



Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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

April 2020

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Coronavirus Update

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to be a complex and fluid situation. Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) continues to proactively monitor the evolving COVID-19 situation closely. The health and safety of the residents of Jefferson county is of our utmost priority. JCHSEM continues to participate in daily conference call with the State Emergency Operations Center. In addition, the Jefferson County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) holds a virtual daily briefing update with our local partners to ensure accurate and transparent communication amidst the pandemic. As of Thursday, May 7th, 2020 the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WV DHHR) reports 57,521 total laboratory tests with 1,287 positive results bringing the cumulative percent positive test result to 2.24%. There have been 51 resident deaths due to the Coronavirus.

Governor Jim Justice has outlined a recovery plan to reopen West Virginia entitled "West Virginia Strong - The Comeback." The details of this plan can be found by visiting <https://governor.wv.gov/Pages/The-Comeback.aspx>. This plan involves a multi-faceted week by week approach that remains contingent on the cumulative positive test result score remaining under 3%. Under this new plan West Virginians are still encouraged to practice social distancing, wear face coverings while in public, and follow all county Health Department regulations.

It remains 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.

In this edition of the Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (JCHSEM) newsletter, we will be discussing Wildfire Safety/ National Community Preparedness Day, National Dam Safety Day, National Hurricane Preparedness Week and National Police and EMS week. We will also be observing Military Appreciation Month and Older American's Month. You will also find information on upcoming local, online, and state sponsored trainings.

Safety Precautions During COVID-19

To help prevent the spread of Coronavirus, the CDC has published many safety precautions to help protect you and your family. These safety precautions include:

Wash Your Hands Often

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid Close Contact

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home as much as possible
- Put distance between yourself and other people. Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus. Keeping distance from others is especially important for people who are at a higher risk of getting sick.

Wear a Cloth Face Covering over Your Nose and Mouth

- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- Everyone should wear a cloth face cover when they have to go out in public, for example to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under the age of 2, or anyone who has trouble breathing, or is otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Do not use a facemask meant for a healthcare worker (such as an N-95 or surgical mask)
- Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing.

Cover Coughs and Sneezes

- If you are in a private setting and do not have on your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Clean and Disinfect

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- If surfaces are dirty, clean them. Then, use a household disinfectant. Most common EPA-registered household disinfectants will work. A detailed guide for cleaning and disinfecting can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html>.

Wildfire Safety/ National Community Preparedness Day



A wildfire is an unplanned fire that burns in a natural area such as a forest, grassland or prairie. These fires can cause catastrophic damage, endanger life, destroy homes, and displace families. Often, wildfires are caused by humans or lightning. Between 2017 and 2019, four major fire events, including the Firestorm in Northern California and the Getty Fire in Los Angeles, caused major damage to buildings, injured and killed many individuals, and evacuated thousands of people from their homes. Over the past two years over 100 people have lost their lives due to wildfires that caused over 25 billion dollars in property loss. In 2018 alone over 9 million acres of land were burned in the United States.

Although some areas are more prone and susceptible to wildfires, a wildfire can happen anywhere. It is important to prepare yourself, your family, and your home now! The National Fire protection Association (NFPA) created a community preparedness day to help raise awareness of wildfire risk. National Community Preparedness Day will take place on Saturday, May 2nd, 2020 to encourage individuals to take a proactive stance in preparing their homes for a wildfire.

The NFPA encourages everyone to participate in National Community Preparedness Day. However, due to the Coronavirus event throughout the globe, the NFPA suggests conducting activities from your home while raising awareness of wildfire safety through online posting on outlets such as Facebook and Twitter. Some home activities the NFPA suggest include:

- Raking and removing pine needles and dry leaves within a minimum of 3 to 5 feet of a home's foundation. Dispose of collected debris in appropriate trash receptacles.
- Getting out your measuring tape and seeing how close wood piles are located to the home. If they are closer than 30 feet, relocate them to at least 30 feet away from structures.
- Sweeping porches and decks, clearing them of leaves and pine needles. Raking under decks, porches, sheds, and play structures.
- Mowing grasses to a height of 4 inches or less.
- Removing items stored under decks and porches and relocating them to a storage shed, garage, or basement. Gasoline cans and portable propane tanks should never be stored indoors and should be located away from the home.

For more information on how you can prepare, visit <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/National-Wildfire-Community-Preparedness-Day>.



National Hurricane Preparedness Week



National Hurricane Preparedness Week takes place May 3rd– May 9th 2020. This week is designed to raise awareness about the dangers of hurricanes and encourage everyone to prepare. Although Jefferson County is not at high risk for a hurricane, we can experience many inland effects from large storms such as heavy rain, flooding, strong winds, and even tornados.

Hurricane preparedness week is broken up into daily themes to help you and your family prepare for the possibility of a hurricane. It is also important to be informed and prepared for a hurricane should you or your family be on vacation near the ocean when a hurricane hits.

- **Day One: Sunday, May 3rd: Determine your risk.** Evaluate what you need to do to protect your family now, before the storm hits!
- **Day Two: Monday, May 4th: Develop an evacuation plan.** Do you have an evacuation plan should our are be subject to large amounts of rainfall and flooding? Be sure to plan your evacuation route, follow all evacuations orders, and be sure to include your pets.
- **Day Three: Tuesday May 5th: Assemble Disaster Supplies.** It is important to have an emergency supply kit stocked with all the items your family may need in the event of an emergency. <https://www.ready.gov/kit>.
- **Day Four: Wednesday May 6th: Get an insurance checkup.** Be sure to check with your insurance company to see what events and damage they cover. Many homeowners insurances do not cover flooding.
- **Day Five: Thursday May 7th: Strengthen your home.** To help protect your home from hurricane winds, it is important to secure loose items, secure all doors, and trim trees.
- **Day Six: Friday, May 8th: Help your neighbor.** Many individuals, especially seniors may need a helping hand to prepare for the storm. Be sure to also check in on them once the storm passes.
- **Day Seven: Saturday May 9th: Complete a written plan.** Having a written plan completed helps to ensure you are ready should a disaster strike. You can visit <https://www.ready.gov/plan> to learn more!

There are numerous resources out there to help prepare you and your family for a hurricane. The National Weather Service and Ready provide great information on how to prepare your family for many types of disasters:

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/hurricane> and <https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>.



National Dam Safety Day



National Dam Safety Day takes place on May 31st each year to commemorate the tragedy of the failure of the South Fork Dam located east of Johnstown Pennsylvania in 1889. Dam Safety Awareness day was created to encourage and promote individual and community responsibility and best practices for dam safety. It also aims to help identify what steps people can take to either prevent future catastrophic dam failures or lessen the impact if a failure was to occur.

The South Fork Dam was originally constructed in 1852 to provide a source of water for a division of the Pennsylvania Canal. The dam was 72 feet high, 918 feet long, 10 feet wide at its crest, and 220 feet wide at its base. The dam consisted of five valves to release varying amounts of water into the canal. The dam however, was not maintained properly, which contributed to the partial failure of one of the culverts in 1862 that washed away a portion of the dam.

The Dam was bought by Benjamin Ruff in 1879. Ruff planned to turn the area into a fishing and hunting retreat for the wealthy. The holes in the dam's structure were inadequately patched to accommodate this venture. In addition, fish screens were placed over the spillway which clogged the dam. The dam suffered a catastrophic failure on May 31st 1889 after it was overtopped by a large storm event. The overtopped dam sent over 20 tons of water hurling into Johnstown resulting in the death of 2,209 people, the loss of 1600 homes, and over 17 million dollars in property damage. To this day this event is considered to be one of the worst man-made disasters in the United States and remains one of the worst dam failures in American History.

Dams remain to be a vital part of the American infrastructure and provide numerous economic, environmental, and social benefits. The National Dam Safety Program (NDSP) aims to help states better their dam safety programs through increased inspections and emergency action planning. It is important to ensure events such as the catastrophic failure of the South Fork Dam don't happen again.

National Building Safety Month

National Building Safety Month takes place each May to help highlight the importance of building codes and overall building safety. Building codes help protect citizens from disasters like fires, weather related events, and structural collapse. These codes help protect homes, offices, schools, stores, and entertainment venues.



Building Safety Month has been celebrated for the past 39 years to help celebrate the continued advances in constructing safe, sustainable, affordable, and resilient buildings. For more information on building safety week as well as resources and ways you can get involved, visit <https://www.iccsafe.org/advocacy/building-safety-month/2020-building-safety-month/>.

Military Appreciation Month



Our military service men and women and their families are a very special part of America Society. These individuals sacrifice so much for our freedom and their brave and valiant efforts are celebrated all through the year. May is set aside specifically to honor those men and women for all they do.

In 1999 Congress officially designated May as National Military Appreciation Month. Each year, the president signs a proclamation to remind all Americans of the important role the U.S. Armed forces and their families have played in the history of our country. Memorial day, which takes place on Monday, May 25th, 2020 also aims to honor the individuals who serve and the individuals who have sacrificed their lives for this country.

This May, be sure to thank our military personnel and their families for all they have done and continue to do. 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, and as a community. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! We appreciate you!

Older Americans Month

Each May, is set aside to observe Older American's Month (OAM). OAM was established in 1963, originally as Senior Citizens Month, to celebrate the contributions of older Americans.

This year, the theme of Older Americans Month is "Make Your Mark." This theme was selected to encourage and celebrate the countless contributions that older adults make to our communities. Their time, experience, and talents benefit family, peers, and neighbors every day. Communities, organizations, and individuals of all ages are also making their marks. This year's theme highlights the difference everyone can make – in the lives of older adults, in support of caregivers, and to strengthen communities.

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/2020/older-americans-month-2020>.



THANK YOU!



The Coronavirus Pandemic has caused unprecedented issues throughout our nation. We want to take the time to say a special thank you to all the hard working and dedicated individuals who have taken to the front lines to help during this time. Our healthcare workers, first responders, sanitation employees, delivery personnel, grocery store workers, emergency management personnel, teachers, and all the essential services workers have done a terrific job during this event.

In Jefferson County, we can not get through this without those individuals. A big shout out to everyone for their continued hard work and dedication. Our entire community continues to work together for the good of all of our residents. We truly could not do this without you. From everyone here at JCHSEM, a sincere thank you for everything you have done and continue to do amid this crisis!

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 10th through the 16th. 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 law enforcement officers.



Each year thousands of people gather in Washington DC for a memorial service honoring the men and women who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Unfortunately, due to the evolving COVID-19 situation, the Fraternal Order of police and its Auxiliary has come to the difficult decision not to host the event this year. They will however, be broadcasting a media tribute of May 15th to honor these fallen heroes.

Remember to say thank you to our Law Enforcement Officers for everything they do!

National EMS Week



National EMS week will take place May 17th through May 23rd this year. This will be the 46th annual National EMS Week. EMS Week began in 1974 when President Ford set aside this week to celebrate EMS practitioners for the important work they do in our communities.

This week is broken up into daily themes that help represent the diverse nature of EMS. This year the themes are: Monday, EMS Education Day; Tuesday, Safety Tuesday; Wednesday, EMS for Children Day; Thursday, Save-A-Life Day; and Friday, EMS Recognition Day. Be sure to thank the EMS professionals in your community for their hard work and dedication!

Red Cross in Need

Thanks to the many people who have given blood, the Red Cross has been able to meet immediate patient needs. However, the American Red Cross still needs your help! Due to the uncertainty of this time, they are still in need of blood donations to help ensure a stable supply throughout this pandemic. You can still donate blood while practicing social distancing. To schedule an appointment to donate blood, please visit: <https://rdcrss.org/39YT2nL>.

"You can still go out and give blood. We're worried about potential blood shortages in the future. Social distancing does not have to mean social disengagement."

U.S. Surgeon General

Mother's Day



Mother's Day takes place on Sunday, May 10th, 2020. This day is set aside to honor the moms in our lives for all they do. Be sure to take the time to call and chat with the mothers and grandmothers in your life to say thank you.

With the closures of schools and businesses in effect across the state, alternative gift options are a great idea for mom! Many children will not be able to make the Mother's Day crafts they usually do while in school this time of year. If you are looking for a way to help your child make a home-made gift for mom, <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/mothers-day/g32126629/mothers-day-crafts-for-kids/> lists 25 crafts you can make at home.

Wishing all the mothers out there a very Happy Mother's Day!

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 2020 exercise series, please contact Stephen Allen at: 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 have been cancelled. Please check <http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6> or contact Shawn.D.Dunbrack@WV.gov with any questions in regards to cancelled or rescheduled courses.****

Upcoming Local Training

Cancelled! 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)

Cancelled! 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: This <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 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 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 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.

**Jefferson County
Homeland Security and
Emergency Management**

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**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.

May Meetings & Events

- Sterling National Weather Service calls every Monday at 9 a.m.
- Conference calls Monday - Saturday at 11 a.m. with State EOC
- Conference call Monday-Friday at 2:00 p.m. for the Jefferson County EOC
- All committee meetings, including the Public Awareness and Counter Terrorism meetings, have been cancelled for the month of May