



Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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

September 2020

Coronavirus Update

Jefferson County Commissioners:

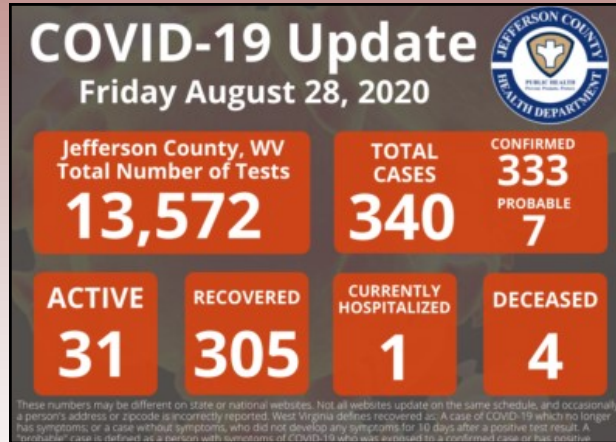
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Joshua Compton
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Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

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JCOHSEM Staff:

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As of Saturday, August 29, 2020, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WV DHHR) reports 426,074 total laboratory tests with 9,967 positive results bringing the cumulative percent positive test result score to 2.34%. There have been 212

resident deaths due to the Coronavirus.

As of Friday, August 28th, the Jefferson County Health Department (JCHD) reported a cumulative total of 340 cases in Jefferson County with 31 active cases and 305 recovered. There is currently 1 Jefferson County resident hospitalized and 4 deaths.

Governor Jim Justice unveiled a recovery plan to reopen West Virginia entitled "West Virginia Strong - The Comeback." Guidance for each of the businesses and activities that are allowed to resume are listed on the Governor's webpage: <https://governor.wv.gov/Pages/The-Comeback.aspx>. Governor Justice also issued an executive order requiring face coverings in all public indoor spaces where social distancing cannot be maintained. You can view the executive order by visiting <https://governor.wv.gov/Documents/2020%20Executive%20Orders/EO%2050-20.pdf>.

Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCOHSEM) will continue 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 (JCEOC) holds a virtual daily briefing update with our local partners to ensure accurate and transparent communications amidst the pandemic.

In this edition of the JCOHSEM's newsletter, we will be highlighting National Preparedness Month, Fall Safety, September 11th Day of Service and Remembrance, and Chimney Safety Week. You will also find information on upcoming local, online and state sponsored training.



National Preparedness Month

Each year, the Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCOHSEM) joins the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in recognizing September as National Preparedness Month. A disaster or emergency can happen at any time and can cause

significant harm to individuals, homes, and property. To help mitigate these issues it is important to prepare before a disaster strikes!

National Preparedness Month (NPM) is recognized each September to promote family and community disaster planning now and throughout the year. As our nation continues to respond to COVID-19, there is no better time to be involved this September. The 2020 NPM theme is “Disasters Don’t Wait. Make Your Plan Today.”

Week 1 September 1-5: Make A Plan.

Step 1: Put a plan together by discussing the questions below with your family, friends or household to start your emergency plan.

1. How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
2. What is my shelter plan?
3. What is my evacuation route?
4. What is my family/household communication plan?
5. Do I need to update my emergency preparedness kit?
6. Check with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and update

my emergency plans due to Coronavirus. Get cloth face coverings (for everyone over 2 years old), disinfectants, and check my sheltering plan.



Step 2: Consider specific needs in your household.

As you prepare your plan tailor your plans and supplies to your specific daily living needs and responsibilities. Discuss your needs and responsibilities and how people in the network can assist each other with communication, care of children, business, pets or specific needs like operating medical equipment. Create your own personal network for specific areas where you need assistance. Keep in mind some these factors when developing your plan:

1. Different ages of members within your household
2. Responsibilities for assisting others
3. Locations frequented
4. Dietary needs
5. Medical needs including prescriptions and equipment

6. Disabilities or access and functional needs including devices and equipment
7. Languages spoken
8. Cultural and religious considerations
9. Pets or service animals
10. Households with school-aged children

Step 3: Fill out a family emergency plan.

Download and fill out a family emergency plan or use it as a guide to create your own.

[Emergency Plan for Parents.](#)

Step 4: Practice your plan with your family/household.

By visiting the website <https://www.ready.gov/plan> you can access the following documents to help you prepare or click on the links below:

1. [Family Emergency Communication Guide](#)
2. [Family Communication Plan Fillable Card](#)
3. [Emergency Plan for Families](#)
4. [Emergency Plan for Kids](#)
5. [Emergency Plan for Commuters](#)
6. [Pet Owners](#)
7. [Family Emergency Communication Planning Document](#)
8. [Family Emergency Communication Plan Wallet Cards](#)
9. [Know Your Alerts and Warnings](#)
10. [Protect Critical Documents and Valuables](#)
11. [Document and Insure Your Property](#)
12. [Emergency Financial First Aid Kit](#)
13. [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Disaster Checklist](#)
14. [Make a Plan \(Video\)](#)



Week 2 September 6-12: Build A Kit This week will

focus on another very important aspect of preparedness, an emergency supply kit. Having an emergency supply kit on hand and easily accessible will help ensure you and your family have everything they need should a disaster occur.

Many people have all the necessary items for an emergency supply kit already in their home. Most items can also be found at your local store. Sometimes you may have to survive on your own for several days before help can arrive. Having a supply a food, water, and other

necessities will help ensure you and your family are cared for in the event of an emergency. You can find a printable version of recommended supplies by visiting https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/ready_emergency-supply-kit-checklist.pdf.

Items to consider including in your emergency supply kit are:

- ☐ Water (one gallon per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation)
- ☐ Food (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food)
- ☐ Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Extra batteries
- ☐ Whistle (to signal for help)
- ☐ Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- ☐ Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- ☐ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- ☐ Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- ☐ Manual can opener (for food)
- ☐ Local maps
- ☐ Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery

Other family specific items to consider include:

- ☐ Cloth face coverings (for everyone ages 2 and above), soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes
- ☐ Prescription medications
- ☐ Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives
- ☐ Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution
- ☐ Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream
- ☐ Pet food and extra water for your pet
- ☐ Cash or traveler's checks



Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container.

- ☐ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- ☐ Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes
- ☐ Fire extinguisher
- ☐ Matches in a waterproof container

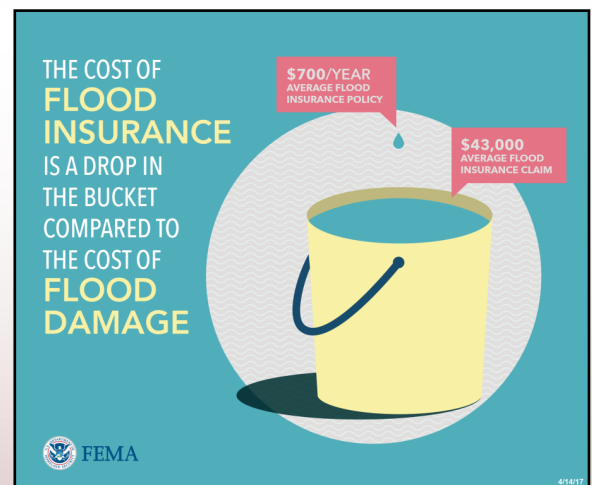
- ☐ Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- ☐ Paper and pencil
- ☐ Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

Once you have created your emergency supply kit be sure to store it in a designated easily accessible place. Also be sure that every member of your family knows where it is kept and how to access it in the event of an emergency. Be sure to include your pets in all emergency plans and create a supply kit for them as well. For more information on how to create your kit visit <https://www.ready.gov/kit>.

Week 3 September 13-19: Prepare for Disasters. Preparing for disasters involves different steps, two of which have been discussed: making a plan and making a kit. Another way you can prepare for disasters is to look over your insurance policy. Do you have homeowners or renter insurance? If so, what specific disasters does your insurance cover?

It is important to know that most insurance coverage does not include flooding. Therefore, if your home were to flood your insurance would not help pay for expenses associated with the flooding. The truth is, floods can happen anywhere. Just once inch of water can cause up to \$25,000 in damage. Flood insurance is a separate policy that helps protect your home and the contents of your home in the event of a flood. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is managed by FEMA and offers flood insurance through a variety of companies. For more information and to find out what is covered under a flood insurance policy, visit FloodSmart.gov. ***

Another important facet of preparedness is staying informed. JCOHSEM encourages residents to sign up for NIXLE, Jefferson County's Community Alert System. NIXLE provides the residents of Jefferson County important, timely, and accurate information about emergencies in the county, directly to your mobile device. This service is free to you and provides you the necessary information that you need to keep yourself, your family, your friends, and your neighbors safe. In order to sign up for these alerts go to <https://local.nixle.com/register/> or, text your Jefferson County zip code to 888777 to opt in.



Week 4 September 20-26: Teach Youth About Preparedness. Children respond to disasters differently than adults. Children have unique needs that must be accounted for when a disaster strikes. Many parents think it may be too scary to discuss disasters with their children. The truth is, however, the more open the communication and discussion is the better prepared children will be when disasters happen. It is very important to ensure children are included in disaster preparedness discussions. This will help provide reassurance and create a sense of empowerment in children. The more they know and are prepared, the less stressful and scary the situation will be. Take the time now and talk with your children to reassure them. Teach

Helping Children Cope with Disaster



FEMA



American Red Cross

Together, we can save a life



them lessons on preparedness and make family preparedness a fun annual event.

After a disaster, be sure to discuss it with children in an open and honest way. Children may experience a variety of emotions concerning the event. Answer any of the questions they may have. Set an example for your child by managing your stress and returning to your normal routine and encouraging your child to do the same. Proceeding with your normal daily routine, such as eating meals as a family or returning to school and work, can help reduce stress. In addition, limit exposure to media coverage of the disaster and its aftermath. Children who are directly exposed to a disaster can become upset again if they see or hear reminders of what happened. For more information on how you can help your children cope after a disaster visit <https://www.cdc.gov/childrenindisasters/children-disaster-help.html>.

September 11th Day of Service and Remembrance

September 11, 2001 is a day many Americans will never forget. Many of us remember where we were and what we were doing the very moment we heard of the devastating attack that had just occurred. This year will mark the 19th anniversary of that fateful day.

This day was the single deadliest terrorist attack in human history and remains a critical symbol of loss. On that tragic day, 2,977 people lost their lives in the September 11 terrorist attacks. These attacks shook us as a nation as four coordinated planes were hijacked by extremists.

Volunteering on this day has become a tradition for many Americans. To find out how you can get involved and see a list of projects and ideas, visit <https://www.nationalservice.gov/serve/september-11th-national-day-service-and-remembrance>. This year be sure to take a moment and reflect and remember all the people who lost their lives that day.



Fall Safety



People around the country look forward to the change of season. The crisp air, falling leaves, and smell of apple cider are all signs that fall has begun. Fall officially begins on Thursday, September 22nd and can bring with it many weather hazards such as flooding and high winds. During this time, it is important to ensure you know how to keep you and your family safe in the event of a fall weather hazard.

High winds can happen at any time. High winds are often associated with thunderstorms or hurricanes. High winds can blow unsecured objects around and pose a significant risk to your safety. To help protect you and your family follow these safety tips from the NWS:

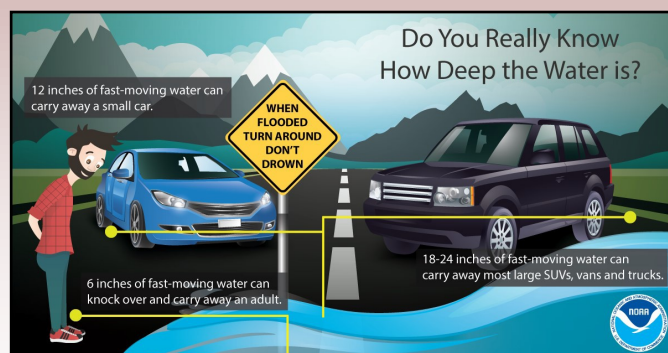
- ☐ Trim tree branches away from your house and power lines.
- ☐ Secure loose gutters and shutters.
- ☐ Identify an interior room of your house, such as a basement or interior bathroom, that you can take shelter in during high wind warnings.
- ☐ If you live in a mobile home, identify a sturdy building you can go to if NWS issues a high wind or severe thunderstorm warning.
- ☐ Update your emergency kit and be sure to include enough food and water to last for 3 days for each person in your home.
- ☐ Make a list of items outside your home you will need to tie down or put away so that they don't blow away or fly through a window. When NWS issues a high wind or severe thunderstorm watch, immediately secure these items to avoid damage or injury once the wind starts picking up.
- ☐ During strong winds seek shelter in a sturdy building immediately.
- ☐ Take shelter in your car if you are not near a sturdy building. If possible, drive to a nearby sturdy building. Otherwise, move your car to a location where it is less likely to be hit by falling trees or power lines.



- ❑ If no shelter is available avoid trees, power lines, and the side of the road. Keep in mind that power lines that are laying on the ground may be live. Do not go near them! Try to find a place that will block blowing or falling debris.
- ❑ If you are driving and aren't near a sturdy building, hold the steering wheel with both hands and slow down.

After the threat of strong winds has passed be sure to stay away from any downed power lines and report them to your electric company immediately. Be careful when handling debris in your yard and continue following the NWS for further updates.

Another possible weather hazard associated with the fall season is flooding. Floods can happen anywhere and anytime and can cause serious issues and hazards for you and your family. If you are faced with possible flooding the NWS will issue a watch or warning to let residents know how to prepare. It is important to know the differences between these watches and warnings:



- ❑ **Flash Flood Warning: Take Action!** A Flash Flood Warning is issued when a flash flood is imminent or occurring. If you are in a flood prone area move immediately to high ground. A flash flood is a sudden violent flood that can take from minutes to hours to develop. It is even possible to experience a flash flood in areas not immediately receiving rain.
- ❑ **Flood Warning: Take Action!** A Flood Warning is issued when the hazardous weather event is imminent or already happening. A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is imminent or occurring.
- ❑ **Flood Watch: Be Prepared.** A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for a specific hazardous weather event to occur. A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it is possible.
- ❑ **Flood Advisory: Be Aware.** An Flood Advisory is issued when a specific weather event that is forecast to occur may become a problem. A Flood Advisory is issued when flooding is not expected to be bad enough to issue a warning. However, it may cause significant inconvenience, and if caution is not exercised, it could lead to situations that may threaten life and/or property.

During a flood it is important to heed any warning issued by the NWS and to listen to local officials. Stay informed by listening to radio and television for future updates. Get to higher ground if the water starts to rise. Be sure to always obey evacuation orders. If you have to evacuate be sure to take your pets with you. Also, be sure to practice electrical safety and don't go into a basement, or any room, if water covers the electrical outlets or if cords are submerged. If you see sparks or hear buzzing, crackling, snapping or popping noises--get out! Stay out of water that may have electricity in it! Most importantly, turn around don't drown! Never drive through a flooded roadway. The water can be higher than you expect and can easily sweep your



car away.

Other weather hazards to look out for include: fog, wildfires, and hurricanes. If you encounter fog while driving be sure to slow down and use your low beam headlights. Do not change lanes unless absolutely necessary.

Wildfires are most often started by lighting and humans. When camping, only burn in designated areas, stay with the fire you lit, and fully extinguish the fire before leaving. When burning at home follow any burning laws in your area and never burn on windy days. If you smoke, never throw a lit cigarette butt out a car window or into a field. Always extinguish and dispose of smoking material properly. Before setting up a campfire, be sure it is permitted. Check with your local fire department. If campfires are permitted, they need to be at least 25 feet away from any structure and anything that can burn. Always have a hose, bucket of water, or shovel and dirt or sand nearby to put out the fire. Make sure to put it completely out before leaving the site.

The remnants of hurricanes can still affect Jefferson County. Before a hurricane be sure to remove any lawn furniture and other items that may blow around outside your home. Be sure to have your disaster supply kit ready and well stocked. During a hurricane be sure to follow all emergency alerts issued, including evacuation notices. If you are required to evacuate, know where you will go and who you will call.



ROAST WITH CARE

If roasting marshmallows, help young children. Never shake a roasting marshmallow. It can turn into a flying, flaming ball. A heated metal skewer can cause burns.

FACT

Campfire accidents send thousands of people to emergency rooms with burn injuries every year.

National Chimney Safety Week



National Chimney Safety Week takes place during the last week of September every year. There are over 20,000 chimney fires annually but most are preventable! National Chimney Safety Week aims to prepare individuals by encouraging them to have their chimney cleaned and inspected by a certified chimney sweep every year. Visit the Chimney Safety Institute of America's Website at <https://web.csia.org/search> to search for a local certified chimney sweep near you.

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 Louis Gaunch at Louis.g.gaunch@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 September.

Disaster Exercise Series 2020



Due to the current COVID-19 situation, the West Virginia Region 3 Exercise Planning Committee has recommended that we postpone the exercise series until the situation is more stable. The health and safety of the entire emergency management community is of utmost importance during this time and JCOHSEM agrees with this postponement. Planning and preparation for this exercise is still underway to ensure that, when the time comes, the series can commence as planned.

Typically, 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 when it is scheduled, please contact Stephen Allen at: sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org.

Online FEMA Training

FEMA 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 in the federal, state, local or tribal governments.

JCOHSEM 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.A: 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. Much of the information in this course is based upon a document titled "The Unique Needs of Children in Emergencies: A Guide for the Inclusion of Children in Emergency Operations Plans," published by Save the Children.

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, and 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, resource 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 Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management-Committees

Steering Committee, John Sherwood, Chair

The Steering Committee works with the JCOHSEM director to guide the activities of JCOHSEM. A fourteen-member Steering Committee is made up of public and private representation. JCOHSEM 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 (LEPC) 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 JCOHSEM's programs. They work with the director and other staff to keep the entire community focused on the objectives of JCOHSEM, 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. This committee is responsible in assisting the director in setting up speaking engagements and public awareness events. This committee meets monthly on the second 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, West Virginia Emergency Management Division of the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security (WVEMD) and FEMA in July 2003. The plan was updated in 2008 and 2013. The 2013 plan was approved by WVEMD 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 counterterrorism or human-caused disasters. Meetings are held on the second 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, and places may need to be changed due to inclement weather, scheduling conflicts, or EOC activation. If you have questions, call the JCOHSEM office at (304) 728-3290.

**Jefferson County Office of
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 (JCOHSEM) 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. JCOHSEM is also responsible for the Jefferson County R.A.C.E.S. group.

September Meetings & Events

- Sterling National Weather Service calls every Monday at 9 a.m.
- WV State weather calls on Mondays and Fridays at 10 a.m.
- WV Emergency Management Council calls each Tuesday at 9 a.m.
- Conference calls Monday-Friday for the Jefferson County EOC Briefing
- All other committee meetings including the Public Awareness and Counter Terrorism meetings have been cancelled for the month of September.