



February, 2012

Jefferson County Commissioners:**Patsy Noland, President****Dale Manuel, V. President****Frances Morgan****Walt Pellish****Lyn Widmyer****Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Steering Committee:****John Sherwood, Chair****Amy Jones, Vice Chair-
Jefferson County Dept. of
Health****Katherine Dunbar, Good Shep-
herd Inter-Faith Caregivers****Mason Carter, Jefferson
County Department of Engi-
neering****Jeffrey Polczynski, ENP, Jeffer-
son County Emergency Commu-
nications Center****Dale Manuel, County Commis-
sion Representative****Kelly Parsons, Nichols,
DeHaven & Associates****Ed Smith, Fire Representative****Bobby Shirley, Jefferson
County Sheriff****Paul Espinosa, Frontier Com-
munications, Utility Represen-
tative.****Lane Donley, Jefferson County
Development Authority****Sanford H. "Sandy" Green,
Region 3 Homeland Security
Area Liaison****Holly Morgan-Frye, Shepherd
University Service Learning
Program****Lorraine Kelly, American Red
Cross****Staff:****Barbara Miller, CEM, CFM
Director****Terri Mehling, Planner/
Program Manager/Deputy
Director****Jennifer Maggio, Administra-
tive Assistant, Public Informa-
tion Officer and Volunteer
Coordinator**

JCHSEM 2012 Steering Committee/ Citizen Corps Council Members Appointed by County Commission

Charles Town, WV-The Jefferson County Commission appointed the following people serve on the JCHSEM Steering Committee on January 19, 2012: Lorraine "Lori" Kelly, representing the American Red Cross; Sanford H. "Sandy" Green, representing WV Homeland Security Region III; Lane Donley, representing Jefferson County Development Authority; Jeff Polczynski, representing Jefferson County Emergency Communications Center; Paul Espinosa, representing utilities -Frontier Communications; Kelly Parsons, representing the private sector-Nichols, DeHaven and Associates; Dale Manuel, the County Commission's representative; Ed Smith representing Fire/Rescue; Bobby Shirley, representing Law Enforcement; Holly Morgan-Frye, representing Education-Shepherd University; Katherine Dunbar, representing Non-Profit agency-Good Shepherd Inter-Faith Caregivers; Mason Carter, representing the Jefferson County Engineering Department; Amy Jones, representing the Jefferson County Health Department; and John Sherwood, representing the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Sherwood serves as the Chair of the Steering Committee and Ms. Jones serves as the vice chair of the Steering Committee and the Chair of the Emergency Planning for People with Special Needs Committee. Ms. Dunbar serves as the chair of the Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee; Mr. Carter serves as the Chair for the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning Committee; Ms. Morgan-Frye serves as the Chair for the Partnership Development Committee; Ms. Parsons serves as the Chair of the Animals in Disaster Committee.



SkyWarn Stormspotter Flood Program to be held in Jefferson County on March 13

The National Weather Service, Sterling Office, will hold a FLOOD Skywarn Stormspotter Class at Independent Fire Company on March 13, 2012 at 1900 hours (7:00 p.m.).

The Baltimore-Washington Forecast Office has been recruiting and training spotters into its expanded network since 1990. They currently have about 2000 active volunteers who cover 44 counties plus Baltimore City and the District of Columbia. Our network stretches west from the Chesapeake Bay across the eastern panhandle of West Virginia and south from the Mason-Dixon line through Fredericksburg, Charlottesville and Staunton in Virginia.

Volunteers are people who either have a strong interest in weather or are public service oriented such as amateur radio operators, REACT members, or emergency response personnel. Spotters are all ages beginning as young as 14 and range well into retirement age. They have farmers, pilots, engineers, housewives, lawyers, television cameramen, teachers, students, firemen, and more. Our volunteers are truly diverse but with a common interest in weather and a strong desire to help their community.

When hazardous weather occurs such as severe thunderstorms, floods, tornadoes, snow and ice storms, our volunteers report what is happening at their location. They are asked to report whenever certain criteria are met such as when one inch of rain has fallen, four inches of snow is on the ground, a thunderstorm is producing hail, or trees have been blown down. Reports arrive at our office via the telephone, fax, internet, and amateur radio. The reports are combined with radar and satellite data to determine what the storms will do next. Spotters provide the "ground-truth" to our forecasters. Radar may tell us that heavy snow is falling, but it can not tell us how much snow is on the ground or if rain is mixing with the snow. Spotters do. The reports are used by forecasters to send out public statements, warnings and advisories, and short-term forecasts. These products reach the public through the internet, NOAA Weather Radio, the media and other commercial services. Skywarn® reports also go into Storm Data, which is an official publication that documents severe weather across the country. Storm Data can be used to create a severe weather climatology (or history) of a local county or city. Storm Data is published (electronic and hard copy versions) by the National Climatic Data Center.

Two-thirds of volunteers are licensed amateur radio operators. Amateur radio plays a big role in the SKYWARN® program. During severe weather, amateur radio volunteers man a radio station at the NWS office. They talk to spotters in the particular area that a storm is hitting and request information needed by the forecasters such as hail size or rainfall accumulation. Large storms such as hurricanes can knock out phone service. Skywarn® Amateur radio volunteers help us when there are communications outages so that we can continue to receive weather reports and feed warnings and other critical information out to communities.

Jefferson County is a StormReady Community. As such, we partner with the National Weather Service office in Sterling to increase preparedness for natural hazard events. Part of our partnership includes hosting the SkyWarn Stormspotter Classes. We have been hosting these classes with the NWS for many years.

You must pre-register for the class so that the National Weather Service will know how many handouts to bring. You may register by calling Terri Mehling at 304-728-3329 or emailing her at tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org.

JC EOC used as Regional SIMCELL



The Jefferson County EOC was utilized as the SIMCELL for the WV Hospital Association's regional exercise on January 13, 2012. In addition to the JCHSEM staff, others in the SIMCELL included: Herb Lattimore, WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Training Officer; Sandy Green, WV Homeland Security Region 3 Area Liaison; Bill Hentosh, Mineral County Homeland Security and Emergency Management; Lee Smith, WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health Medical Director, State Trauma and EMS; Jerry Rhodes, WV Department of Health Director; Craig Horn, City Hospital; Jodi Kuhn and David Bjorkman, Health EP&R, LLC; Lisa Green, WVHA, Mark Wigal, WV Department of Health; Samantha Stamper, Director of Emergency Preparedness, WVHA.

NIMS, NIMCAST Workshop Held at Jefferson EOC

On January 31, Chuck Bennett, WV Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety's NIMS Coordinator led two workshops about NIMS and NIMSCAST (NIMS Community Assessment Tool.) More than 20 agencies from throughout Jefferson County, including fire, law enforcement, ems, public service districts, schools, hospital, public health, emergency communications, emergency management, municipal and county officials attended. Mr. Bennett explained the importance of all agencies using the National Incident Management System, both for operational cohesiveness and because of grant requirements. Agencies that did not yet have a NIMSCAST account had the opportunity to have theirs set up at the workshop. Questions related to NIMS and/or NIMSCAST can be directed to Mr. Bennett at Charles.w.bennett@wv.gov or by phoning 304-558-2930.



167th Air Guard to Host Active Shooter TTX on February 11th.

The 167th Air Guard will host a TTX in Martinsburg on February 11, 2012. The TTX is a precursor for a full scale event sometime this summer. For additional details, contact David W. Stevens, SMSgt, ANG at david.stevens@ang.af.mil

Want to know more about working with military assets during disasters?

The Emergency Management Institute has an Independent Study Course titled "IS-75 Military Resources in Emergency Management". It is a free course on-line at: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is75.asp>

IS-907 is about Active Shooters. This is also a recommended course if you are planning to be involved in the 167th Exercise.

Both of the above listed courses are JCHSEM's recommended online training for February. We will be recommending at least one online course in each newsletter that our volunteers may be interested in taking. <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is907.asp>

FREE! AMATEUR RADIO CLASS

Offered by the Opequon Radio Society



Learn and Earn your Technician, General or Extra Class Amateur Radio License.
Morse code no longer required!

Saturday Mornings

February 11 - April 28

9:00-10:00 AM

VA Medical Center ~ Martinsburg, WV

Fred Schlichting Amateur Radio Station

Building 313-A

South 4th Street

(Across from the HOPE CENTER)

**FREE Licensing exams offered the 3rd Sunday of the even
numbered months at 1:00!**

**Bring: a calculator, 2 forms of ID (Including at least one photo ID), 2
pencils & know your Social Security Number.**

Contact Mark Arnold at: kb8yjb@earthlink.net or 304-876-9330

Citizens Fire Company Annual Pancake Day Tuesday February 21 6am - 7pm

MENU:

**Pancakes,
Whole Hog Sausage,
Gravy,
Coffee & Tea**



Eggs & OJ available until 11am



Prices:

Adults: \$8.00

Kids 6-12: \$4.00

Under 6 Eat FREE!!

Citizens Fire Company, 200 Citizens Way, Charles Town, WV 25414 - Located on the 340 Bypass -

www.citizensfirecompany.com

MORE PICTURES FROM THE JCHSEM QUARTERLY PARTNERSHIP MEETING



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 on the 4th Tuesday of February, March, May, June, August, September and holds a Nov/Dec meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the JCHSEM EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced. The Quarterly Partnership meetings held in January, April, July, and October also serve as the Steering Committee meetings for those months.

Animals in Disaster Committee, Kelly Parsons, Chair

Any interested person can serve on this committee. The Animals in Disaster Committee is responsible for developing and updating the Animals in Disaster Plan and to work with the JCHSEM to make recommendations regarding the Animals Annex of the Emergency Operations Plan. They will also identify potential resources for animals before, during and after a disaster. The committee meets on the 3rd Monday of the months of January, April, July, October at 9:30 a.m. in the JCHSEM EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

Emergency Planning for People with Special Needs Committee-Amy Jones, Chair

Any interested person can serve on this committee. The Emergency Planning for People with Special Needs Committee is responsible for training and planning for issues of people who have mobility problems, people who have sight or hearing problems, people who speak a language other than English as their first language, the elderly and the very young, people who use oxygen or other medical devices and anyone who may need special assistance during times of disasters and/or evacuations. This committee will work with the JCHSEM to update the portion of the Emergency Operations Plan that deals with these special needs. This committee meets on the 3rd Monday of the months of March, June, September, and December at 9:30 a.m. in the JCHSEM EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced. This room IS handicapped accessible.

Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee, Katherine Dunbar, 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 on the 2nd Wednesday of each month except December at 8:30 a.m. in the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville unless otherwise announced.

Partnership and Volunteer Development Committee, Holly Morgan-Frye, Chair

Any interested person can serve on this committee. The Partnership Development committee assists the staff in identification and recruitment of potential partners and what they have to offer in community preparedness. This committee will be responsible for activities to promote partnership or membership development and recruitment of volunteers. This committee meets quarterly in the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced. at 9:30 a.m. on the last Monday of January, April, July and October.

Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning Committee, Mason Carter, Chair

Any interested person may serve on this committee. The Risk Assessment/Mitigation Planning Committee will examine the community's risks and vulnerability to all hazards and assess the community's vulnerability to those risks. Additionally, they will look at specific buildings, infrastructure, etc. to determine which are most susceptible to risks. A Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan was completed and adopted by the Jefferson County Commission, all Jefferson County municipalities, WVOHSEM, and Federal Emergency Management Agency in July, 2003; updated the original document in 2008. Next update in 2013. This committee meets on an "as needed basis". Please call the office at 728-3329 for exact dates and times.

Counter Terrorism Committee, Barbara Miller, Director, Chair

Membership to this sub-committee of the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning Committee is limited to members of law enforcement, emergency management, homeland security, emergency communications, Red Cross, schools, health care, fire companies, ambulance authority/EMS, and government, due to sensitive homeland security issues. The committee works on issues of planning and training for counter terrorism or human-caused disasters. Meetings are held on the 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 either bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org or tmehling@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.

**Jefferson County Homeland
Security and Emergency
Management**

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Public Information Officer and Volunteer
Coordinator
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Fax: 304-728-3320

PUBLIC SAFETY; PUBLIC TRUST

The Jefferson County Commission's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department 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 Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning; Emergency Planning for Special Populations; Public Awareness, Education and Training; Counter Terrorism; Partnership Development and Retention; Animals in Disaster, and a Steering Committee that acts as an advisory group. We are responsible for the Citizen Corps/CERT, Storm-Ready, Community Rating System, and Project Impact programs. JCHSEM is also responsible for the Jefferson County R.A.C.E.S group.



Meetings & Events

February 2012

- 2 Eastern Panhandle Emergency Manager's Meeting at JCEOC at 1300 (1:00 p.m.)
- 2 HAM Radio Testing at Jefferson County HAM Room, 1730 (5:30 p.m.)
- 8 Jefferson County Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting (LEPC) at Billie's at 0730 (7:30 a.m.)
- 8 Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee at 0830 (8:30 a.m.) at the Jefferson County EOC Conference Room
- 11 Active Shooter Exercise at the 167th Air Guard. Info will be sent in an email to those who registered with Dave Stevens. Questions should be address to Dave Stevens at 304-616-5288.
- 14 Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Counter Terrorism Committee meeting. This meeting will be held at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Advanced Training Center in Harpers Ferry. Committee members planning to attend will need to RSVP to Terri Mehling at tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org no later than February 7, as the list must be submitted to their security at that time. Members will also need to bring their drivers license or other acceptable form of identification to be admitted by CBP security at the meeting.
- 21-23 Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters Training. This training is sponsored by the WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and will be held at Hawks Nest State Park, 0800-1600 (8:00 a.m. -4p.m.) each day. For further information or to register, contact State Training Officer, Herb Lattimore at 304-558-5380.
- 28 Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Steering Committee meeting at the Jefferson County EOC at 0900 (9:00 a.m.)
- 27-March 2- ACAMS Train-the-Trainer Class at the WV State Police Academy in Dunbar, WV .