



Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

www.jeffersoncountywv.org/homeland-security.html

October, 2012

Jefferson County Commissioners:

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Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Steering Committee:

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Katherine Dunbar, Good Shepherd Inter-Faith Caregivers

Mason Carter, Jefferson County Department of Engineering

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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

Administrative Assistant, Public Information Officer and Volunteer Coordinator

Quarterly Partnership Meeting to Feature Local Salvation Army Major, Stephen Story

Make Your Reservation No Later Than October 19th

Major Stephen Story from The Salvation Army will be the featured speaker at the JCHSEM Quarterly Partnership Luncheon on Tuesday, October 30, 2012 at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Center's National Conservation Training Center near Shepherdstown. Major Story will tell about the Disaster Services that the Salvation Army can provide during disasters and talk to us about the Salvation Army, in general during his presentation.

Additionally, JCHSEM Director, Barbara Miller will talk about a potential new program that she has written a grant application for to "engage, empower, educate, and energize the faith-based community as a part of the overall whole community projects of Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management."

The cost of the luncheon is \$9 for one trip; \$12 for all you can eat. We will be in the meeting room on the first floor of the building. You will need to go to the Gift Shop (also on the first floor) to get your lunch ticket before going upstairs to get your meal. An elevator is available for those who wish to use it. All attendees will need to RSVP and will need to bring their drivers license to show at the security gate on their way onto the property. Everyone is asked to park in the Orange Lot once you are on the NCTC property.

To RSVP, please email to Director Miller at bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org no later than October 19th. Everyone that is a partner with JCHSEM, serves on any committee, or volunteers should consider coming to this meeting.





A new class is being formed for the JCHSEM C.E.R.T. training in October/November.

C.E.R.T. is the Community Emergency Response Team Training. C.E.R.T. teaches you how to take care of yourself and your neighbors during disasters until emergency responders can get to you.

Classes within the course are taught by experts in each field who volunteer to teach the classes. These include:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Fire Safety
- Disaster Medical Ops 1
- Disaster Medical Ops 2
- Disaster Psychology
- Animals in Disaster
- Emergency Planning for People with Special Needs
- Terrorism Awareness and Crime Prevention
- Light Search and Rescue
- Final Exercise

Classes are held twice per week. Each of the 8 nights of class are 2-3 hours in length. You must finish all 8 modules and participate in the final exercise in order to receive your certificate. Participants who complete the course will receive a C.E.R.T. bag. This course is free. You must be over 18 years of age and live or work in Jefferson County to participate.

To request an application, contact Terri Mehling at 304-728-3329 or email to tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org



(reprinted from the NFPA Website)

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871.

According to popular legend, the fire broke out after a cow - belonging to Mrs. Catherine O'Leary - kicked over a lamp, setting first the barn, then the whole city on fire. Chances are you've heard some version of this story yourself; people have been blaming the Great Chicago Fire on the cow and Mrs. O'Leary, for more than 130 years. But recent research by Chicago historian Robert Cromie has helped to debunk this version of events.

Like any good story, the 'case of the cow' has some truth to it. The great fire almost certainly started near the barn where Mrs. O'Leary kept her five milking cows. But there is no proof that O'Leary was in the barn when the fire broke out - or that a jumpy cow sparked the blaze. Mrs. O'Leary herself swore that she'd been in bed early that night, and that the cows were also tucked in for the evening. But if a cow wasn't to blame for the huge fire, what was? Over the years, journalists and historians have offered plenty of theories. Some blamed the blaze on a couple of neighborhood boys who were near the barn sneaking cigarettes. Others believed that a neighbor of the O'Leary's may have started the fire. Some people have speculated that a fiery meteorite may have fallen to earth on October 8, starting several fires that day - in Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as in Chicago.

While the Great Chicago Fire was the best-known blaze to start during this fiery two-day stretch, it wasn't the biggest. That distinction goes to the Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history. The fire, which also occurred on October 8th, 1871, and roared through Northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and scorching 1.2 million acres before it ended.

Historical accounts of the fire say that the blaze began when several railroad workers clearing land for tracks unintentionally started a brush fire. Before long, the fast-moving flames were whipping through the area 'like a tornado,' some survivors said. It was the small town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin that suffered the worst damage. Within an hour, the entire town had been destroyed.

Those who survived the Chicago and Peshtigo fires never forgot what they'd been through; both blazes produced countless tales of bravery and heroism. But the fires also changed the way that fire-fighters and public officials thought about fire safety. On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America (today known as the International Fire Marshals Association), decided that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should henceforth be observed not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. The commemoration grew incrementally official over the years.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls. According to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

For more information about the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association), their programs or resources for fire departments, teachers, parents or children, go to www.nfpa.org

Opportunities

Do Something Disaster Grants (You Must be UNDER 25 to apply!)

Do Something.org, the largest national organization in the United States dedicated to empowering youth and social change, provides the tools and resources for youth to convert their ideas and energy into positive action. Do Something and the Dunkin' Brands Community Foundation have teamed up to offer Disaster Grants to young people across the U.S. and Canada. Grants fund project ideas and existing projects that assist people in emergency situations - everything from disaster preparedness to first responders to people working hard to rebuild years later. Each week the program makes a \$500 grant to a youth (25 years old or younger) to implement a project that helps people deal with emergencies. Online applications may be submitted throughout the year.

<http://www.dosomething.org/grants/disaster> Do Something Disaster Grants

FEMA ANNOUNCES 2012 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE INNOVATION CHALLENGE (Jefferson County HSEM will Apply!)

Application Period Open for Funding to Increase Local Resiliency through Whole Community Approach

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that the application period is open for a new funding opportunity to build local resilience, through a Whole Community approach, in communities across America: the Community Resilience Innovation Challenge.

Though National Preparedness Month comes to a close at the end of September, FEMA and its partners know that preparedness must continue in communities year-round. This new monetary opportunity is designed to continue to move community preparedness forward and assist local areas in building and revitalizing community-based partnerships to advance the nation's resilience to disasters.

"The best resiliency ideas originate in our states and communities – not from Washington, DC," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "The goal of this program is to empower communities to collaborate and develop innovative ways to effectively respond to disasters."

The opportunity is provided through the Rockefeller Foundation and FEMA and will be administered by the Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation who will act as a third-party intermediary to encourage local communities to engage in creative activities that enhance disaster resilience. Funding levels will range, with a maximum award of \$35,000, and applications are open to most local, state, and tribal agencies and governments; business entities; associations; organizations and groups. Submissions will be accepted through October 26.

Key assessment areas for the awards will be the applicants' demonstration that their approach to community resilience is innovative, collaborative with community stakeholders, sustainable, repeatable—in that the approach enables other communities to replicate their successful outcomes—and beneficial to the community in measurable ways.

FEMA recognizes that a government-centric approach to disaster management is insufficient to meet the challenges posed by a catastrophic incident. To meet our Nation's preparedness goals, the Whole Community must be actively involved in all phases of the preparedness, response, and recovery cycle. These awards are designed to invest in and enhance the Whole Community effort.

Additional information on the Challenge program criteria and application process can be found at www.fema.gov and www.ResilienceChallenge.org. FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

West Virginia Emergency Management Council Awards Miller 2012 Emergency Manager of the Year



Pictured: Jimmy Gianato, WV Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management; Barbara Miller, Jefferson County Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management; Michael Wolfe, Acting Director of Monongalia County Homeland Security and Emergency Management; and Greg Lay, Director of Boone County Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Chairman of the WV Emergency Management Council.

Barbara Miller, Jefferson County's Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management was named as the West Virginia Emergency Management Council's "2012 Emergency Manager of the Year" at the annual LEPC/SERC Conference at the Lakeview Resort in Morgantown on September 19.

Miller, is a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM), Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM), and is an Accredited West Virginia Level 3 Emergency Manager. She is currently enrolled in the FEMA Emergency Management Institute's Emergency Manager Leaders Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

She started her emergency management career in 1999 in Tucker and Randolph Counties as the Project Impact Coordinator for the Randolph-Tucker Partnership for Disaster Mitigation and Recovery. After moving to the Eastern Panhandle, she was named as the Project Impact Coordinator for Jefferson County in February, 2002, was promoted to Homeland Security Director in 2004 and became the Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in 2007. She currently serves as the Vice President of the WV Emergency Management Council and is member of the FEMA Region III Regional Advisory Council (RAC).

"It is an honor to be selected and recognized by my peers in the Emergency Management profession," said Director Miller. "And it is both a pleasure and a privilege to serve the people of Jefferson County."

The Emergency Manager of the Year award, has been given annually since 2009.

Former awardees were: John Tagg, Ohio County; Tom Hart, Marshall County; and Walter Smittle, Jackson County.

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-

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 8:30 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. The 2013 Plan is now being developed. 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 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

October, 2012

- 2 WV Regions 2,3,and 4 Exercise Improvement Plans, Training, and Exercise Meeting in Morgantown (WVDMAPS)
- 2 Potomac Edison "Safety for the First Responder" Training for Fire, LE, EMS at Citizens Fire Company, 1900
- 4 HAM Radio Testing in the JCHSEM Ham Room 1730
- 8 Columbus Day Holiday, Offices are closed
- 9 Counter Terrorism Committee at EOC at 1400 hours
- 10 L.E.P.C. Meeting at Billie's in Ranson. 0730
- 15 Animals in Disaster Committee Meeting at 0930 in the Jefferson County EOC
- 17 Public Awareness Committee Meeting at 0830 in Jefferson County EOC
- 17 C.E.R.T. Disaster Preparedness Module 1800 in Jefferson County EOC
- 18 C.E.R.T. Fire Safety Module 1800 in Jefferson County EOC
- 23 Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning Committee in the Jefferson County EOC
- 24 C.E.R.T. Medical Operations I Module 1800 in Jefferson County EOC
- 29 Partnership Development Committee at Jefferson County EOC at 0830
- 29 C.E.R.T. Medical Operations II Module 1800 in Jefferson County EOC
- 30 Quarterly Partnership Meeting at USFW, NCTC near Shepherdstown at Noon. RSVP no later than Oct. 19th
- 31 C.E.R.T. Disaster Mental Health, Animals in Disaster, and Emergency Planning for People with Special Needs Module, 1800 in Jefferson County EOC.