



# Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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

**February 2020**

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Stephen S. Allen, Director  
James M. Sager, Deputy Director, Planner, Program Manager  
Brianna L. Gustafson, Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer/Volunteer Coordinator

## St. Valentine



The Valentine's day holiday falls on February 14th every year and is one of America's most popular consumer holidays. More than 62% of Americans celebrate the day by sending greeting cards, flowers, and chocolate. But, did you know that the history of Valentine's day is shrouded in somewhat of a mystery?

The roots of Valentine's Day can be traced all the way back to an ancient Roman festival. This raucous fertility festival held in mid February was called Lupercalia.

Later, the Christian church chose mid February to celebrate St. Valentine in an attempt to replace the pagan fertility festival of Lupercalia. However, not much is known about the holiday's namesake. There was more than one Christian Cleric named Valentine. One of them was sentenced to death around 269 AD for performing marriage ceremonies in secret. During this time, Roman Emperor Claudius II banned marriage for young men, believing that single men made better soldiers.

At the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius officially declared the 14th day of February a holiday to celebrate St. Valentine. But, it wasn't until the 1300's that the holiday became associated with love and romance.

The first written Valentine's Day greeting cards appeared in the 15th century. These cards then spread to Great Britain by the 17th Century. The first mass produced Valentine's Day card emerged in the United States in the 1840's and soon became a staple of the holiday. An estimated 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, more than any other holiday except Christmas. More than 35 million boxes of chocolate and 220 million roses are sold for Valentine's day.

In this edition of the Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (JCHSEM) newsletter, we will be discussing Earthquake Awareness, Sustainability, President's Day, and See Something Say Something.

# Earthquake Awareness



An earthquake is defined as a sudden and violent shaking of the ground, sometimes causing great destruction, as a result of movements within the earth's crust or volcanic action. Although California, Oregon, Washington, and Puerto Rico are areas with a higher risk of earthquakes, earthquakes can happen anywhere and at any time. Earthquakes can cause significant damage and can also cause fires, tsunamis, landslides, or avalanches. It is important to be aware and know ways to protect yourself if an earthquake happens.

- If you are in a vehicle, pull over and stop. Set your parking brake.
- If you are in bed, turn face down and cover your head and neck with a pillow.
- If you are outdoors, stay outdoors away from buildings.
- Do not get in a doorway.
- Do not run outside.

During an earthquake it important to know the phrase: Drop, Cover, and Hold On!

**Drop:** Drop wherever you are on to your hands and knees. If you're using a wheelchair or walker with a seat, make sure your wheels are locked and remain seated until the shaking stops.

**Cover:** Cover your head and neck with your arms. If a sturdy table or desk is nearby, crawl underneath it for shelter. If no shelter is nearby, crawl next to an interior wall (away from windows). Crawl only if you can reach better cover without going through an area with more debris. Stay on your knees or bent over to protect vital organs.

**Hold On:** If you are under a table or desk, hold on with one hand and be ready to move with it if it moves. If you can't find a table or desk, cover your head and neck with both arms and hands. If seated and unable to drop to the floor, bend forward, cover your head with your arms, and hold on to your neck with both hands.

You can take simple steps now to ensure you and your family are ready in the event of an earthquake. First, practice Drop, Cover, and Hold On with your family and coworkers. Secure heavy items in your home such as bookcases, televisions, and objects that hang on walls. Make a supply kit that includes food, water, flashlight, batteries, and medication. This kit should have enough supplies to last you and your family at least 3 days. Be sure to create a family emergency communications plan so everyone know where to meet and who to contact in the event of an emergency. Visit <https://www.ready.gov/earthquakes> for more information!

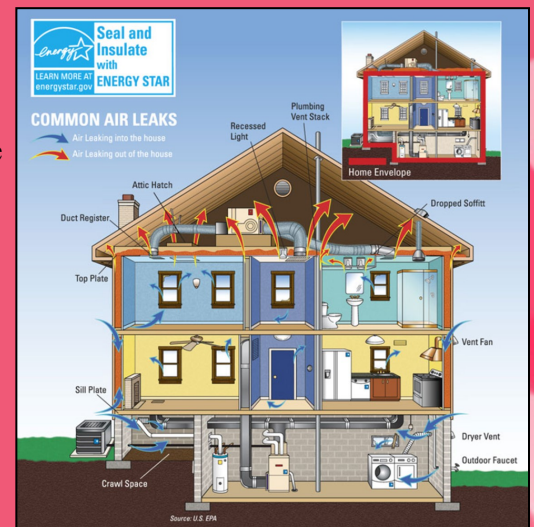
# Sustainability



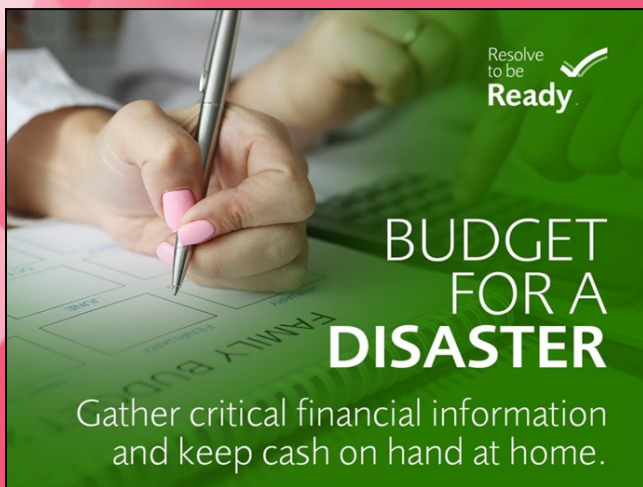
Sustainability is the study of how natural systems function, remain diverse, and produce everything they need for the ecology to remain in balance. It also acknowledges that human civilization takes resources to sustain our modern way of life. There are many ways in which you can practice sustainable habits to reduce your ecological footprint. With the growing frequency and severity of emergencies it is more important than ever to foster a culture of preparedness and self-reliance.

To help you practice sustainable habits, self-reliance, and reduce your ecological footprint, follow these tips from FEMA:

- **Shop local:** Shopping at local grocery stores enhances community sustainability and supports your local economy.
- **Eat less meat:** According to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the global livestock industry produces 14.5% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the world and the cattle industry is responsible for about 65% of these gases.
- **Composting:** A great way to reduce waste while provide nutrients to your home or local gardens is to compost your food waste.
- **Reduce Use of Plastic:** Switching from single use plastics to reusable containers can substantially reduce your carbon footprint, decrease the number of plastic particles found in our air and water sources, and will make you financially sustainable.
- **Gardening:** Gardening can be a tool to substantially decrease your carbon footprint and contribute to a more sustainable lifestyle.
- **Canning and Emergency Preparedness:** Canning can be a low-cost and effective way to reduce your food waste and to extend the shelf-life of your food. Canning can also be an easy way to prepare for an emergency: you should always have 72 hours worth of food and water in your emergency kit.
- **Reduce your Use of Power:** The average American household consumed 914 kilowatt hours (kWh) of energy each month in 2018. Your refrigerator is likely the only appliance you keep running at all times. The Department of Energy estimates that energy use of your refrigerator for a month is 55.8 kWh, which is only 1/16 of the average American household's monthly usage. Find out ways you can cut back on your energy consumption and make your utility bills cheaper and more sustainable.







It is also important to employ sustainable financial strategies. Financial planning is a key component to preparedness, sustainability, and relieving stress in the event you are faced with a financial loss. Consider employing the following financial strategies:

- Gather your financial and critical personal, household, and medical information. Keep them in a fireproof/waterproof safe, and keep a copy in your emergency kit.
- Consider saving money in an emergency savings account that could be used in any crisis. Keep a small

amount of cash in your emergency supply kit.

- Obtain property (homeowners or renters), flood, health, and life insurance if you do not have them.
- For more helpful financial preparedness tips, download the [Emergency Financial First Aid Kit](#) (EFFAK) to get started with planning today.

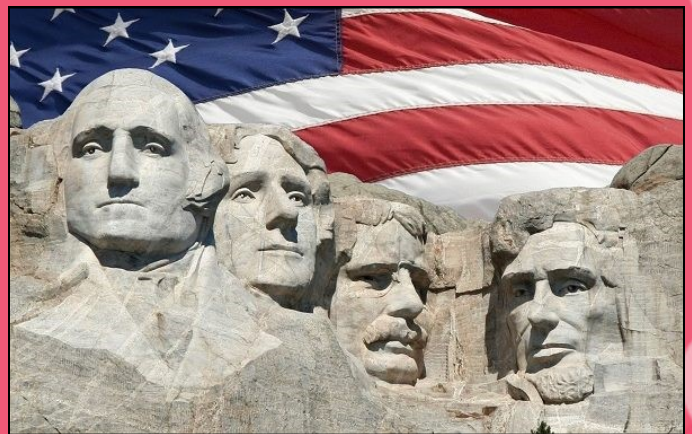
Practicing sustainable habits can help you, your community, and the environment!

## Presidents Day

Presidents day is celebrated in the United States on the third Monday of February. Presidents Day was first established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington. George Washington's birthday on February 22, became a perennial day of remembrance. Washington is regarded as one of the most important figures in American history.

In 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Bill and the holiday was moved to Monday.

Presidents day is a symbol of tradition and patriotism. It is a time to reflect and remember. Schools, communities, and other organizations often take this time to teach about our history and our presidents.



## See Something Say Something



With the continued increase in terrorist activity around the world, as well as the escalating issues in the Middle East, it is important to be proactive and report any suspicious behavior. Here are some ways you can help provided by the U.S.

Department of Homeland Security :

- Learn how to recognize the signs associated with terrorism and other criminal activity by visiting <https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something/recognize-the-signs>.
- Report Suspicious activity or information about a threat to your local law enforcement agency or dial 911. West Virginia also has a Suspicious Activity Reporting app you can download to submit your observation anonymously.

- **Be Prepared**

- ◇ Be prepared for a cyber incident with an offline backup and know who you are calling for help. For more information visit <https://www.cisa.gov/>.
- ◇ Be responsible for your personal safety. Know where the emergency exits and security personnel are located. Carry emergency contact and special needs information with you.

- **Stay Informed**

- ◇ The U.S. Government will provide information about threat as additional information is identified. The public is encouraged to listen to local law enforcement and public safety officials.
- ◇ Americans are encouraged to continue to travel, attend public events, and freely associate with others but remain vigilant and aware of surroundings.
- ◇ The Department of State will issue any international travel alerts and warnings as they arise.

By being alert and reporting suspicious activity to your local law enforcement, you can protect your family, neighbors, and community. Suspicious activity includes unusual items or situations such as a vehicle parked in an odd location or luggage left unattended, an individual who elicits information beyond curiosity such as building security procedures or shift changes, or an individual who pays particularly close attention to a facility by taking notes and repeatedly canvassing the area. If you see any suspicious activity it is important to report it by notifying local law enforcement right away. Be sure to report it using the 5 W's: Who did you see; What did you see; When you saw it; Where it occurred; and Why it's suspicious. Public safety and security is everyone's responsibility so remember, if you see something, say something.



## Disaster Exercise Series 2020



West Virginia Region 3 will begin an exercise series in the coming months. Over the course of the year a Table top, Functional, and Full Scale exercise will be held. 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](mailto:sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org).

## Quarterly Partnership Meeting



Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management will held their January Annual Partnership Meeting at the Epic Buffet at Hollywood Casino at the Charles Town Races and Slots.

Our guest speaker for this meeting was Sandy Green, Region III Liaison for the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. He will discussed the Bomb Making Awareness Program (BMAPS). With the increase in

the use of common items to make homemade explosives (HME) and improvised explosive devices (IED), an educated and proactive public is the key to prevention. The BMAPS program is designed to increase public and private sector awareness of those everyday products that terrorists and criminals can use to make a bomb or other dangerous device. It also helps provide public awareness and education to help businesses and their employees identify and report suspicious purchasing behaviors of common items that can be used to make bombs.

In attendance were representatives from local businesses, the Jefferson County Commission, Law Enforcement, Fire and Rescue, elected officials, and volunteers. We thank everyone who attended for their continued support of Jefferson County's preparedness. We would also like to thank Penn National Gaming and Charles Town Races and Slots for providing the meals for everyone in attendance. Their continued support of our office and our annual partnership meeting is pivotal to our organization.

# 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:

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

## **Evacuation Planning Strategies and Solutions MGT-461**

**Date:** March 12, 2020 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** WV RETI Center, Sutton, WV

**Course Description:** This eight-hour management-level course is designed to provide emergency managers, first responders, transportation professionals, security and safety professionals, and government administrators with the ability to utilize current tools and technologies to institute best practices and strategies to plan for and execute an emergency evacuation. This course discusses the hazard conditions for which an emergency evacuation could be an appropriate protective action and inform participants on resources and methods to help them better prepare for an emergency evacuation. This course will allow participants to explore data, modeling tools, and simulations that assist with the implementation of an emergency evacuation.

## **Incident Tactical Dispatcher Training**

**Date:** March 17–20, 2020 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Charleston Metro 911 Center

**Course Description:** An Incident Tactical Dispatcher is a specially trained individual qualified to operate away from the dispatch center in a command post, base camp or at the incident scene. Incident Tactical Dispatchers leverage the multi-tasking, communication, accountability and documentation skills of successful Tele communicators to provide public safety communications expertise and support at planned events and extended incidents such as hostage situations, multi-alarm fires, search and rescue operations, bombings, and active shooter incidents. Incident Tactical Dispatchers may support the Communications Unit as a single resource or as part of an incident tactical dispatch team. This course provides a basic understanding for the roles and responsibilities of an incident tactical dispatcher working in a tactical environment.

## **Unmanned Aircraft Systems in Disaster Management**

**Date:** March 24, 2020, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** WV RETI Center, Sutton, WV

**Course Description:** Join us for our Unmanned Aircraft Systems for Disaster Management course and learn about UAS use in disaster management, from mitigation and preparedness to response and recovery. Gain a basic understanding of UAS; learn the general concepts to build a successful UAS program; understand the FAA regulations of UAS and application process; learn the importance of engaging the local community; understand the need to ensure that privacy issues, civil rights, and civil liberties are thoroughly addressed; identify when UAS would enhance a disaster mission; and understand the basics of UAS types and sensors. Gain a basic overview of UAS and learn the first steps in determining if UAS is right for you.

To Register for these FREE Classes, go to: <http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6>. Once you set up your account, you can log on and look at the list of available courses taught in West Virginia.

For questions about the course or registration, contact [Shawn.D.Dunbrack@WV.gov](mailto:Shawn.D.Dunbrack@WV.gov) or call 304-558-5380.

# Upcoming Local Training

Jefferson County and the surrounding areas are hosting numerous community training within the coming months. These trainings can help increase your knowledge of emergencies and preparedness.

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

## Community CPR

**Date:** February 8, 2020

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Location:** Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency, 419 Sixteenth Avenue Ranson, WV, 25438

**Registration:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-cpr-course-tickets-88039702119> (If registration is full or closed please contact JCESA at (304) 728-3287 to see if there is a spot available)

## Community First Aid

**Date:** February 8, 2020

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency, 419 Sixteenth Avenue Ranson, WV, 25438

**Registration:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-first-aid-tickets-88042446327> (If registration is full or closed please contact JCESA at (304) 728-3287 to see if there is a spot available)

## SKYWARN Flooding Course

**Date:** March 25, 2020

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Berkeley County Sheriffs Office, 510 South Raleigh St. Martinsburg, WV 25401

**Course Description:** By attending this course, you will be trained by NWS personnel to recognize different types of flooding, learn how it is forecast and what causes it to occur, and get an in-depth look into the science of hydrology. 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 on how to report this vital weather information.

**Registration:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/skywarn-flooding-berkeley-county-wv-tickets-91232967261>



# Online FEMA Training

FEMA also offers a number of online courses at <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. After the course is completed an online test can be taken. Once the test is passed you will receive a completion certificate.

## IS 325 - Earthquake Basics: Science, Risk, and Mitigation

**Course Description:** This 30 minute independent study course presents basic information on earthquake science, risk, and mitigation. It also discusses techniques for structural and non-structural earthquake mitigation. Earthquake Basics is targeted to a wide range of audiences, including homeowners, business owners, the private sector, federal, state, tribal and local government workforce at all levels, first responders, non-profit organizations, volunteers, and community-based organizations. Although certification is not a part of the course, short quizzes are included to enhance interactivity and to boost retention.

**Primary Audience:** Emergency management officials and livestock owners.

**Course Length:** Approximately 4 hours

**Course Link:** <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-111.a>

## IS 906 - Workplace Security Awareness

**Course Description:** This course provides guidance to individuals and organizations on how to improve the security in your workplace. No workplace—be it an office building, construction site, factory floor, or retail store—is immune from security threats.

**Primary Audience:** The primary audience for this course is All private-sector and public-sector employees.

**Course Length:** Approximately 1 hour

**Course Link:** <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-906>

## IS 909 - Community Preparedness: Implementing Simple Activities for Everyone

**Course Description:** Community members are the key to our Nation's preparedness and resilience. The purpose of this course is to present a model program for community preparedness. In addition, resources materials are available to help organizations conduct simple preparedness activities for everyone. By the end of this course, participants will be able to identify the definition of preparedness, describe the role of individual and household preparedness, and describe the purpose of community based preparedness activities.

**Primary Audience:** The primary audience for this course is the whole community including emergency management personnel and representatives of faith-based and nonprofit organizations.

**Course Length:** Approximately 1 hour

**Course Link:** <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-909>

# 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 Local Emergency Planning Committee Meetings held on the third Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

If you are interested in joining any of our committees, contact Stephen Allen at  
[sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto: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.

**Jefferson County  
Homeland Security and  
Emergency Management**

28 Industrial Blvd., Suite 101  
Kearneysville, WV 25430

**STAFF**

Stephen Allen — Director  
Office: 304-728-3290  
Email: [sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org)

James Sager — Deputy Director, Planner,  
Program Manager  
Office: 304-728-3329  
Email: [jsager@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:jsager@jeffersoncountywv.org)

Brianna Gustafson — Administrative  
Assistant, Public Information Officer,  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Office: 304-724-8914  
Email: [bgustafson@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:bgustafson@jeffersoncountywv.org)

**PUBLIC SAFETY;  
PUBLIC TRUST**

HAPPY  
*Valentine's  
Day*

★ HAPPY ★  
**PRESIDENTS' DAY**



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, 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.

## February 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
- February 11 - Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting
- February 12 - Public Awareness Committee Meeting
- February 17 - Offices Closed in Observance of Presidents Day
- February 19 - LEPC Meeting
- February 25 - IT Meeting