winterize your vehicle now, while the weather is warm, and keep an emergency kit in your car. Weather conditions can vary greatly within short distances here in the mountains so make sure to check the forecast and road conditions along your route of travel. The West Virginia Department of Transportation urges you to "know before you go" by checking traffic and road closure information at [wv511.org](http://wv511.org) before heading out the door.

Winter Weather Awareness Week is a perfect time for families, communities, schools and businesses to review their plans and to build or resupply their emergency kits. To help that effort, the National Weather Service in Charleston will share winter weather preparedness information throughout the week via the web, Facebook and Twitter. Partner organizations and the media are also encouraged to participate and the National Weather Service has made various winter weather preparedness articles, infographics and social media plans available for use at [www.weather.gov/rlx/WVWinterAwareness](http://www.weather.gov/rlx/WVWinterAwareness).

Organizations that would like to partner with the National Weather Service to build a Weather-Ready Nation should become Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors. The Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador initiative is intended for organizations and designed to help serve the public by strengthening our national resilience against extreme weather events. For more information and to apply, go to [www.weather.gov/wrn/ambassadors](http://www.weather.gov/wrn/ambassadors).

## Community Rating System Course to be held at Tygart Lake State Park on December 6-7

### **Course Description:**

The Community Rating System course is a free State sponsored comprehensive one and a half day, hands on, participatory training course on the Community Rating System (CRS) in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This class is being offered for a target audience of Floodplain Administrators and Local officials of our Counties and Communities. Class size is limited to twenty five-first come- first serve upon approval. Class content is geared toward experienced Floodplain Administrators. The focus on this class is getting more communities in the CRS program to keep the citizens safer as well as saving them money. Jefferson County is a CRS Class 6 Community, saving residents within the County jurisdiction 20% off of their flood insurance premiums.

**Time:** December 6 - 1pm to 5pm; December 7 - 8:30am to 3:30pm

**To Register:** <http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6>

If you need assistance with registration, contact the WVDHSEM Training Officer, Christian Fernley at 304-558-5380 or [gregory.c.fernley@wv.gov](mailto:gregory.c.fernley@wv.gov)

For more information about FEMA's CRS Program, go to:

<https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-community-rating-system>

## 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 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.

## WV Emergency Management Conference held in Bridgeport November 14-16, 2017

Laura Pysz, Director of the Bridgeport Emergency Management Agency was named the 2017 John Tagg Memorial West Virginia Emergency Manager of the Year. Congratulations, Laura!

The agenda for the 3-day conference included: Lessons Learned from the 2016 Flood, Meteorologists and EM relationships, Traumatic Incident Response (How the human body responds); How to mitigation long-term effects of a traumatic incident; BERP (Bovine Emergency Response Plan) Training, First Net & AT&T, Hazard Mitigation, THIRA (Threat Hazard Identification Risk Assessment), EMPG (Emergency Management Planning Grant), Self Care and Stress Training, the Quarterly Emergency Management Council Meeting, and the John Tagg Memorial Emergency Manager of the Year Award.

Cindy Hart, Director of Randolph County Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Jim Ancell, Deputy Director of Randolph County Homeland Security and Emergency Management had earned their Advanced Professional Certificate and were awarded their certificates during the banquet.



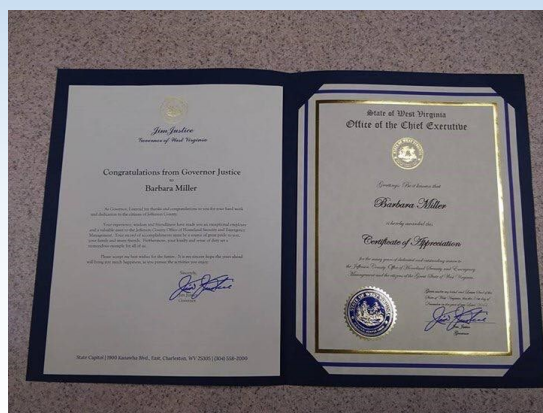
Grant Gannoe, Director of the City of Charleston Emergency Management earned his WV Emergency Manager, Level 3 Accreditation from WVEMC.





## Director Miller given Letter of Appreciation from the Governor's Office

Bridgeport, WV-West Virginia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director, Jimmy Gianato presented Jefferson County HSEM Director, Barb Miller with a letter Certificate of Appreciation from the Governor's office for her dedication and hard work for the people of Jefferson County and the State of West Virginia during the WV Emergency Management Conference on November 15th. Miller will be retiring on December 31st after nearly 16 years with Jefferson County Government. The next day at the Emergency Management Council Association meeting, she was unanimously voted in as a Lifetime Honorary Member of the WV Emergency Management Association by her peers.



## Passing the Torch!

For the past 16 years, I've had the privilege of serving the Jefferson County community, first as the Project Impact Coordinator, the Director of Homeland Security, and the Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. My mission has always been the same: To create opportunities for this community to be resilient to disasters; to do things in the pre-disaster timeframe that will lessen the burdens on all concerned after a disaster happens, and to honor all input from others. What a gift to have been a part of the team that has a such deep commitment to our community!

My December 31 retirement will allow me more time to focus on other things that I love, such as my family who has provided me with the support and patience required for me to have devoted the time and commitment to my career; my love of nature in all of its beauty, hiking as many trails as time will allow, and living in an area where my greatest risks will be from winter storms (which I LOVE) and from deer eating my veggie and flower gardens!

I do plan to continue to stay relevant with Emergency Management. Next year I will be an instructor for some of the courses that WVDHSEM holds for local emergency managers, and will continue to volunteer with the Natural Hazards Mitigation Association's Resilient Neighbors Network. I will continue to be involved with FEMA Region 3's RAC (Regional Advisory Committee), moving from my current status of a member of the RAC to a non-voting subject matter expert.

Over the years, both in Jefferson County and with the Randolph-Tucker Partnership for Disaster Mitigation and Recovery before coming to this county, I have been blessed to make many new acquaintances and develop amazing friendships that I will treasure always! My thanks to all of you for your trust, your support of our program and projects, and your continued willingness to share your time and talents to prepare and protect the community you love. I am forever grateful !

*Barb Miller*

*bmiller00@comcast.net*

# 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. U.S. Customs and Border Protection Advanced Training Center, Harpers Ferry, WV. By Invitation Only.**

**2017 WV Homeland Security Region 3, AAR/IP Meeting.....January 10, 2018 in Hampshire County. Place 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 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 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**

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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**

### **December Meetings and Events**

- 5 JCHSEM Steering Committee, 9:00 a.m. at Jefferson County EOC**
- 6 County Department Head Meeting at Charles Town Library 0800**
- 6 & 7 CRS Training at Tygart Lake State Park, Grafton. Sponsored by WVDHSEM**
- 8 Eastern Panhandle Emergency Management Agencies Meeting at the Grant County EOC**
- 12 Cyber Coordination VTTX at U.S. Customs and Border Protection Advanced Training Center, By Invitation Only!**
- 20 Jefferson County LEPC Meeting at IHOP at 7:30 a.m.**
- 25 Christmas Holiday-Office is closed**