



Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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

November 2018

Get Prepared for Winter

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With the winter season rapidly approaching, Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) is encouraging all residents of Jefferson County to be prepared for winter storms and extreme cold.

It is essential to know the terms used to describe changing winter weather conditions as they impact

what actions you must take to stay safe. These terms can be used to determine the timeline and severity of an approaching storm. (Advisory / Watch / Warning). The National Weather Service (NWS) also issues advisories and warnings for other winter weather, including blizzards, freezes, wind chill, lake effect snow, and dense fog. Be alert to weather reports and tune in for specific guidance when these conditions develop.

Freezing Rain - Rain that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on roads, walkways, trees and power lines.

Sleet - Rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes moisture on roads to freeze and become slippery.

Wind Chill - Wind chill is the temperature it "feels like" when you are outside. The NWS provides a Wind-chill Chart to show the difference between air temperature and the perceived temperature and the amount of time until frostbite occurs. For more information, visit: www.nws.noaa.gov/om/windchill.

Winter Weather Advisory - Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. When caution is used, these situations should not be life threatening. The NWS issues a winter weather advisory when conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences that may be hazardous.

Winter Storm Watch - A winter storm is possible in your area. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for more information. The NWS issues a winter storm watch when severe winter conditions, such as heavy snow and/or ice, may affect your area but the location and timing are still uncertain. A winter storm watch is issued 12 to 36 hours in advance of a potential severe storm.

Winter Storm Warning - A winter storm is occurring or will soon occur in your area.

(Continued on Page 2)



Blizzard Warning - Sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 miles per hour or greater and considerable amounts of falling or blowing snow (reducing visibility to less than a quarter mile) are expected to prevail for a period of three hours or longer.

Frost/Freeze Warning - Below freezing temperatures are expected. Frost/Freeze warnings signal the end of the growing season. The NWS has already issued the Frost/Freeze warning for Jefferson County in 2018 and will not issue another until after winter.

Before severe weather occurs, it is always a great idea to ensure your emergency preparedness kit is fully stocked. During a winter storm, you need to be prepared for not having power, water, or heat for several days. If you do not have an emergency preparedness kit, here is a list of basic items and seasonal items which should be included in your family's kit:

WATER – Ensure you have at least 1 gallon of water per person per day for at least 3 days. (Store a longer than 3-day supply of water, if possible). An average person needs to drink about 3/4 of a gallon of fluid daily. Individual needs vary depending on age, gender, health, level of activity, food choices, and climate. You may also need stored water for food preparation.

FOOD – Store at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food for members of your household, including pets. Consider special dietary needs (e.g., infant formula). Include a non-electric can opener for canned food.

FLASHLIGHT, RADIO, and CELL PHONE CHARGER – You will need to be able to charge these items without electricity. Your flashlight and radio should be either hand-cranked or battery-powered, and stored with extra batteries. Your cell phone charger should be solar or able to be charged from a car outlet.

MEDICAL – Include first aid kit, prescription and non-prescription/over-the-counter medications, and medical supplies.

SANITATION – Pack supplies for sanitation, such as hand sanitizer, towelettes, paper products, diapers, and plastic bags, for use when water resources are limited.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY – Include battery backup power for power-dependent mobility devices, oxygen, and other assistive technology needs.

EXTRA CLOTHING, BLANKETS, and SLEEPING BAGS – Dress in layers to keep warm if you lose power. Ensure you have enough clothing, hats, mittens, and blankets or sleeping bags for everyone in the house.

ITEMS FOR SNOW AND ICE – Stock up on rock salt to melt ice on walkways or sand or kitty litter to improve traction and snow shovels or other snow removal equipment.

WOOD – Store a supply of dry, seasoned wood if you have a working fireplace or wood-burning stove with a safe flue or vent.

Please note that this is a basic list of supplies that should be in your emergency preparedness kit. Your kit should reflect your family's specific needs (such as access and functional needs, pets, or infants). For more suggestions on what to include in your emergency preparedness kit, please check out: <http://www.ready.gov/kit>.

It is also a good idea to prepare your automobile and house for the winter months. Ensure your car is winterized (checking key components, fluids, and safety measures) and has its own emergency preparedness kit. Make Sure your home is ready for colder weather by insulating water pipes, cleaning out gutters, maintain heating equipment and chimneys, checking smoke detectors, and insulating walls and attics. For more general emergency preparedness tips, please check out: <http://www.ready.gov>.

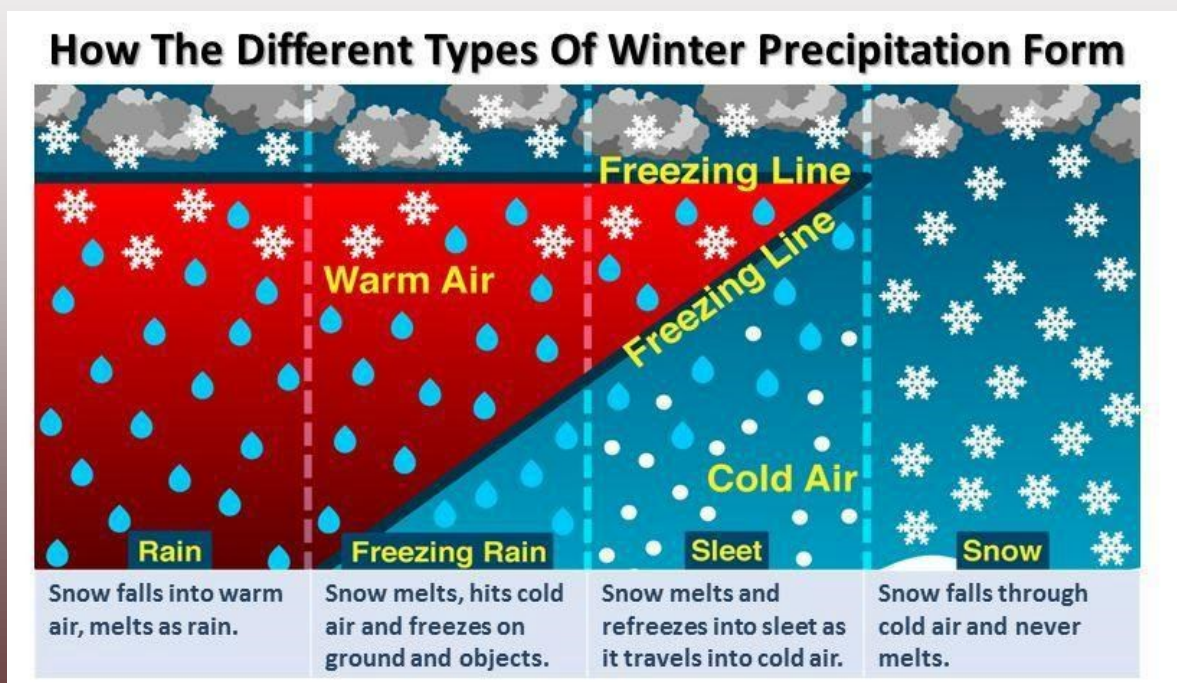
<h2>Blizzard Warning</h2>	<h2>Winter Storm Warning</h2>	<h2>Winter Weather Advisory</h2>
<p>Severe winter weather is expected within the next 12 to 36 hours or is occurring -- including whiteout conditions.</p> <p>Do not travel.</p>	<p>Dangerous winter weather is expected within the next 12 to 36 hours or is occurring. Considerable travel problems are expected.</p>	<p>Potentially dangerous winter weather is expected within the next 12 to 36 hours or is occurring. Travel difficulties are expected.</p>
<p>take action.</p>	<p>take action.</p>	<p>be aware.</p> 

Freezing Rain, Sleet, and Snow... What is the Difference?

Freezing rain, sleet, and snow can all fall when it is 32 degrees outside. However the difference between the three is a matter of timing, atmospheric conditions, and air temperature.

Rain occurs when precipitation (in this case snow) travels from the clouds to the ground at above freezing temperatures and melts into rain in the process. Freezing rain occurs when precipitation (snow) travels from the clouds to the ground at above freezing temperatures, but the air at ground level and the ground are at or below freezing, so the rain freezes on impact, causing icy conditions. Sleet occurs when precipitation (snow) warms slightly when travelling through warm air in the atmosphere but has an opportunity to re-freeze before it hits the ground leaving a slushy mess. Snow occurs when precipitation (snow) travels from the clouds to the ground at below freezing temperatures.

This infographic demonstrates these principles.

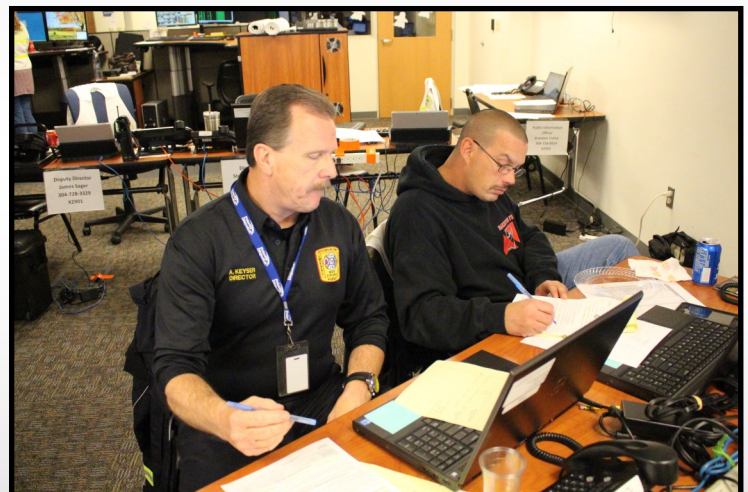


The Jefferson County EOC in Motion

The West Virginia Homeland Security Region 3 Full Scale Exercise took place on Saturday, October 27, 2018 in the Jefferson County Emergency Operations Center.

During this exercise, representatives from Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Jefferson County Emergency Communications Center, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency, Ranson Police Department, Bakerton Fire Company, Jefferson County Board of Education, Jefferson County Health Department, American Red Cross, WVU Medicine - Jefferson Medical Center, Jefferson County Amateur Radio Emergency Services, and Walmart worked together to test their knowledge, plans, and capabilities if a derecho were to hit Jefferson County. We would like to especially thank Walmart and Black Dog Coffee for their generous donations for the exercise.

Thank you to everyone who participated in assisting Jefferson County become more disaster resilient.



October's Quarterly Partnership Luncheon Pictures

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Right: Shepherd University's meal setup for the luncheon.

Bottom Left: Carla Hunter, American Red Cross Volunteer, holding up her sample pillow case during her presentation.

Bottom Right: Participants learning how the American Red Cross can educate children about Disaster Preparedness in Jefferson County.



Top Left: Carla Hunter talking about community partnerships with the American Red Cross' Pillow Case Project.

Top Right: John Sherwood, JCHSEM Steering Committee Chair, introducing the speaker to the luncheon.

Daylight Savings Time Ends on November 4, 2018.

Remember to Set your Clocks and Check your Stocks!
Also be sure to check your smoke detector batteries as well.



Having a stockpile is important during a disaster, but it can be hard to remember to check your supplies. That's why Get Ready: Set Your Clocks, Check Your Stocks encourages Americans to use the clock change as a reminder.

Make sure that your stockpile includes:



- A three-day supply of water with one gallon of water per person per day
- A three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Flashlights
- Batteries
- Manual can opener
- First-aid kit
- Radio
- Prescription drugs, sanitary supplies, and diapers and pet supplies as needed

When it's time to change your clocks for daylight saving time, check your emergency preparedness stockpile. Replace anything that is expired or missing.

Don't forget your pet!



Check out our website for more info!

bit.ly/ClocksStocks

3 easy steps

Check your stockpile twice a year!



Check that you have what you need



Replenish supplies that are out of date or missing



Store supplies in an easily accessible container

Don't be caught without supplies during a disaster!

Seniors: Know your Risk of Hypothermia

With the winter season rapidly approaching, Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) is encouraging all senior citizens of Jefferson County to learn how to stay safe in colder weather.

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) at the National Institutes of Health defines hypothermia as a potentially dangerous drop in body temperature, usually caused by prolonged exposure to cold temperatures. Normal body temperature averages 98.6 degrees. With hypothermia, core temperature drops below 95 degrees and can cause many health problems, such as heart attack, kidney problems, liver damage, or worse.

Americans aged 65 or older are more at risk of hypothermia because their body's response to cold can be diminished by underlying medical conditions such as diabetes, some medicines including over-the-counter cold remedies, and aging itself. As a result, hypothermia can develop in older adults after even relatively mild exposure to cold weather or a small drop in temperature.

In order to prevent the onset of hypothermia, The National Institute on Aging recommends the following tips:

- Set your heat at 68 degrees or higher.
- Dress warmly on cold days even if you are staying in the house.
- Wear loose layers when you go outside on chilly days.
- Wear a hat, scarf, and gloves.
- Don't stay out in the cold and wind for a long time.
- Talk to your doctor about health problems that may make it harder for you to keep warm.
- Find safe ways to stay active even when it's cold outside.
- Ask a neighbor or friend to check on you if you live alone.
- If you think someone has hypothermia, call 9-1-1 right away. Cover him or her with a blanket. Don't rub his or her legs or arms.



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 (such as water or ice), 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 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.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Winter Weather Outlook for Jefferson County



On October 18, 2018, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released its winter outlook for December 2018 until February 2019. Most of the country will see warmer than average temperatures this winter. Jefferson County has an equal probability of either warmer, normal, or cooler temperatures.

The average high temperature for Jefferson County during the month of December is 44 degrees with the average low being 25 degrees. In January, the average high temperature is 39 degrees with the average low being 20 degrees. In February, the average high temperature is 43 degrees with the low being 22 degrees.

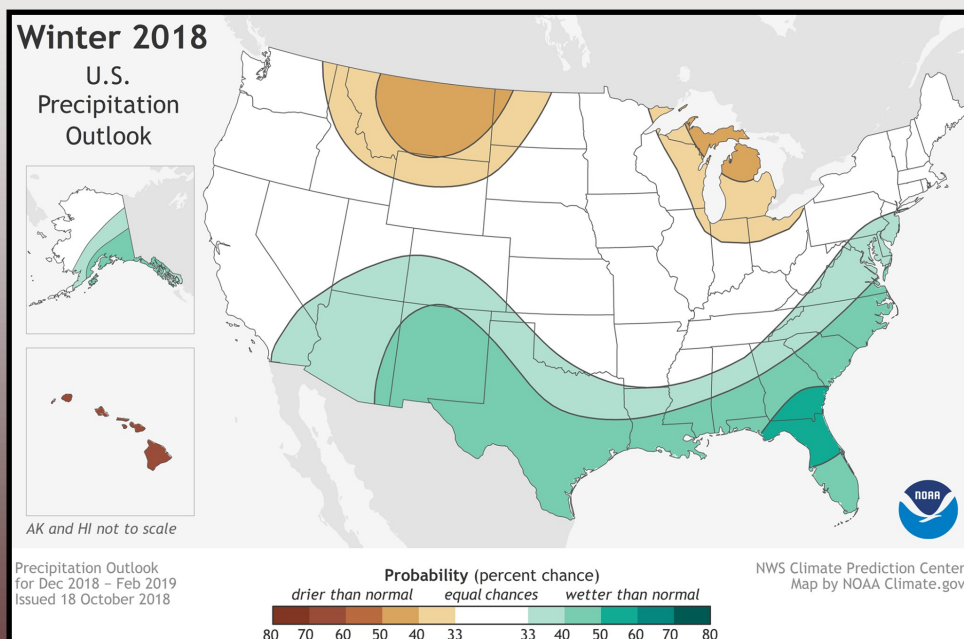
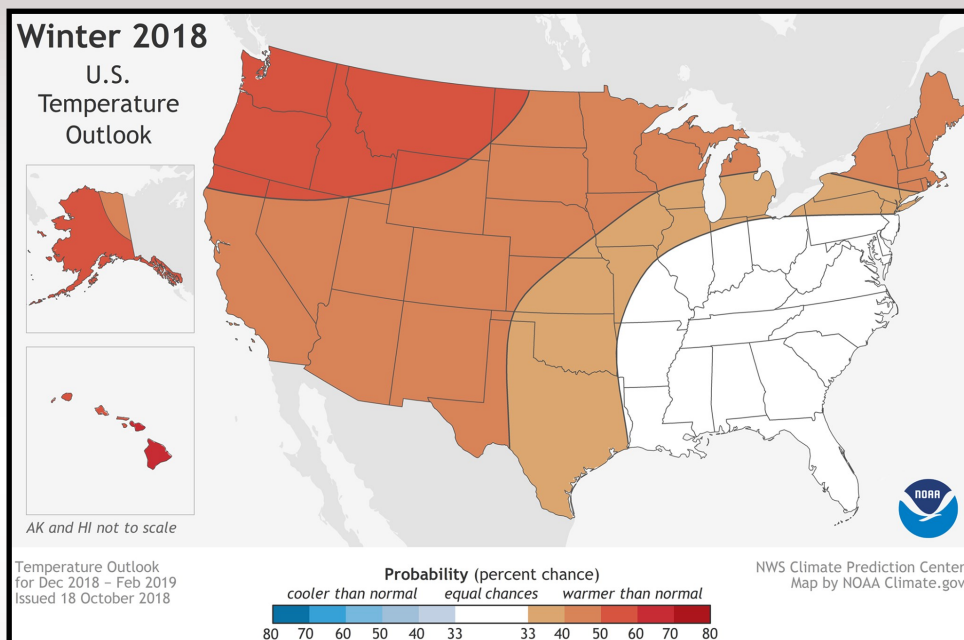
Most of the southern United States and the mid-Atlantic will see above average precipitation this winter, including Jefferson County. This is the same pattern of precipitation we have been experiencing most of the summer and fall.

Typically, Jefferson County receives about 16.1 inches of snow during the months of December, January, and February and 8.2 inches of rain. Additionally, we can expect at least 20 days with some sort of precipitation during the Winter.

With a slightly above average precipitation forecast, those numbers will likely be higher.

It is important to note that these forecasts are given in probabilities and historical averages and based on current climate conditions, such as El Niño and La Niña. The darker the color, the greater the confidence of the forecasters. Overall, Jefferson County is likely to have the same average temperatures but receive more snow than the 2017-2018 winter.

This winter is unlikely to be as severe as the 2015-2016 winter due to El Niño being not as prevalent.



What are El Niño and La Niña?

NOAA.GOV - El Niño and La Niña are complex weather patterns resulting from variations in ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific.

El Niño and La Niña are opposite phases of what is known as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle. The ENSO cycle is a scientific term that describes the fluctuations in temperature between the ocean and atmosphere in the east-central Equatorial Pacific (approximately between the International Date Line and 120 degrees West).

La Niña is sometimes referred to as the cold phase of ENSO and El Niño as the warm phase of ENSO. These deviations from normal surface temperatures can have large-scale impacts not only on ocean processes, but also on global weather and climate.

El Niño and La Niña episodes typically last nine to 12 months, but some prolonged events may last for years. While their frequency can be quite irregular, El Niño and La Niña events occur on average every two to seven years. Typically, El Niño occurs more frequently than La Niña.

El Niño

El Niño means The Little Boy, or Christ Child in Spanish. El Niño was originally recognized by fishermen off the coast of South America in the 1600s, with the appearance of unusually warm water in the Pacific Ocean. The name was chosen based on the time of year (around December) during which these warm water events tended to occur. The term El Niño refers to the large-scale ocean-atmosphere climate interaction linked to a periodic warming in sea surface temperatures across the central and east-central Equatorial Pacific.

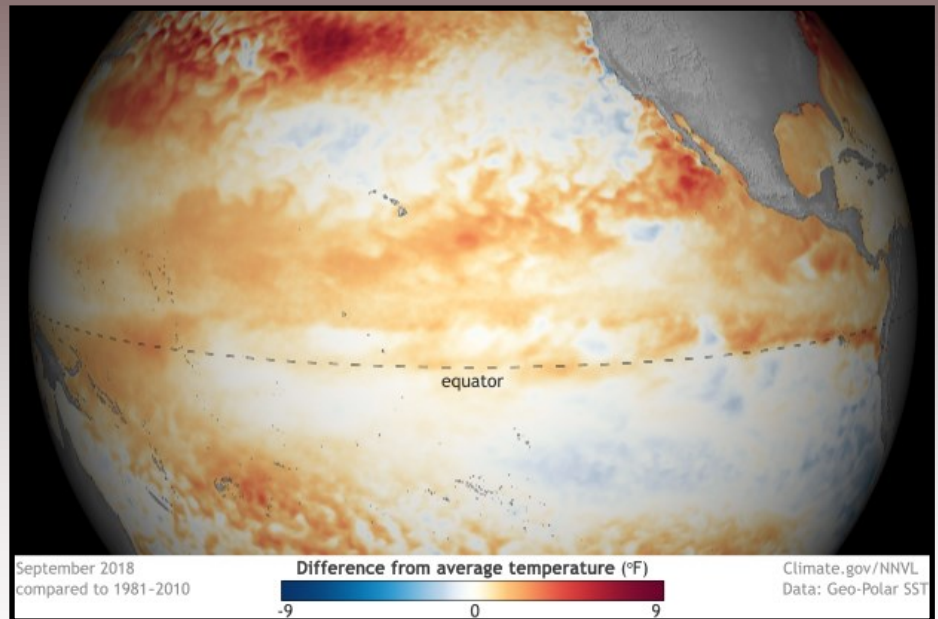
Typical El Niño effects are likely to develop over North America during the upcoming winter season. Those include warmer-than-average temperatures over western and central Canada, and over the western and northern United States. Wetter-than-average conditions are likely over portions of the U.S. Gulf Coast and Florida, while drier-than-average conditions can be expected in the Ohio Valley and the Pacific Northwest. The presence of El Niño can significantly influence weather patterns, ocean conditions, and marine fisheries across large portions of the globe for an extended period of time.

La Niña

La Niña means The Little Girl in Spanish. La Niña is also sometimes called El Viejo, anti-El Niño, or simply "a cold event."

La Niña episodes represent periods of below-average sea surface temperatures across the east-central Equatorial Pacific. Global climate La Niña impacts tend to be opposite those of El Niño impacts. In the tropics, ocean temperature variations in La Niña also tend to be opposite those of El Niño.

During a La Niña year, winter temperatures are warmer than normal in the Southeast and cooler than normal in the Northwest.



SKYWARN Basic Course in Jefferson County



Do you have an interest in weather? Would you like to be able to help your local National Weather Service office by providing the ground truth on the atmosphere that we observe from radar, satellites and various reporting stations? Then consider attending the SKYWARN® program Basic course.

On Wednesday, November 7, there will be a SKYWARN Basic Course held at Independent Fire Company Meeting Hall, located at 200 W 2nd Ave, Ranson, WV 25438. The class is free to attend, but registration is required. This is the first Basic Course to be held in Jefferson County in close to two years and we expect a large crowd to be in attendance.

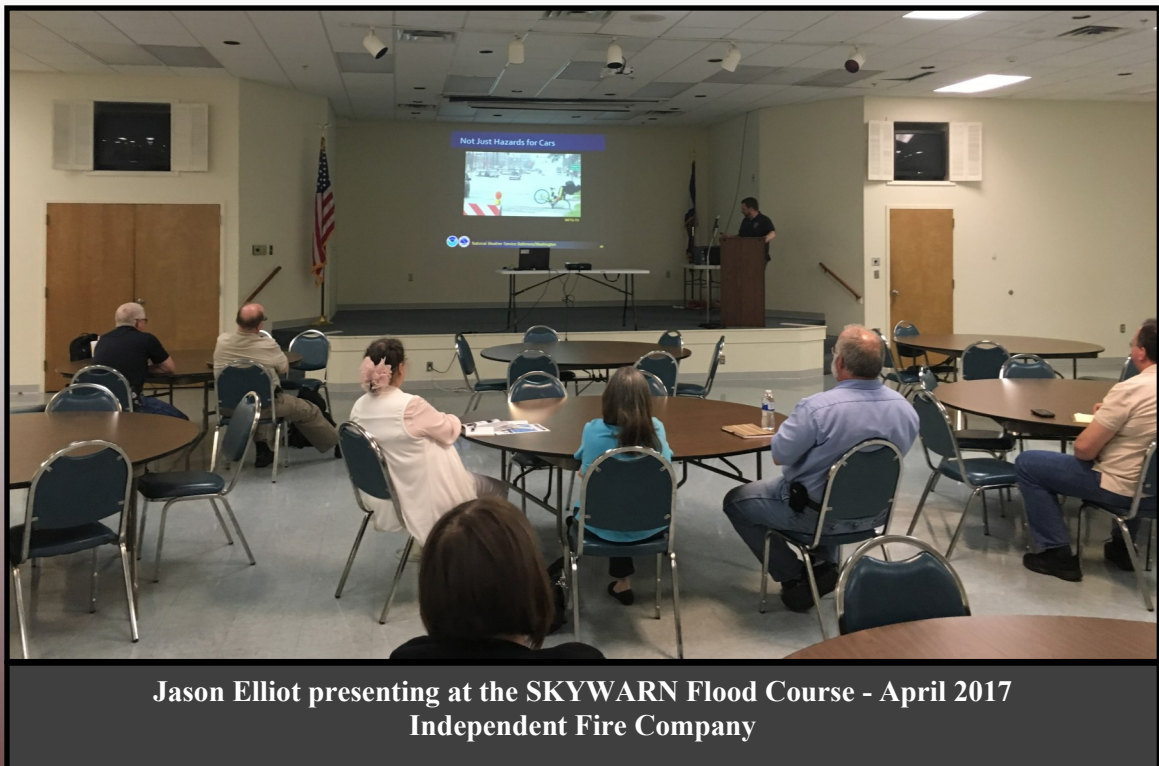
By attending this course, you will be trained by NWS personnel to recognize features associated with developing, mature, and dissipating thunderstorms which cause hazardous weather such as lightning, flooding, hail, tornadoes and downbursts. The attendee will also learn basics about winter weather and tropical hazards.

At the end of the course, you will be assigned a SKYWARN® spotter number which will be maintained in the official database at the NWS in Sterling. You will also be directed how to report this vital weather information. For those who have attended in the past but want a refresher, please feel free to attend. We would love to see you again!

This SKYWARN® Spotter Class is offered free of charge from the combined efforts of your local National Weather Service Forecast Office, Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and Independent Fire Company. A National Weather Service meteorologist will teach the class and provide related materials.

Registration is required to attend the class!

In order to register, please go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/skywarn-basics-jefferson-county-tickets-50757979483>.



Jason Elliot presenting at the SKYWARN Flood Course - April 2017
Independent Fire Company

Need Training?

Emergency Management is a constantly-changing field. Whether it is keeping up with the latest technology, to working with stakeholders to develop plans, conducting successful floodplain management, performing damage assessments, managing debris after a disaster, helping 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 December 4-5, there will be a PER-335 Critical Decision Making for Complex Coordinated Attacks course at the Highlands Conference Center in Triadelphia, WV.

On December 11-13, there will be a Law Enforcement Active Shooter Emergency Response (LASER) course at Orchard View Intermediate School in Martinsburg, WV. This course is for WV Law Enforcement only.

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

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management recommends the following FEMA Independent Study Courses. These courses are free and available online. Those courses can be found at: <https://training.fema.gov/is/>.

- IS-912 – Retail Security Awareness: Understanding Hidden Hazards
- IS-907 – Active Shooter: What You Can Do
- IS-393.b - Introduction to Hazard Mitigation
- IS-317 - Introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams

Disaster Exercises 2018

WV Homeland Security Region III (WVHSR3) Full Scale Exercise for the 2018 Exercise Series was held at Jefferson County EOC on Saturday, October 27, 2018. Representatives from all counties in WVHSR3 and Western Maryland Partners participated in their respective counties. If you or your organization are interested in participating in the 2019 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..... Completed
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: 2018 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 assess 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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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

November Meetings

6 - Election Day Holiday. Office is Closed

7 - SKYWARN Storm Spotter Course at Independent Fire Company at 1830 hours

12 - Veterans Day Holiday (Observed), Office is Closed

13 - Counter Terrorism Committee meeting at the Jefferson County EOC at 1400 hours

14 - Public Awareness Committee meeting at the Jefferson County EOC at 0830 hours

14 - 16 - 2018 West Virginia Emergency Managers Conference at Bridgeport, WV

22 - Thanksgiving Holiday. Office is Closed

23 - Black Friday Holiday. Office is Closed

27 - IT Squad Meeting at Charles Town Library Meeting Room at 1500 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*