



Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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

June 2020

Coronavirus Update

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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. 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 Tuesday, June 2nd, 2020 the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WV DHHR) reports 99,751 total laboratory tests with 2,028 positive results bringing the cumulative percent positive test result to 2.03%. There have been 76 resident deaths due to the Coronavirus.

Governor Jim Justice has outlined a recovery plan to reopen West Virginia entitled "West Virginia Strong - The Comeback." Currently, we are in week 6 of this plan. At the end of this week, on June 5th, 2020, casinos and movie theaters are among the businesses allowed to reopen. Guidance for each of the businesses that are allowed to reopen are listed on the Governor's webpage: <https://governor.wv.gov/Pages/The-Comeback.aspx>. 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.

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 Pet Preparedness Month, Summer Safety/ Extreme Heat, and National Lightning Safety Week. You will also find information on upcoming local, online, and state sponsored trainings.

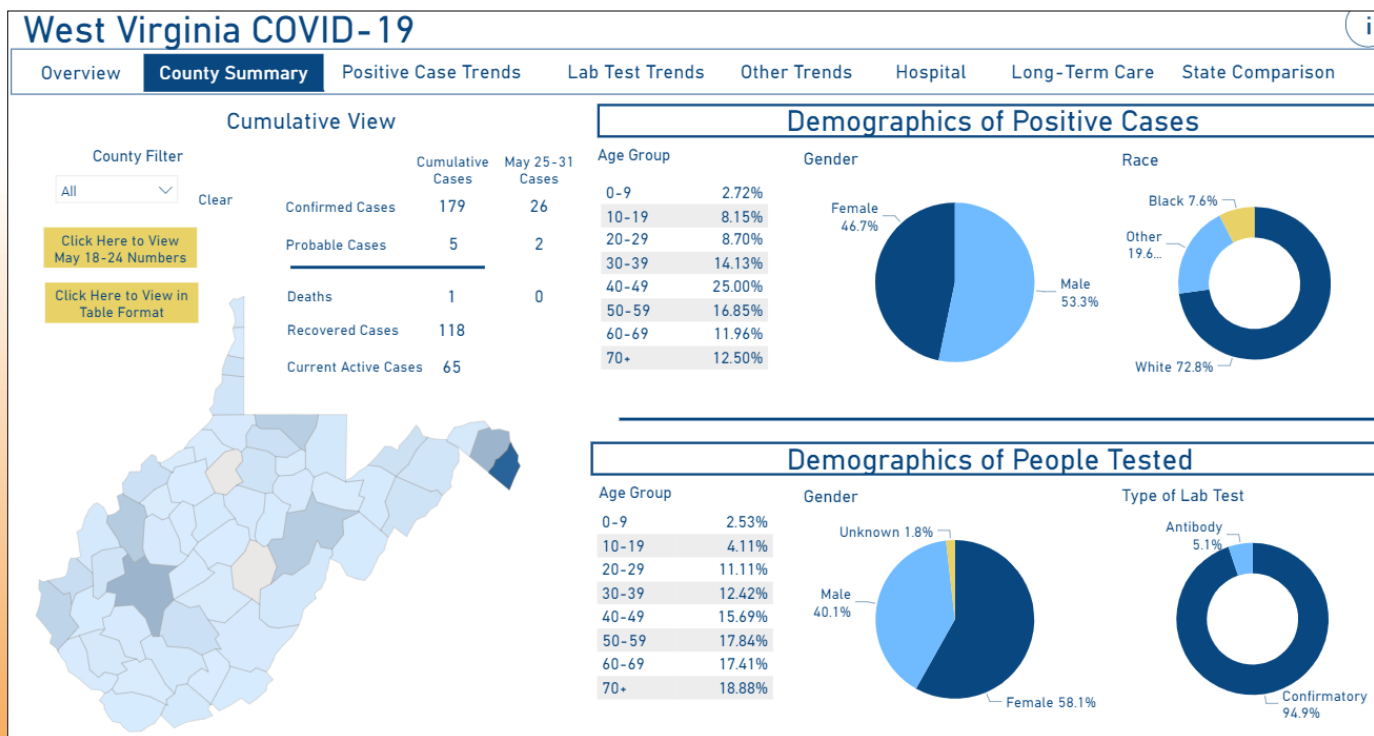
Coronavirus Testing - Jefferson County



As part of his reopening plan, Governor Justice has announced the testing of nursing homes, day care centers, and correctional facilities. In addition, many counties have participated in high density population testing. Two of these events were held in Jefferson County. The first event took place on May 15th and 16th at Ashbury Methodist church in Charles Town. During this event, 766 individuals were tested for the Coronavirus. The second event took place on May 29th and 30th at Hollywood Casino during which an additional 721 individuals were tested.

Partners from the National Guard, Asbury United Methodist Church, WVU Medicine, Shenandoah Community Health Center, Jefferson County School Nurses, Jefferson County COAD, Charles Town Police Department, The City of Charles Town, Jefferson County Sheriff's Reserves, Charles Town Casino and the Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management joined the Jefferson County Health Department to test a combined total of 1,487 individuals for Covid-19. Testing, such as this is critical in helping slow the spread of Covid-19 and reopening West Virginia.

To date, 3,483 Jefferson County residents have been tested, resulting in 179 positive cases. Below, is a graph from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR) which breaks down the testing by demographics. More information and graphs can be found on the [DHHR Coronavirus webpage](#).



Pet Preparedness



Pet Preparedness Month takes place each June to encourage pet owners to take an active role in preparing their pets for a disaster. For many people, pets are a part of our family, and just as we ensure each member of our family is prepared for a disaster, we should also ensure our pets are as well.

It is important to prepare for an emergency before it happens. The Humane Society suggests these tips when preparing your pet for an emergency:

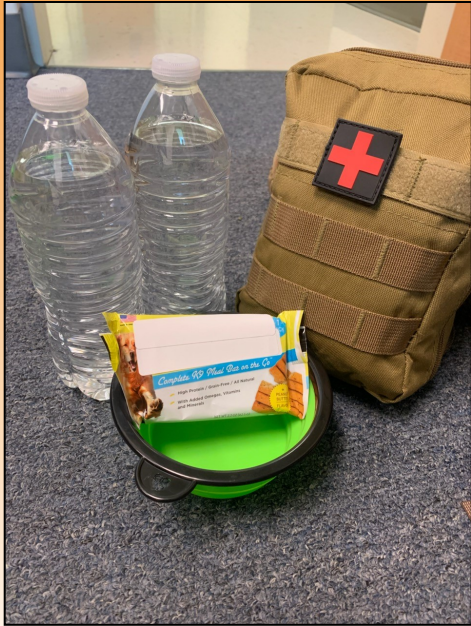
- **ID your Pet:** Purchase an ID tag to add to your pet's collar. Be sure to put your phone number on the tag. Another form of ID for your pet is a microchip. Microchipping your pet is a great way to increase the chances of being reunited with your pet should you get separated. Make sure to register your microchip with a valid name and number.

- Find a safe place for you and your pet if an evacuation is required. Contact hotels and motels both locally and outside of your immediate area to find out whether or not they accept pets. Bringfido.com can help in identifying pet-friendly lodging options as well. Be sure to keep a list of animal friendly places on hand!
- Make a plan for your pets in case you are not home when a disaster strikes. Be sure to make arrangements with a trusted neighbor or relative that will be able to care for an possibly evacuate with your pets should you not be able to return home.
- If you have to evacuate, take your pet with you. Never leave your pets behind, if it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets! Be sure to make an evacuation plan that includes your pets.

One of the best ways to prepare your pet for an emergency 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.

Many people also have pets such as horses, reptiles, birds, or small animals such as hamsters. These animals may require special considerations.

For horses, the ASPCA recommends to:

1. Get your horse used to wearing a halter, and get him used to trailering. Periodically, you should practice quickly getting your horse on a trailer for the same reason that schools have fire drills—asking a group of unpracticed children to exit a burning building in a calm fashion is a little unrealistic, as is requesting a new and strange behavior of your horse
2. If you own a trailer, please inspect it regularly. Also, make sure your towing vehicle is appropriate for the size and weight of the trailer and horse and make sure the trailer is hitched properly.
3. Get your horse well-socialized and used to being handled by all kinds of strangers.
4. Set up a phone tree/buddy system with other nearby horse owners and local farms. This could prove invaluable should you—or they—need to evacuate animals or share resources.
5. Keep equine veterinary records in a safe place where they can quickly be reached. Be sure to post emergency phone numbers by the phone.

For birds and small animals:

1. Birds should be transported in a secure travel cage or carrier.
2. Have recent photos available, and keep your bird's leg bands on for identification
3. Items to keep on hand for birds: Catch net, heavy towel, blanket or sheet to cover cage, cage liner.
4. Small animals, such as hamsters, gerbils, mice and guinea pigs, should be transported in secure carriers with bedding materials, food and food bowls.
5. Items to keep on hand for small animals: Salt lick, extra water bottle, small hidebox or tube, a week's worth of bedding.



Summer Safety / Extreme Heat



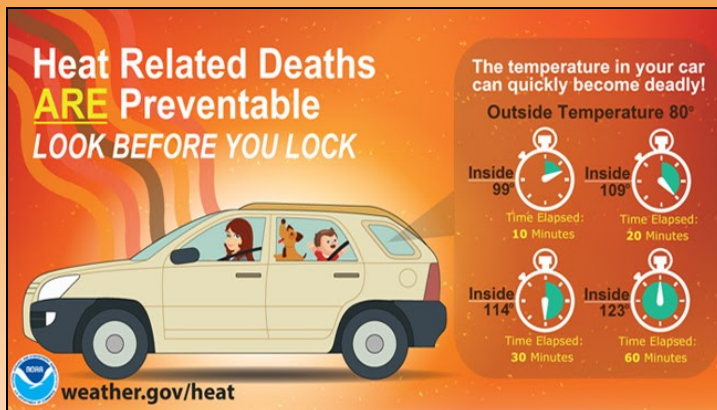
Sunny days, warm weather, and days spent outside are all indicators that summer is almost here! However, summer also brings with it many heat related dangers. Heat is one of the leading weather-related killers in the United States. During the hot summer months it is important to be smart, be safe, and beat the heat!

There are many factors that can increase your risk of developing a heat related illness, including obesity, dehydration, alcohol use, and heart disease. Older adults and young children are also at a higher risk for heat related illnesses.

During hot and humid weather, your body has a more difficult time cooling itself. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends taking these safety precautions during extreme heat:

- **Wear Appropriate Clothing:** Choose lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- **Stay Cool Indoors:** Stay in an air-conditioned place as much as possible.
- **Schedule Outdoor Activities Carefully:** Try to limit your outdoor activity to when it's coolest, like morning and evening hours. Rest often in shady areas so that your body has a chance to recover.
- **Pace Yourself:** Cut down on exercise during the heat. If you're not accustomed to working or exercising in a hot environment, start slowly and pick up the pace gradually. If exertion in the heat makes your heart pound and leaves you gasping for breath, STOP all activity. Get into a cool area or into the shade, and rest, especially if you become lightheaded, confused, weak, or faint.
- **Wear Sunscreen:** Sunburn affects your body's ability to cool down and can make you dehydrated. If you must go outdoors, protect yourself from the sun by wearing a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, and by putting on sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher 30 minutes prior to going out. Continue to reapply it according to the package directions.
- **Avoid Hot and Heavy Meals:** They add heat to your body!
- **Drink Plenty of Fluids:** Drink more fluids, regardless of how active you are. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink.
- **Monitor Those at High Risk:** Although anyone at any time can suffer from heat-related illness, some people are at greater risk than others
- **Check for Updates:** Check your local news for extreme heat alerts and safety tips and to learn about any cooling shelters in your area





High temperature pose a very high risk to children and pets. Never leave children or pets alone in a vehicle! It only takes minutes for the inside of your car to reach high temps. In 2019, fifty-two children died as a result of vehicular heat stroke after being left alone in a vehicle.

The sun works to heat objects in your vehicle, such as the dashboard and steering wheel. These objects then release that heat into the air your car

which raises the temperature very quickly. These temperatures can reach deadly levels within minutes!

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), has a heat safety tool app for both iPhone and Android. When playing or working when it is hot outside, safety is highly important. This app allows users to calculate the heat index and also sends reminders about protective measures that should be taken to reduce heat related illnesses such as heat stroke. This app is available in both English and Spanish and is a great tool to help prepare you for high temperatures. Visit your app store to download it today!

National Lightning Safety Awareness Week

National Lightning Safety Week will take place June 21st to June 27th 2020. This week was created in 2001 to call attention to the dangers of lightning. During this week, everyone is encouraged to learn more about the science of lightning, the dangers of lightning, and how to stay safe if lightning is in your area.

Lightning Safety Awareness Week is broken up into daily themes to help encourage individuals to explore lightning safety. Visit the [Lightning Safety Council](https://www.lightningsafety.com/) webpage for more information.

Sunday: An Introduction to Lightning and Lightning Safety

Monday: The Science of Lightning and Thunder

Tuesday: Lightning Safety Outdoors

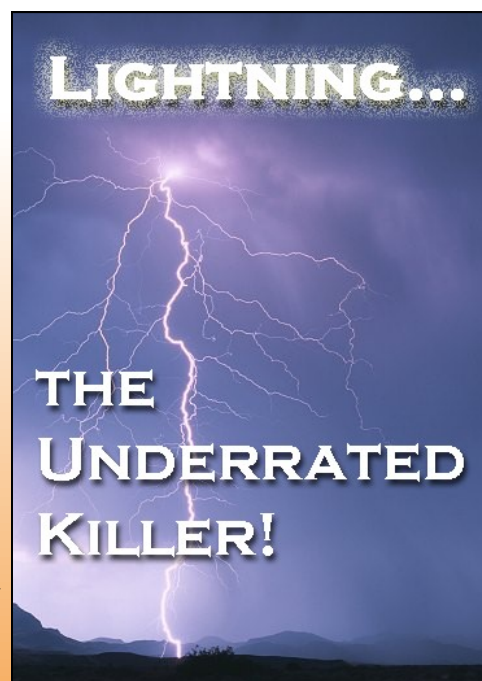
Wednesday: Lightning Safety Indoors

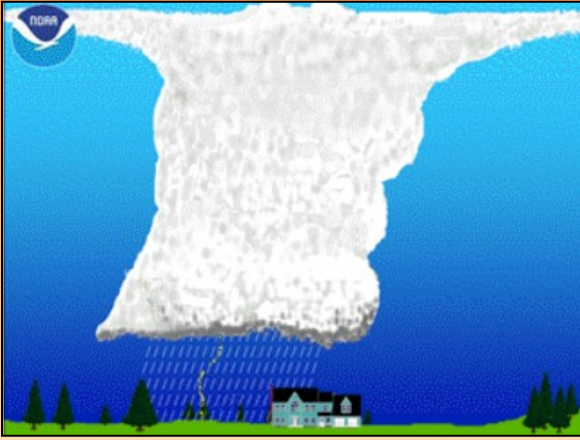
Thursday: Lightning Safety and Sports Activities

Friday: Medical Effects on Lightning Victims

Saturday: Protecting Your Home from Lightning

The National Weather Service (NWS) reports that about 25 million cloud-to ground lightning strikes occur each year. In addition, over the last 30 years, the U.S. has averaged 51 lightning fatalities per year. About 10% of individuals who are struck by lightning are actually killed however, the other 90% all deal with varying degrees of disability and discomfort for the rest of their lives.



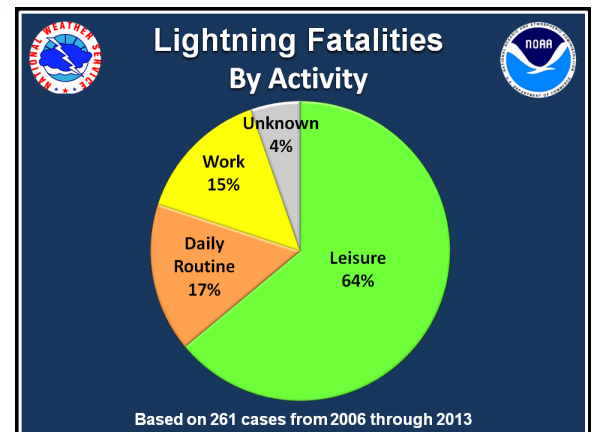


Lightning is one of the most erratic and unpredictable characteristics of a thunderstorm. But what actually causes lightning and thunder? Clouds grow tall as warm air rises and water vapor condenses. Eventually, these clouds grow and reach the freezing level where the water vapors turn into ice. These very small ice particles bump into each other to create an electrical charge buildup. Once these charges build up, a spark occurs between the positive and negative regions of the cloud causing in-cloud lightning. This positive charge build up can also

happen at ground level, causing cloud-to-ground lightning. Thunder is the sound made by a flash of lightning. As lightning passes through the air it heats the air quickly. This rapid expansion of air causes the loud claps of thunder we hear after lightning strikes.

Lightning is extremely dangerous and something that should be taken very seriously. Lightning can strike from as far as 25 miles away. To help prepare you and your family for the possibility of thunder storms, follow these safety tips:

- When thunder roars, go indoors! Don't get caught outside, it is not safe to be outside when thunderstorms are in your area.
- Bring pets inside, they are just as susceptible to lightning strikes as you.
- Stay away from metal conductors such as wires or fences. Although these objects do not attract lightning, lightning can travel long distances through them.
- Stay out of and away from any water, avoid plumbing, i.e. taking a shower or washing dishes.
- Stay off corded phones or any other item connected to an electrical outlet.
- If someone is struck call 911 immediately. Move them to a safe place, if possible, and start CPR.



Before planning outdoor activities, check the weather and keep an eye out for developing thunderstorms. Do not hesitate to seek shelter if thunder is heard or lightning is seen. The safest location during a thunderstorm is inside a large enclosed structure with plumbing and electrical wiring. These include shopping centers, schools, office buildings, and private residences. If lightning strikes the building, the plumbing and wiring will conduct the electricity and eventually direct it into the ground. If no substantial buildings are available, then an enclosed metal vehicle such as an automobile, van, or school bus would be a suitable alternative. Visit <https://www.weather.gov/iln/lightningsafetyweek> for more information on lightning safety.

Happy Retirement



Please join us in wishing Lt. Monte Conner a happy retirement and a farewell for his over 30 plus years as a West Virginia Paramedic and an employee of the Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency (JCESA).

A very big thank you from the entire Jefferson County community for your years

of dedication and service to the JCESA! Lt. Conner's official last day with the agency will be June 30, 2020.

"Don't act your age in retirement. Act like the inner young person you have always been." - unknown

May you enjoy all retirement has to offer Monte!

Father's Day

Father's Day will take place on Sunday, June 21st, 2020.

This day is set aside to honor the dads in our lives for all they do.

Be sure to take the time to call and chat with the fathers, grandfathers, and father figures in your life to say thank you.

If you are looking for something fun to do with the kids as a gift for dad, check out <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/fathers-day/g19694848/fathers-day-crafts-preschool/?slide=1> for some crafty inspiration!



Wishing all the Dads out there a very Happy Father'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

There is currently no local in-person training scheduled for June.

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 10 - Animals in Disasters: Awareness and Preparedness

Course Description: The objectives of this course are to increase awareness and preparedness among animal owners and care providers, and to describe how typical hazards affect animals and what can be done by responsible owners to reduce the impact of disasters.

Primary Audience: Animal owners and care providers

Course Length: Approximately 4 hours

Course Link: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-10.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.

June Meetings & Events

- Sterling National Weather Service calls every Monday at 9 a.m.
- Conference call Monday-Friday for the Jefferson County EOC
- All committee meetings including the Public Awareness and Counter Terrorism meetings have been cancelled for the month of June