



Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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

September 2018

September is National Preparedness Month

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National Preparedness Month is 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 Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) is to educate the public on how to plan and prepare for emergencies including natural disasters, man-made disasters, and technological disasters.

During the month of September, check JCHSEM's social media, where we will be posting a variety of tips and ideas to get involved in emergency preparedness - for you, your family, your pets, your neighbors, local businesses, and the community.

National Preparedness Month this year will focus on planning, with the theme of: **Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How.**

We encourage you to take time not only to check your emergency preparedness kit but, to develop and practice your emergency preparedness plan. Discussions should include registering the whole family for emergency alerts, sheltering in place at home, work, or school, evacuation planning, and how to communicate with your family during a disaster. Be sure to take time to factor in family-specific needs such as having children, medical needs, or pets in the household.

Additionally, JCHSEM recommends taking the time to learn life-saving skills. First aid, CPR, using a fire extinguisher, or shutting off water and gas lines can be learned by watching an online tutorial, talking your local fire department, or taking a class with the American Red Cross.

As with any disaster or emergency, one of the major challenges you will face is rebuilding some aspects of your life. Having an adequate and comprehensive insurance policy on your household and possessions and access to personal financial, medical, and other records is crucial for starting the process of recovery quickly and efficiently. Taking the time to collect and secure these essential records will give you peace of mind and, in the event of an emergency, will ensure that you have the documentation needed to start the recovery process without delay.

It is important to remember that disasters do not plan ahead; however, **you can**.



2018 Weekly Themes

- Week 1: Sept 1-8
 - Week 2: Sept 9-15
 - Week 3: Sept 16-22
 - Week 4: Sept 23-29
- Make and Practice Your Plan**
Learn Life Saving Skills
Check Your Coverage
Save For an Emergency

Are you Prepared for a Disaster?

Five Guides that can Assist

Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Flash Flooding, River Flooding, Snow Storms, Thunder Storms, Straight Line Winds, Wildfire, Home Fire, Drought, Extreme Temperatures... Do you know the risks that Jefferson County faces? Do you have a plan for when the inevitable happens?

The time to get prepared for a disaster is now. Thankfully, JCHSEM has valuable information and resources at your fingertips.

Guide #1: Knowing your Risks

Jefferson County is susceptible to various natural and man-made hazards from Flooding, to Wildfire, to Winter Storms, to Tornadoes. Ensuring your Emergency Supply Kit and Family Disaster Plan focuses on all potential hazards will give you and your family an edge.

For more information on what to plan for when living in the Mountain State, check out:

<http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/home/showdocument?id=11365>

Guide #2: Creating a Family Disaster Plan

Preparing your family for an emergency is as simple as having a conversation over dinner. JCHSEM has created a family disaster planning tool in order to help you get organized. This tool will help your family write down and track the important records that you will need when the next disaster strikes.

To check it out, go to: <http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/home/showdocument?id=14000>

Guide #3: Building your Emergency Supply Kit

Does your emergency preparedness kit meet the needs of your whole family? When building your emergency preparedness kit, think of camping for five to seven days and consider your family's specific needs.

To help you get started on building your kit, check out:

<http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/home/showdocument?id=14585>

Guide #4: Planning for your Pets

Pets are family and we want them to be prepared as well. However, pets require special considerations when developing your plans and creating an emergency supply kit.

For tips on how to prepare your pets for a disaster, check out our Disaster Preparedness for Pets brochure: <http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/home/showdocument?id=14225>

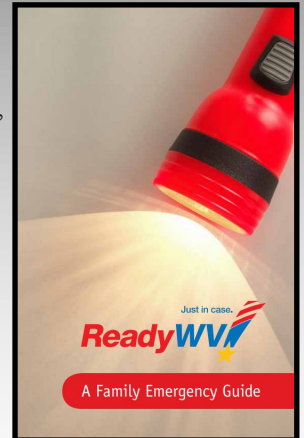
Guide #5 Sign up for Nixle.

Nixle provides Jefferson County specific emergency notifications straight to your phone. For more information about Nixle, check out page 3 of the Newsletter or go to:

<http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/home/showdocument?id=12128>

All of these guides and more valuable information are available on the Jefferson County Website:

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



9/11 Remembrance Ceremony



The Independent Fire Company will host its 17th annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on Tuesday, September 11, 2018, at 9:58 a.m. The ceremony will take place at the fire station located at 200 West 2nd Ave., Ranson, WV and should last approximately a half an hour.

The guest speaker is to be Staff Sergeant Gregory Fechner, United States Air Force. He was in the Pentagon near where American Flight 77 struck.

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.

Contact: Henry Christie, Chaplain if you have any additional questions. His office number is (304) 725-9622 and his cell phone is (304) 279-6024

Top: 1st Lieutenant - EMT / Department Chaplain: Henry Christie

Right: Idella is an 1885 Button Steam Engine that was the first Engine of the Independent Steam Fire Company, No. 1. It was completely rebuilt by Andy Swift from Firefly



Sign Up to Receive Nixle Alerts!



JCHSEM 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 it's 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 access to 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.

Getting Financially Prepared for a Disaster

Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK)

Strengthen Your Financial Preparedness
for Disasters and Emergencies

March 2018

FEMA P-1075/March 2018



EFFAK



“If a disaster or other emergency strikes our community, you may only have seconds or minutes to react. In those critical moments, your focus will be on your family’s safety. Once the threat of harm has passed, having your homeowners or renters insurance policy, bank account information, and other household records and contacts with you will be very important as you begin the recovery process.” — Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

The Emergency Financial First Aid Kit is a tool published by FEMA that will allow an individual, household, or organization the ability to organize their financial records to allow them to recover following a disaster.

The document has guidance on financial wellness, checklists and forms, recommendations on how to protect your critical information, how to avoid scams, and other steps to consider when preparing for an emergency. This guide should be used in conjunction with other family disaster planning guides in order to make sure you are prepared for all manner of disasters.

To get your copy, go to:

<http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/home/showdocument?id=15684>

National Preparedness Month Survey

Throughout National Preparedness Month, we are conducting a community preparedness survey. The purpose of the survey is to not only gauge our public outreach efforts in Jefferson County but to get an idea of what the community wants more information about. Your input and feedback are greatly appreciated. For the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JCHSEM2018>

As always, if you have any direct feedback regarding the Newsletter, social media posts, or any information you would like to see us talk about, please contact Brandon at bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org

Hazard Focus: What is Space Weather?

Space Weather is a term which has become accepted over the past few years to refer to a collection of physical processes, beginning at the Sun and ultimately affecting human activities on Earth and in space. The Sun emits energy, as flares of electromagnetic radiation (radio waves, infra-red, light, ultraviolet, X-rays), and as energetic electrically charged particles through coronal mass ejections (CME) and plasma streams. The particles travel outwards as the solar wind, carrying parts of the Sun's magnetic field with them.

The electromagnetic radiation travels at the speed of light and takes about 8 minutes to move from Sun to Earth, whereas the charged particles travel more slowly, taking from a few hours to several days to move from Sun to Earth. The radiation and particles interact with the Earth's geomagnetic field and outer atmosphere in complex ways, causing concentrations of energetic particles to collect and electric currents to flow in regions of the outer atmosphere (magnetosphere and ionosphere). These can result in geomagnetic variations, aurora, and can affect a number of technologies.



Space Weather

Space weather refers to the variable conditions on the Sun and in the space environment that can influence the performance and reliability of space-based and ground-based technological systems, as well as endanger life or health. Just like weather on Earth, space weather has its seasons, with solar activity rising and falling over an approximate 11 year cycle.

Sunspots

Sunspots are comparatively cool areas at up to 7,700°F and show the location of strong magnetic fields protruding through what we would see as the Sun's surface. Large, complex sunspot groups are generally the source of significant space weather.

Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)

Large portions of the corona, or outer atmosphere of the Sun, can be explosively blown into space, sending billions of tons of plasma, or superheated gas, Earth's direction. These CMEs have their own magnetic field and can slam into and interact with Earth's magnetic field, resulting in geomagnetic storms. The fastest of these CMEs can reach Earth in under a day, with the slowest taking 4 or 5 days to reach Earth.

Solar Wind

The solar wind is a constant outflow of electrons and protons from the Sun, always present and buffeting Earth's magnetic field. The background solar wind flows at approximately one million miles per hour!

Solar Flares

Reconnection of the magnetic fields on the surface of the Sun drive the biggest explosions in our solar system. These solar flares release immense amounts of energy and result in electromagnetic emissions spanning the spectrum from gamma rays to radio waves. Traveling at the speed of light, these emissions make the 93 million mile trip to Earth in just 8 minutes.

Earth's Magnetic Field

Earth's magnetic field, largely like that of a bar magnet, gives the Earth some protection from the effects of the Sun. Earth's magnetic field is constantly compressed on the day side and stretched on the night side by the ever-present solar wind. During geomagnetic storms, the disturbances to Earth's magnetic field can become extreme. In addition to some buffering by the atmosphere, this field also offers some shielding from the charged particles of a radiation storm.

Sun's Magnetic Field

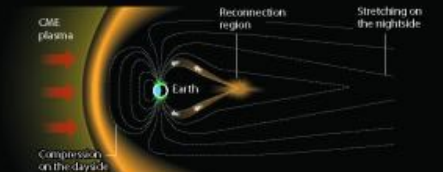
Strong and ever-changing magnetic fields drive the life of the Sun and underlie sunspots. These strong magnetic fields are the energy source for space weather and their twisting, shearing, and reconnection lead to solar flares.

Solar Radiation Storms

Charged particles, including electrons and protons, can be accelerated by coronal mass ejections and solar flares. These particles bounce and gyrate their way through space, roughly following the magnetic field lines and ultimately bombarding Earth from every direction. The fastest of these particles can affect Earth tens of minutes after a solar flare.

Geomagnetic Storms

A geomagnetic storm is a temporary disturbance of Earth's magnetic field typically associated with enhancements in the solar wind. These storms are created when the solar wind and its magnetic field interacts with Earth's magnetic field. The primary source of geomagnetic storms is CMEs which stretch the magnetosphere on the nightside causing it to release energy through magnetic reconnection. Disturbances in the ionosphere (a region of Earth's upper atmosphere) are usually associated with geomagnetic storms.



Source: NASA, NOAA



NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center - www.spaceweather.gov

Global Positioning System (GPS)

Geomagnetic storms can impact the accuracy and availability of GPS by changing the ionosphere, the electrically charged layer of the atmosphere. A GPS signal must pass through from satellite to ground receivers. The ionosphere is the largest source of error in GPS positioning and navigation. These ionospheric disturbances are ever-present but can become severe during geomagnetic storms, resulting in range errors in excess of 100 feet, or even resulting in loss of lock on the GPS signal entirely. These errors can have significant impacts on precision uses of GPS such as navigation, agriculture, oil drilling, surveying, and timing.



Satellite Operations

There are thousands of satellites in orbit around Earth with applications in television and radio communications, meteorology, national defense, and much more. Space weather can affect these satellites in many ways. Solar radiation storms can cause spacecraft orientation problems by interfering with star trackers and by causing errors or damage in electronic devices. Geomagnetic storms can create a hazardous charging environment for satellites resulting in damaging electrostatic discharge, much like touching a door knob and getting that spark on a dry winter day. Geomagnetic storms also cause heating of the atmosphere, essentially causing it to expand, which results in more drag or slowing down of an orbiting satellite. In a worst case, space weather can cause the satellite to fail.



Space Operations

Astronauts and their equipment in space are bombarded with charged particle radiation. This radiation causes tissue or cell damage in humans. Space weather and solar radiation storms are of particular concern for activities outside the protection of Earth's atmosphere and magnetic field.



Space Weather Impacts on Earth

Electrons accelerated in the tail of the magnetosphere travel down the magnetic field lines.

Electrons collide with the upper atmosphere 50 to 200 miles above Earth.

Electrons exchange energy with the atmosphere exciting the atmospheric atoms and molecules to higher energy levels. When the atoms and molecules relax back to lower energy levels, they release their energy in the form of light.

Aurora

The Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) and Aurora Australis (Southern Lights) are the result of electrons colliding with Earth's upper atmosphere. The electrons are energized through acceleration processes in the downward tail (nightside) of the magnetosphere. The accelerated electrons follow the magnetic field of Earth down to the polar regions where they collide with oxygen and nitrogen atoms and molecules in Earth's upper atmosphere. In these collisions, the electrons transfer their energy to the atmosphere, thus exciting the atoms and molecules to higher energy states. When they relax back to lower energy states, they release their energy in the form of light. The aurora typically forms 50 to 300 miles above the ground. Earth's magnetic field guides the electrons such that the aurora forms two ovals approximately centered at each magnetic pole.

THE COLORS OF THE AURORA

Deep red from high altitude atomic oxygen
Magenta from high altitude molecular nitrogen in sunlight
Greenish yellow from lower altitude atomic oxygen
Magenta from low altitude molecular nitrogen (not shown in the picture)



Aviation

Aircraft use High Frequency (HF) radio communication to stay in touch with ground controllers in remote areas such as over the oceans or over the poles. Solar flares can "black out" the use of HF on the dayside of Earth and solar radiation storms can "black out" use of HF near the poles, impacting the aircraft's ability to stay in touch with the ground. Impacts to GPS systems can also significantly affect airline operations.



Power Grids

Geomagnetic storms result in electric currents in the magnetosphere and ionosphere as the area shaped by Earth's magnetic field is compressed and disturbed. The disturbed conditions create additional currents in long conductors on the ground such as overhead transmission lines or long pipelines. In the most extreme cases, these currents can cause voltage instability or damage to power system components, potentially resulting in temporary service disruptions, or even a widespread power outage.



NOAA Education www.education.noaa.gov
NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center www.spaceweather.gov

*Image source: Aurora Borealis taken from the International Space Station in April of 2012.

LAST CHANCE - 2018 Disaster Ready Kids Program

Do you have summer children's programs that you are looking for activities and/or readers for? We can help! JCHSEM is once again sponsoring the Disaster Ready Kids Program for 2018.

This year we are presenting "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.

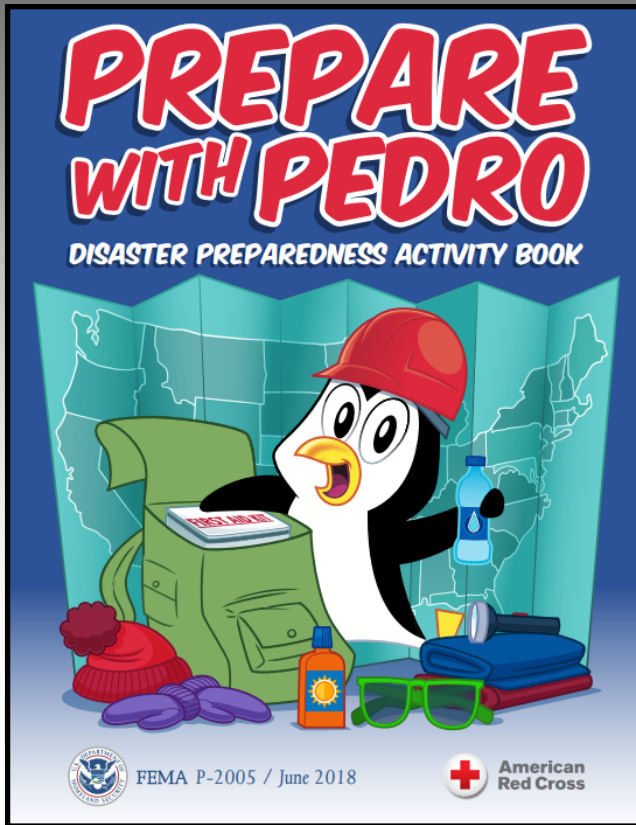
If your group of children is over the age of 8, we can have a preparedness presentation, show them how to put together a Family Disaster Kit, or work together to develop a unique lesson plan based on your group's needs. Our staff will come to your facility, present the chosen materials, and begin encouraging 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.

There is no cost to participate in this program. However, time is running out and this year's program will end on September 30, 2018. If you have questions, please contact Brandon Vallee at (304) 724-8914 or email bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org as soon as possible. Classes and times are filling up fast.

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.



Coming to a School Near You—Prepare with Pedro



Every year, JCHSEM looks for new materials to compliment and expand its Disaster Ready Kids Program. New materials are evaluated based on teaching value, usability, content, availability, relevance to Jefferson County's Hazards, among others. This approach has been used when adopting programs and materials such as "Mimi Mouse Learns to Prepare for Emergencies" or "Harriett the Hurricane" or "Freddy the Frogcaster".

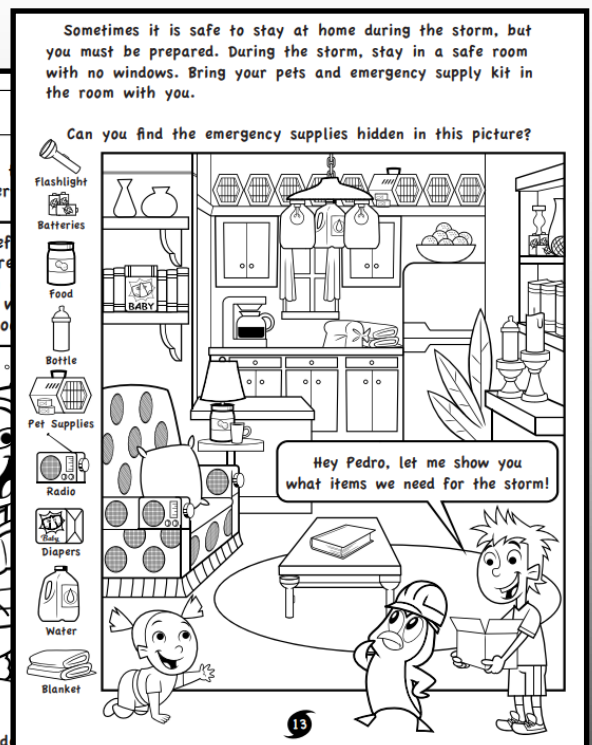
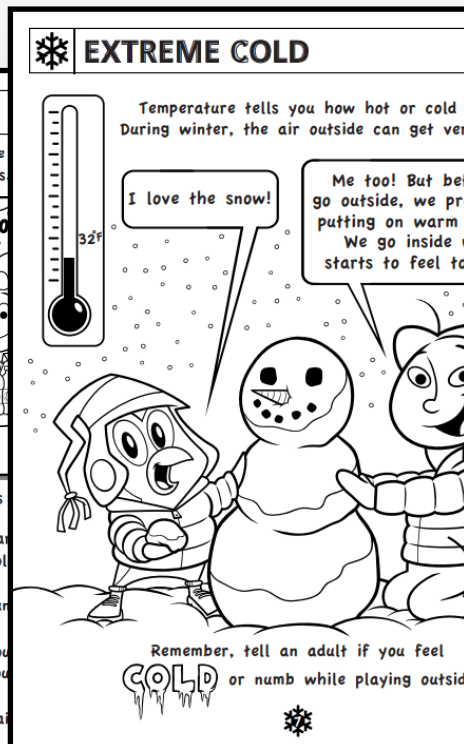
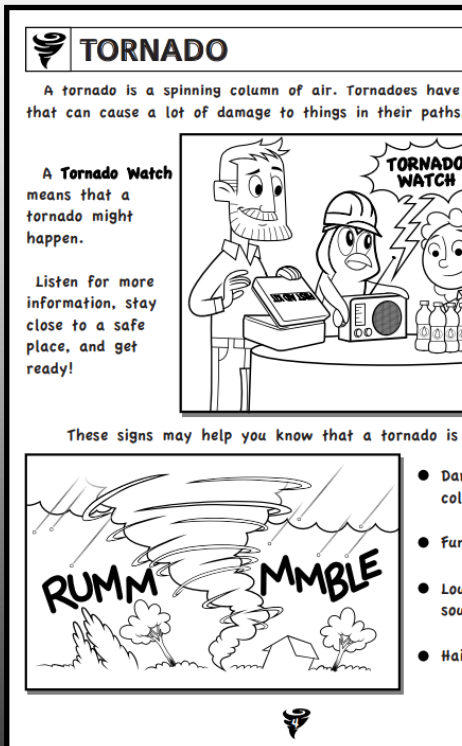
While these materials are great for in the classroom, they do not provide additional follow up material for families and kids to explore and discuss at home. Historically we have used FEMA Publications, such as "Ready, Set, Prepare" to fill this role, however in 2015, they stopped publishing these materials and our stock has dwindled away... Until now.

In June 2018, we discovered that FEMA was going to be publishing the new "Prepare with Pedro Disaster Preparedness Activity Book" and we were excited to see what was contained. The book covers everything from Flooding to Tornadoes to Emergency Preparedness Plans to Emergency Preparedness Kits.

JCHSEM placed an order for these new books and we were eagerly waiting for the first batch to be released. New for National Preparedness Month, Prepare with Pedro is now available for our Disaster Ready Kids program and we are looking forward to working

and delivering these important messages with an adorable penguin on the cover.

Check out a few pages from this new activity book below:



Nationwide Test of the Emergency Alert System to be Conducted on September 20, 2018

WASHINGTON – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), will conduct a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) on September 20, 2018 (primary date) or October 3, 2018 (secondary date). The WEA portion of the test will begin at 2:18 PM EDT and the EAS portion follows at 2:20 p.m. EDT. The test will assess the operational readiness of the infrastructure for distribution of a national message and determine whether technological improvements are needed.



This is the fourth EAS nationwide test and the first national WEA test. The WEA test message will be sent to cell phones. Previous EAS national tests were conducted in September 2011, 2016 and 2017 in collaboration with the FCC, broadcasters, and emergency management officials in recognition of FEMA’s National Preparedness Month.

The EAS test is scheduled to last approximately one minute and is made available to EAS participants including radio and television broadcasters, cable systems, satellite radio and television providers, and wireline video providers. The test message will be similar to regular monthly EAS test messages with which the public is familiar. The EAS message will include a reference to the WEA test: “THIS IS A TEST of the National Emergency Alert System. This system was developed by broadcast and cable operators in voluntary cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Communications Commission, and local authorities to keep you informed in the event of an emergency. If this had been an actual emergency an official message would have followed the tone alert you heard at the start of this message. A similar wireless emergency alert test message has been sent to all cell phones nationwide. Some cell phones will receive the message; others will not. No action is required.”

The WEA test message will read “THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is needed.”

The WEA system is used to warn the public about dangerous weather, missing children, and other critical situations through alerts on cell phones. It allows customers whose wireless provider participates in WEA and who own a WEA compatible wireless phone to receive geo-targeted alerts of imminent threats to safety in their area through unique tones and vibration. The national WEA test will use the same special tone and vibration.

The WEA test will be sent through IPAWS, as part of the nation’s modern alert and warning infrastructure that automatically authenticates alerts. Cell towers will broadcast the WEA test for approximately 30 minutes. During this time, cell phones that are switched on and within range of an active cell tower should be capable of receiving the test message. Cell phones should receive the message once.

Significant coordination has been conducted with EAS Participants, wireless providers, and emergency managers in preparation for this EAS-WEA national test. The test is intended to ensure public safety officials have the methods and systems that will deliver urgent alerts and warnings to the public in times of an emergency or disaster. Periodic testing of public alert and warning systems is also a way to assess the operational readiness of the infrastructure required for the distribution of a national message and determine whether technological improvements are needed.

Receiving preparedness tips and timely information about weather conditions or other emergency events can make all the difference in knowing when to take action to be safe. FEMA and their partners are working to ensure alerts and warnings are received quickly through several different technologies, no matter whether an individual is at home, at school, at work, or out in the community. The FEMA App, which can be downloaded on both Android and Apple devices, is one way to ensure receiving both preparedness tips and weather alerts of your choice. Download the FEMA App today at <https://www.fema.gov/mobile-app>.

More information on the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System and Wireless Emergency Alerts is available at www.ready.gov/alerts.

Need Training?

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, and Rail Care Incident Response for Crude, Ethanol and Other Flammable Liquids-Rail Car Response. 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.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Here is a listing of upcoming state sponsored training opportunities. These courses are free to attend however registration is required to attend.

On September 6, there will be a Basics of Flood Plain Management Course at the Hardy County 911 center in Moorefield, WV

On September 25 - 26, there will be a MGT-385 Community Cybersecurity Exercise Planning course at Canaan Valley Resort State Park

On October 10, there will be an AWR-328 All Hazards Preparedness for Animals in Disasters course at the West Virginia National Guard Armory in Moorefield.

On October 11, there will be a MGT-448 All Hazards Planning for Animal, Agricultural, and Food Related Disasters course at the West Virginia National Guard Armory in Moorefield.

To Register for these FREE Classes, go to: <http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6>

For questions about the course or registration, contact Gregory.c.fernley@wv.gov or call 304-558-5380

Disaster Exercises 2018

WV Homeland Security Region III (WVHSR3) Functional Exercise for the 2018 Exercise Series was held at Potomac State College in Keyser, WV on Tuesday, July 17, 2018. Representatives from all counties in WVHSR3 and Western Maryland Partners were in attendance. The 2018 Exercise Series will continue with a Full Scale Exercise on Friday, October 26, 2018 and Saturday, October 27, 2018. If you or your organization are interested in participating in the exercise series, please contact Stephen Allen at: sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org

2017 WV Homeland Security Region 3, AAR/IP Meeting..... Completed
 2018 WV Homeland Security Region 3, Tabletop Exercise..... Completed
 2018 WV Homeland Security Region 3, Functional Exercise..... Completed
 2018 WV Homeland Security Region 3, Full Scale Exercise..... October 27, 2018
 2018 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.



Left: 2018 Functional Exercise. **Right:** 2017 Full Scale Exercise

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 following the Quarterly Partnership Luncheons held in January, April, July, and October and meetings are scheduled as needed. Please call the office for exact dates, locations, and times.

Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee, Paula Marrone-Reese, 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 month at 0830 in the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee, Mason Carter, Chair

Any interested person may serve on this committee. The All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee examines the community's risks and vulnerability to all hazards and assesses the community's vulnerability to those risks. An All Hazards 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 has begun work on the 2018 Plan and will meet as needed until the plan's completion in June 2018. Please call the office for exact dates and times.

Counter Terrorism Committee, Stephen Allen, 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 Stephen Allen at sallen@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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Brandon Vallee - Administrative
Assistant, Public Information Officer and
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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 All Hazards Mitigation Planning; Public Awareness, Education and Training; Counter Terrorism; 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

- 06 - Floodplain Basics Course at Moorefield, WV.*
- 06 - Nixle Basics Webinar at 1400 hours in the Jefferson County EOC.*
- 07 - Quarterly Communications Drill at the Jefferson County EOC*
- 11 - 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at Independent Fire Company at 0930 hours.*
- 11 - Counter Terrorism Committee meeting at the Jefferson County EOC at 1400 hours.*
- 12 - Public Awareness Committee meeting at the Jefferson County EOC at 0900 hours.*
- 19 - Jefferson County LEPC meeting at IHOP at 0730 hours.*
- 23 - 27 2018 West Virginia SIRN Conference at Camp Dawson*
- 25 - IT Squad Meeting at Charles Town Library Meeting Room at 1500 hours*
- 27 - Paradigm Pipeline Safety, Holiday Inn—Martinsburg at 0700 hours.*

** Sterling National Weather Service Calls every Monday at 9:00 a.m.*

** Weather Calls every Monday and Friday at 10:00 a.m. with State EOC and National Weather Service*