Spring Has Finally Sprung

With the winter woes far behind us we look forward to warmer weather and some beautiful May flowers from all that April rain. In this edition of the Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) newsletter, we will again continue looking at potential weather issues for Jefferson County.

This month we are recognizing May as National Building Safety Month, Older American’s Month, and Military Appreciation Month. In addition we will acknowledge National Small Business Week, National Hurricane Preparedness Week, National Pet Week, National Police Week, National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week, Wildfire Community Preparedness Day, and National Dam Safety Awareness Day. We will discuss upcoming training opportunities offered locally as well as training offered by the Federal Emergency Management Institute (FEMA). We will also be sharing with you some tips and tricks for preparedness for any extreme hazards and weather May could bring!

National Building Safety Month

Spring is here and that means everybody is out and about cleaning and making renovations to their places and spaces! Projects big and small are all being taken on with the emergence of warmer weather. May is designated as National Building Safety Month to highlight the role safe buildings can play in decreasing the damaging effects of a disaster. FEMA is supporting partners like the International Code Council to promote the importance of disaster resistant building codes and standards.
Hopefully our efforts can help break the cycle of suffering associated with disaster damage on buildings. Building Codes are one of our communities best defenses in protecting our homes, offices, schools, and stores!

National Building Safety month is broken up into five themed weeks:

- Week 1 (May 1st - 5th) Preparing for disasters: build strong, build smart
- Week 2 (May 6th - 12th) Ensuring a safer future through training and education
- Week 3 (May 13-19th) Securing clean, abundant water for all communities
- Week 4 (May 20th - 26th) Construction Professionals and Homeowners: Partners in Safety
- Week 5 (May 27th - 31st) Science and technology lead the way


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**Older American’s Month**

Older Americans Month is celebrated in May to encourage the involvement and contribution of older American’s. They offer insight through their unique experiences that can benefit our entire community. This event has been led by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) for the last 56 years. This event provides resources for Older Americans to stay healthy and independent. This year’s theme encourages older adults to connect with family and friends, create through activities that promote personal enrichment, and to contribute time, talent, and life experiences.
Communities that recognize and support older adults are stronger! Join us in celebrating Older Americans Month! For more information and resources on how to connect, create and contribute visit https://acl.gov/oam/2019/resources

Military Appreciation Month

Although we honor our military men and women all year round, May is a special month set aside to honor all of armed service professionals. Congress designated May as Military Appreciation month in 1999 to ensure the nation was given the chance to show their appreciation for our troops. Every individual, those serving past and present, and their families have sacrificed and continue to sacrifice for our country everyday. Many restaurants and businesses will be providing military discounts for both veterans and current military members. Remember to bring your ID to take part in these special discounts. This month lets remember to thank our military personnel with a handshake, a smile, or maybe even a meal. You may hear some wonderful stories and perhaps make a new friend. Until you walk a mile in their shoes you will never know what someone has gone through or sacrificed for your freedom. Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management would like to personally thank all of our military members, their spouses, their children, their mothers, and their fathers for all that they have done for us as a country, as a state, as a town, and as a community. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! We appreciate you!
Running Fir Wreaths

We are honored to have a special event coming to Jefferson County. Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)3 program that honors our military men and women by placing wreaths on the graves of fallen soldiers. Cathy Powers, a Gold Star mother, has joined running for wreaths and has set a goal to run 1,000 miles in honor of her son Senior Airman Bryce Kenneth Powers, who passed away in April 2013. There will be a ceremony and 5k to help Cathy raise sponsorship funds for the 7,777 balsam fir wreaths she wants to sponsor for the 2019 wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery. The 7,777 wreaths represent the exact number of days her son Bryce lived. The event will be held on Friday May 24th, 2019 from 10:00am to 12:00pm at 419 16th Ave Ranson, WV 25438. Please join us in celebrating our military personnel!

National Small Business Week

Small Business week is from May 5th to 11th and is intended to honor the hard work and dedication of all of our small business entrepreneurs. The U.S. Small Business Administration takes the week to honor outstanding entrepreneurs and small business owners all over the 50 states. Disaster Preparedness and response is critical for small businesses. Each year natural disasters take their economic toll on small businesses all over the world. FEMA suggests every business use these plans to mitigate the effects a disaster can have on your business. The first step in creating a disaster relief plan for your business is to identify the risks your business faces. Is your area/business susceptible to hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes, tornadoes, winter weather, or floods? Once you identify these potential hazards you can begin to Develop a plan. Once your disaster plan is developed it important to implement and train. All employees and personnel that work for your small business should be a part of this phase of your disaster plan. If everyone has done a run through and knows the logistics of your disaster plan before it strikes you will be ready to implement it when needed. Lastly become a disaster leader and encourage others in your community to develop their own plan. You and your community could be at mercy of your least prepared neighbor. So encourage your neighbors to prepare themselves for any disasters that may happen. If you or someone you know is interested, the Small Business Administration is hosting a
developers for disaster relief conference in Washington DC May 3rd-5th. For more information about this event please visit https://smallbizweek.hackathon.com/. FEMA offers an online course to prepare your business for disaster! You can find it here: https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-394.a

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**National Hurricane Preparedness Week**

With hurricane season is nearly upon us we recognize National Hurricane Preparedness week May 5th-11th. Although these storms can occur at any time, the Pacific season starts May 15th and the Atlantic season starts June 1st. A tropical storm becomes a hurricane when the maximum sustained winds reach 74 miles per hour. Hurricanes can cause severe destruction and damage. The best way to mitigate the effects of a hurricane is to prepare for it. Have a disaster plan ready when a hurricane strikes. Hurricanes bring damaging winds and large amounts of rainfall. This could cause catastrophic flooding as well as damage to trees, power lines, homes, and businesses. Preparing a disaster kit will help you be ready if a hurricane, or any other natural disaster, strikes. FEMA recommends preparing a disaster kit with enough food, water, and other necessities for each member of your family to last at least 72 hours. Make sure any medication or other essential items are included in your disaster kit. Batteries, clothing, and a first aid kit are also needed to ensure you are prepared for any power outages or injuries that may occur. Once you have assembled your disaster kit store it in your safe location. Perhaps make multiple go kits and put one in your car and in your office so you are prepared no matter where you are. Visit https://www.weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness for more information.

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**National Pet Week**

It is National Pet Week May 6th through the 12th! It is time to thank our pets for all the love, compassion, and companionship they give us. From amphibians to mammals alike our fur babies hold a special place in our lives. They become an integral member of our families and we love them like family. They depend on us for their care so now is a perfect time to make sure your pets are up to date on their vet visits and vaccinations. Another great way to show them you care is ensuring your pets are ready for any potential disaster. Here are some tips to prepare your pets for emergencies. First ensure that your pet has a place in your disaster kit. Include enough food and water for your pet for at least three days. Make sure to put any needed medication as well as a copy of your pets medical records in your kit as well. Also, although your animal should wear his/her collar and ID tag at all times include a back up just in case. This way if anything happens to the first ID you
National Police Week

National Police week was created in 1962 when President John F. Kennedy designated May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week that follows as Police Week. This year Police Week will take place May 12th through the 18th. Each year our nation loses between 150-180 law enforcement officers in the line of duty. National Police Week honors the service and sacrifice of our U.S. law enforcement officers. Every year thousands of Law enforcement officers travel to the Fallen Police Officers Memorial in Washington DC to participate in events to honor those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Remember to say Thank you to our Law Enforcement Officers for everything they do!

National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week

National Emergency Medical Services Week, May 19th - 25th, recognizes the front line of the healthcare industry. It aims to honor the dedication of those who provide day-to-day lifesaving services. The week will be broken up into themed days each celebrating a different aspect of this field:

- Monday - Education Day
- Tuesday - Safety Day
- Wednesday - EMSC Day
- Thursday - Save-A-Life (CPR) Day
- Friday - EMS Recognition Day

Join us in thanking all of our EMS first responders for their hard-work and dedication!
With summer around the corner and the smell of campfires in the air we are recognizing May 4th as Wildfire Preparedness Day. A wildfire is an unplanned, unwanted fire burning in a natural area, such as a forest, grassland, or prairie. In the last two years Wildfires across the United States have taken more than 100 lives and cost more than $25 billion dollars in property damages and losses. That’s why it’s so important to take steps to improve the wildfire safety of your home and community. The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) has a plethora of resources to help individuals and communities alike prepare for wildfires. Perhaps you can organize an event in your community on May 4th!

The NFPA has lists of idea for small and large projects to help protect your community including:

- Sweep porches and decks, clearing them of leaves and pine needles. Rake under decks, porches, sheds, and play structures. Dispose of debris.
- Help an elderly relative or neighbor enter emergency numbers and the names of close relatives into their cell phones.
- Clear all leaves, pine needles, debris, and brush from around your home.
- Hold a garage sale and donate the proceeds to your local fire department’s wildland fire team.

Wildfires are most often cause by lighting and humans. The effects of a wildfire are damaging and deadly. Ensure you are prepared when disaster strikes.

There’s nothing quite like enjoying the great outdoors with a roaring fire, gooey s’mores and a night sky full of stars. But that wonderful campfire is also a big responsibility When camping or having a bonfire at home please be informed about current weather conditions as well as burning regulations in your area. As Smokey Bear says “Only You Can Prevent Wildfires”. Visit https://smokeybear.com/en/prevention-how-tos/campfire-safety for tips and tools about how to enjoy campfires responsibly.

Here are some tips to help prepare for the threat of a wildfire.

- Sign up for your community’s warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) also provide emergency alerts.
- Know your community’s evacuation plans and find several ways to leave the area and Evacuate immediately if authorities tell you to do so. Have a plan for pets and livestock.
- Keep important documents in a fireproof, safe place. Create password-protected digital copies.

Be Prepared, Be Smart, Be Ready!
National Dam Safety Awareness Day

Dams are an integral part of our countries infrastructure. Dams help control water, one of our most important resources. The benefits of a dam is countered by the risks it presents. In the event of a dam failure, the volume of the water stored, even behind a small dam, is capable of causing loss of life and significant property damage. Dams date back all the way to the ancient Egyptians who built small ones out of earth and stone to store water from the Nile River. There are more than 90,000 Dams in the US alone!

Jefferson County has three Dams. Dam number 4 was created out of limestone in 1909 and is located on the Potomac River. The Millville Hydroelectric Dam is located on the Shenandoah River, constructed of concrete, and has been in operation since 1939. The third Dam is the Lake Shannondale Dam. This dam, made of rolled earth and rock, was built in 1963. Remember to always keep your distance and never swim in the water near a Dam!

April Quarterly Partnership Meeting/Luncheon

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management’s (JCHSEM) Quarterly Partnership Meeting/Luncheon was held on Friday, April 26 at the Epic Buffet at Hollywood Casino and Charles Town Races in Charles Town. The guest speaker during the luncheon was Chris Strong, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service, Sterling, Virginia. Chris covered Storm Ready preparedness. Storm Ready is a National Weather Service Program designed to recognize communities that have reached a high level of severe weather preparedness. Jefferson County was awarded for being Storm Ready! To be recognized as Storm Ready community you must meet criteria established jointly between NWS and local emergency management officials. These criteria include:

- Establishing a local 24-hour warning point and an Emergency Operations Center
- Having multiple ways of receiving NWS warnings
- Creating a system to monitor local weather/river conditions
We have resumed the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) activities which enabled our region to complete the 2018 After Action Report Implementation Plan (AAR/IP). Jefferson County’s portion has been completed and we are awaiting the “final draft” of the AAR/IP. Once this is completed, we will resume planning activities for our 2019 regional exercise series.

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.

If you or your organization is interested in participating in the 2019 exercise series, please contact Stephen Allen at: sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org

Disaster Exercises 2019

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If you or your organization is interested in participating in the 2019 exercise series, please contact Stephen Allen at: sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org

Water Security Table Top Exercise

This exercise will be held on Thursday May 9th from 9:00am to 4:30pm at the Jefferson County Health Services Buildings

The goal of this table top exercise is to engage water and wastewater utilities, response partners, and other independent sectors in a discussion about their specific roles in the event of a major water disaster. The objectives of this exercise are to review the roles of water operators in the event of a water contamination incident, discuss methods for timely, and accurate information sharing with partners and with the public, as well as discuss the integration of laboratories into a water emergency. Contact Kevin Tingley tingley.kevin@epa.gov for more information.
My name is Brianna Gustafson and I would like to formally introduce myself as the Administrative Assistant, Public Information Officer, and Volunteer Coordinator for Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management. I was sworn in and began my duties on April 22, 2019.

My job as a public information officer is to create and enable communication between our organization and both news media outlets and the general public. Part of my job is information management and in this position I will serve as the primary point of contact for the media for Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Emergency public information planning allows for providing information about lifesaving measures such as evacuation routes, alert systems, and other public safety information, to be coordinated and communicated to diverse audiences in a timely, consistent manner. Public education contributes to preparing citizens to respond to a variety of hazards. I will distribute information on the prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery phases of emergency management as well as our monthly newsletters. Another part of my responsibilities include providing administrative support for our department as well as coordination of all events and activities in which our volunteers are involved.

On a personal note, here is a little about me and my background. I have a Bachelor’s degree from Shepherd University in Psychology and a Master’s degree from Argosy University in Forensic Psychology and Homeland Security. As part of an internship, I worked with The Counter Terrorism Group as a watch officer on the Terror Group and Behavioral Analysis Team. I have also worked as a teacher and am excited to lead our Disaster Ready Kids program. I have a wonderful husband, we have been married since October of 2018, and we have five fur-children. I am delighted to join this office and look forward to working with you in this capacity! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Brianna L. Gustafson**

**Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer/Volunteer Coordinator**

**Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management**

Office (304) 724-8914 Fax (304) 728-3320 Cell (304) 279-8135 Email: bgustafson@jeffersoncountywv.org
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](http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6/home.html).

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

Sport Event Risk Management-AWR-167
Date: May 2-3, 2019, Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Location: Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority, 601 Brookes Street, Charleston, WV.
Course Description: The purpose of this course is to build capabilities for multi-agency collaboration pertaining to risk management for sports events. Through activity-based training modules, intact security teams will enhance their ability for planning, risk assessment, training, and exercising practices specific to conducting sport events. The expectation is for participants to return to their respective organization and coordinate the development of a sport event security management system.

West Virginia Specific Communications Unit Leader—WV COML
Date: May 14-16, 2019, Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Location: Flatwoods, RETI Training Facility, 2nd Floor
Course Description: The purpose of the West Virginia Communications Specific Unit Leader (WV COML) Program is to train communications personnel to be better prepared to manage communications assets and activities during an event or disaster, with a specific emphasis on the State-Wide Interoperable Radio Network (SIRN) and other communications equipment and resources available. Public safety communications experts involved in any of the following activities are urged to attend. (1) Developing plans for effective use of existing incident communications and facilities. (2) Managing the distribution of communications equipment to incident personnel. (3) Coordinating the installation and testing of communications equipment. STUDENTS MUST BE A FIRST RESPONDER/PUBLIC SAFETY TO ATTEND. Pre-Requisites: IS100, IS200, IS700, IS800. Submit pre-requisites to Jim Mangus via email at jmangus@metro911.org in order to receive approval to join the class.

Team Approach to Foodborne Outbreak Response—The Highlands Event Center, Tridelphia WV
Date: May 14-15, 2019, Time: 8am to 5pm
This course identifies how the skills, resources and expertise of all levels of government can be effectively connected to improve collaboration during a foodborne outbreak within an integrated national food safety system. The course provides an overview of how participants fit within the National Response Framework (NRF) and shares strategies for how participants can leverage resources at all levels of government to build and maintain outbreak investigation and response capabilities.

WV Model Floodplain Ordinance
Date: May 16, 2019, Time: 10 a.m.
Location: WEBINAR
Course Description: This WEBINAR will cover Model Floodplain Coordinates for the State of West Virginia
Team Approach to Foodborne Outbreak Response  
Date: May 14-15, 2019, Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Location: The Highlands Event Center - 355 Wharton Circle Suite 235, Triadelphia, WV  
Course Description: This course identifies how the skills, resources and expertise of all levels of government can be effectively connected to improve collaboration during a foodborne outbreak within an integrated national food safety system. The course provides an overview of how participants fit within the National Response Framework (NRF) and shares strategies for how participants can leverage resources at all levels of government to build and maintain outbreak investigation and response capabilities.  
Professional Disciplines: Public Health, Healthcare, Public Works  
The target audience for the Direct Delivery version of this course includes:  
- Sanitarians  
- Environmental health inspectors  
- Epidemiologists  
- Public health nurses  
- Educators  
- Laboratorians  

Medical Preparedness & Response For Bombing Incidents  
Date: May 21-22, 2019, Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Location: WV State Police Academy PDC  
Course Description:  
This course is intended for members of emergency response as well as other city and county services that become a part of a community response to an bombing incident. This interactive, instructor facilitated program employs case studies, lessons learned, validated medical data, and potential threats to the communities we serve. Sessions will address planning considerations and concerns specific to medical responders, law enforcement, and emergency planners, with an intended outcome of integrating incidents of an explosive nature into existing plans.  

To Register for these FREE Classes, go to: [http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6](http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6).  
For questions about the course or registration, contact Gregory.c.fernley@wv.gov or call 304-558-5380.  
Once you set up your account, you can log on and look at the list of available courses taught in West Virginia.  

FEMA also offers a number of online courses at [https://training.fema.gov/emi.aspx](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.  

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/](https://training.fema.gov/is/).  

- IS-393.b - Introduction to Hazard Mitigation  
- IS-317 - Introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams  
- IS-248 - Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) for the American Public  
- IS-394 - Protecting Your Home or Small Business from Disaster
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 examine 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 and the 2018 plan was approved in November 2018.

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 at (304) 728-3290.
The Jefferson County Commission’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) 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, Storm-Ready, Community Rating System, Resilient Neighbor Network and Project Impact programs. JCHSEM is also responsible for the Jefferson County R.A.C.E.S. group.

May Meetings & Events

- Sterling National Weather Service Calls every Monday at 9 a.m.
- Weather calls every Monday and Friday at 10 a.m. with State EOC and National Weather Service
- May 2 - Jefferson County Commission Meeting
- May 8 - Public Awareness Committee Meeting
- May 9 - WV Water Security Tabletop Disaster Exercise
- May 14 - Counterterrorism Committee Meeting
- May 14 - LEPC Exercise Sub-Committee Meeting
- May 15 - LEPC Meeting
- May 28 - IT Squad Meeting