



## Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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

**April 2020**

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### JCHSEM Staff:

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

## Coronavirus Update

The 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person-to-person. This virus was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China. Symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. These symptoms can develop anywhere between two and fourteen days of being exposed to the virus. To help prevent the spread of any virus, practice good hygiene and wash your hands regularly. When you are unable to wash your hands, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol and be sure to disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. Avoid close contact with others and stay home if you are feeling sick, stay home. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, Governor Jim Justice has issued a Stay at Home order for all of West Virginia. To view all the details of this order please visit: <https://governor.wv.gov/pages/default.aspx#homeorder>. In addition, the Jefferson County Board of Health has issued a shelter in place order for Jefferson County residents which can be viewed here:

<https://www.jchdvw.org/shelter-in-place-order/>.

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) continues to proactively monitor the evolving Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation closely. The health and safety of the residents of Jefferson county is of our utmost priority. As of Monday, April 6th, there have been 9,940 individuals tested resulting in 345 positive cases and 4 deaths related to COVID-19 in West Virginia.

During this time, it is crucial for the public to ensure they are reading and sharing accurate information from trusted sources in regard to COVID-19. There is a multitude of misinformation out there. Sources such as <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html> and <http://coronavirus.wv.gov/> are great resources to ensure consistent and reliable information. In addition, the Jefferson County Health Department and Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Facebook pages also contain a wealth of information created and shared by verified sources.

We understand that there are a lot of questions and concerns in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic. There are many knowledgeable individuals staffing hotlines to address your questions. Please ensure you are contacting the appropriate numbers depending on your situation.

**911:** This is for *emergencies only*. Please do not call 911 with general questions about COVID-19. This will tax resources and pull those resources from an individual calling with an emergency.

**WVDHHR Coronavirus hotline 1-800-887-4303:** This line is for general questions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and is available 24/7.

**211:** This number is used for non-medical calls to help families locate available resources in their area such as food banks, mental health services, and unemployment services.

**WVU Medicine East Covid-19 Triage Line 304-596-2890:** This line is used specifically for anyone who has a respiratory or flu-like illness that they believe could be related to COVID-19. If you experience symptoms such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath or you have been in close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 you can call this number.

**Work Force West Virginia 1-800-252-JOBS:** This toll free number is staffed with people ready to assist you with work force resources and unemployment information.

In this edition of the Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (JCHSEM) newsletter, we will be discussing National Financial Capability Month, Spring Safety, National Pet Month, and Distracted Driving Month. We will also provide an update on the COVID-19 situation in Jefferson County. You will also find information on upcoming local, online, and state sponsored trainings. assist you with work force resources and unemployment information.

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## Luther Burbank



“Don’t wait for someone else to bring you flowers. Plant your own garden and decorate your own soul” is one of Luther Burbank’s most famous quotes. Luther Burbank was born in Lancaster, Massachusetts in 1849 before making Santa Rosa, California his home. Burbank was known as a world renowned horticulturalist (an expert in garden cultivation and management). He was also known for his plant-breeding experiments.

One of Luther Burbank's main goals was to increase the world's food supply by manipulating a plant's characteristics. During Burbank's 55 years in the field of botany, he developed over 800 plant varieties and strains. He produced everything from grains to vegetables, grass to flowers. He even created a spineless cactus that could be foraged to feed livestock in desert regions.

The plumcot (plum/apricot cross), the July Elberta peach, and the Flaming Gold nectarine are among some of the fruit creations Burbank introduced. Burbank even produced a new genetic breed of the Russet potato that was later named the Burbank Russet potato. This potato is now the most widely used potato in commercial food processing. Some of the flower creations Burbank engineered were the Shasta Daisy and the Fire Poppy, along with hundreds of other ornamental floral varieties.

By all accounts, Burbank was a kind-hearted and well liked man who dedicated his life to plants. His legacy inspired the Rose Parade hosted in Santa Rosa every year. His birthday, March 7th, is also celebrated as Arbor Day in California each year. In West Virginia, Arbor Day is celebrated near Burbank's death on the second Friday in April.

# National Financial Capacity Month



Planning for a disaster involves many different elements, including creating an emergency supply kit, having a family communication plan, and practicing the plan you have in place. But one of the most important aspects of preparedness is having a “rainy day fund”. The truth is, no one knows when a disaster will happen. Natural, man made, or health related, a disaster can strike at any time. Are you financially prepared should a disaster or emergency strike?

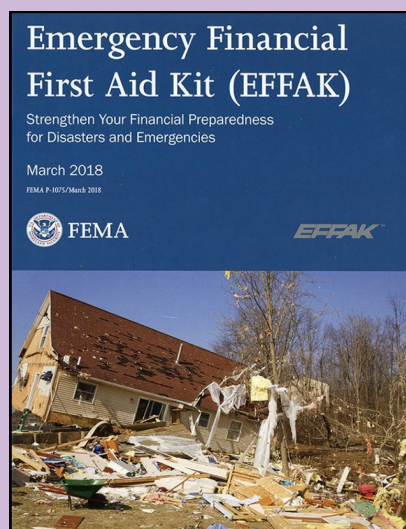
Here are some tips from The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help you better prepare

financially for a disaster:

- Prepare for the risks where you live. Personal financial planning helps families prepare for disasters both big and small.
- Start building an emergency fund by saving a little each month. Pay yourself first. When you get paid, put a specific amount aside for your emergency fund first instead of waiting to see what is left over after spending. People with cash on hand can recover faster than those relying on credit. Consider saving for disasters by setting aside money for unexpected costs including hotel stays, food, gas and insurance deductibles.
- Check your insurance coverage. Having insurance for your apartment, home or business property is the best way to be sure you will have the necessary financial resources to help you repair, rebuild, or replace whatever is damaged.
- Documenting personal property can make insurance claims easier. If you don’t have the right documents, claims could be delayed.
- Store your records in a safe place and back them up online. Ensure you have all the important documents and digital copies you need to protect yourself after a disaster.
- Encourage your kids to start building good money habits. Saving a little bit at a time helps them be prepared for all kinds of emergencies.

The Emergency Financial Aid Kit (EFAK) is a great way to start planning financially. You can access the EFAK by visiting [https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1582162058327-59774592ecfffe4e9962d0e1ec3e4780/EFFAKToolkit508\\_20190904.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1582162058327-59774592ecfffe4e9962d0e1ec3e4780/EFFAKToolkit508_20190904.pdf).

Being ready for a disaster is more than storing water and supplies. You also need to be financially ready. Starting early and having adequate insurance, a plan to pay your bills and access to your important records and accounts will help you get back on your feet faster and avoid problems with your credit when you need it most.





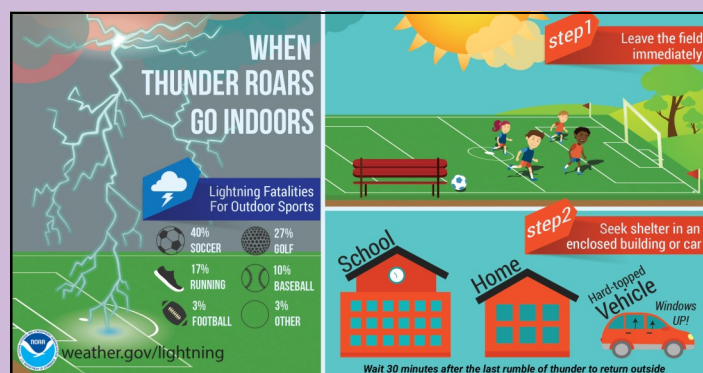
# Spring Safety



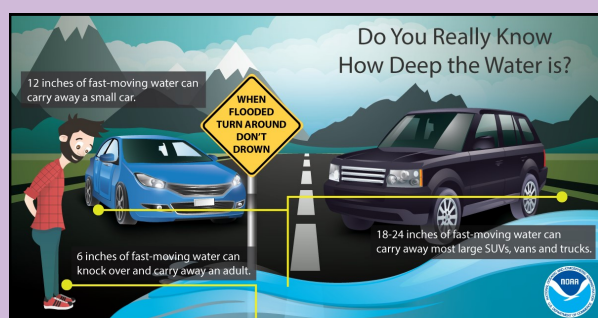
Most people know the saying "April showers bring May flowers." The spring season is often associated with large amounts of rainfall, but the spring season can also bring about many other weather issues such as flooding, lightning, and tornadoes.

We generally hope that spring is a pleasant and mild season that brings about warmer temperatures and the blossoms of new growth. However, everyone should be prepared for the severe weather spring can bring!

One issue that spring weather can bring is thunderstorms. Thunderstorms can happen anywhere and bring with them damaging wind, hail, and lightning. Lightning kills an average of 30 people every year. Lightning is very dangerous and must be taken seriously. If a thunderstorm is in your area, take shelter immediately. Standing outside is not safe when the threat of lightning is in your area. Seek shelter inside a sturdy structure. A hard top vehicle is also a safe location to seek shelter during a thunderstorm.



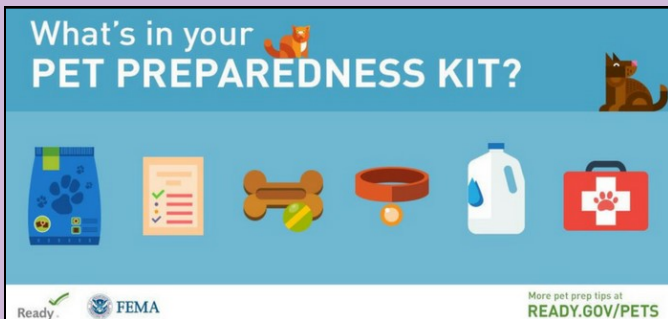
Another hazard of spring weather is flooding. Significant rainfall can lead to the increase in water



levels of creeks, rivers, and streams that can flood roadways, homes, and other structures. Flooding can be very dangerous. More than half of all flood fatalities are vehicle-related. Never drive on any road that is covered by water! You never know how deep the water is and your car can easily be swept away. Always remember, "Turn Around Don't Drown!"

In addition, it is important to review your insurance coverage. Many homeowners and renters insurances do not cover issues such as flooding. You can visit <https://www.floodsmart.gov/flood-insurance> for more information on flood insurance. Preparing yourself for the possibility of severe spring weather can help keep you and your family safe!

## National Pet Month



April is recognized as National Pet Month. Many people have pets that are like family to them. Are your furry friends prepared if a disaster were to happen?

Preparing your pet for a disaster is an important part of preparedness.

One of the best ways to prepare your pet for a disaster is to create a pet emergency supply kit. This is

very similar to preparing a kit for yourself. Many of the same things you need in a disaster supply kit also apply to your pet. Here is a list of items you need:

- ◆ Food: At least a three day supply in an airtight, waterproof container.
- ◆ Water: At least a three day supply of water specifically for your pets.
- ◆ Medicine and medical records.
- ◆ Important documents: Registration information, adoption papers and vaccination documents. Talk to your veterinarian about microchipping and enrolling your pet in a recovery database.
- ◆ First aid kit: Cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors, antibiotic ointment, flea and tick prevention, latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol and saline solution.
- ◆ Collar or harness: With ID tag, rabies tag and a leash.
- ◆ Crate or pet carrier: Have a sturdy, safe crate or carrier in case you need to evacuate.
- ◆ Sanitation: Pet litter and litter box, if appropriate, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach.
- ◆ A picture of you and your pet together: If you become separated, a picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you.
- ◆ Familiar items: Treats, toys and bedding can help reduce stress for your pet.

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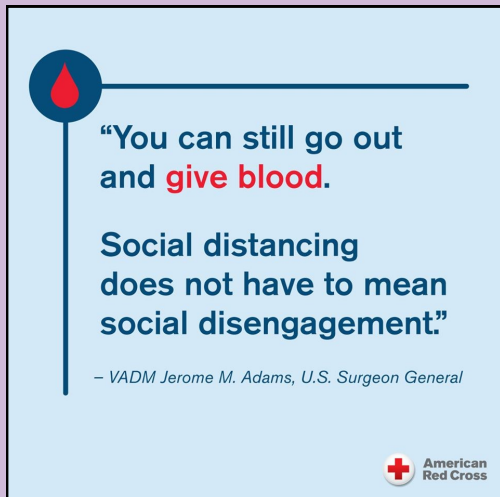
## Distracted Driving Month



Although the National Safety Council has postponed Distracted Driving Awareness Month this year, It is still important to discuss this issue. More than 700 people are injured each day from distracted driving accidents. Talking and texting on a cellular device diverts your attention away from driving. The truth is, it can wait! Put away your cell phone and any other distractions that can take away your attention while driving. If a call can not wait, pull over before answering the call. Putting your phone and other

distractions away while driving can not only save the lives of others, it can save yours too.

## Red Cross in Need



The American Red Cross needs your help! Cancelled blood drives have resulted in 150,000 fewer blood donations. You can still donate blood while practicing social distancing. Schedule an appointment to give here: <https://rdcrss.org/39YT2nL>.

"Helping one person might not change the world, but it could change the world for one person" - Anonymous

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## 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 in-

volves 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 2020 exercise series, please contact Stephen Allen at: [sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:sallen@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.

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

**\*\*Due to the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, many of the previously scheduled courses in April have been cancelled. Please check <http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6> or contact [Shawn.D.Dunbrack@WV.gov](mailto:Shawn.D.Dunbrack@WV.gov) with any questions in regards to cancelled or rescheduled courses.\*\***

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## Upcoming Local Training

**\*\*The SKYWARN Basics Course scheduled for April 8th in Jefferson County has been postponed. \*\***

**The following classes in May are still on. Please contact The ESA at (304) 728-3287 for more information closer to the course dates.**

### Community CPR

**Date:** May 2, 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-88040344039> (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:** May 2, 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-88042590759> (If registration is full or closed please contact JCESA at (304) 728-3287 to see if there is a spot available)

# 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 366 - Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters

**Course Description:** The purpose of this course is to provide guidance for Emergency Managers and implementers of children's programs about meeting the unique needs that arise among children as a result of a disaster or emergency.

**Primary Audience:** The target audience for this course is local and state emergency managers and planners. Other individuals or groups that may benefit from taking this course include those directly involved with meeting the needs of children, such as the following: Judges and other members of the State, county, and local governmental legal system, Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs), faith-based organizations, and other non-profits, Child service agencies, Child care providers, Schools.

**Course Length:** Approximately 6 hours

**Course Link:** <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-366.a>

## IS 522 - Exercising Continuity Plans for Pandemics

**Course Description:** This course is based on the pandemic continuity tabletop exercise Determined Accord. The course covers fundamental continuity principles and processes but is focused on the special continuity requirements for pandemics. Strategies such as telework and other social distancing strategies are described as well as special protection strategies for first responders, healthcare personnel, and others who have daily contact with the public.

**Primary Audience:** At the conclusion of this course, the students should be able to: Relate the anticipated conditions and effects of a pandemic influenza to responders and communities, describe best practices for planning for and responding to a pandemic influenza, apply knowledge of the anticipated conditions and suggested practices to an activity, and develop next steps for pandemic planning within their agencies or communities.

**Course Length:** Approximately 8 hours

**Course Link:** <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-522>

## 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, 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**



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.

## April 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
- All committee meetings including the Public Awareness, Counter Terrorism, and LEPC meetings have been cancelled for the month of April.
- The Quarterly Partnership Meeting scheduled in April has been cancelled at this time.