



December, 2015

## Preparing for a Winter Storm and the Holidays Webinar



**Jefferson County Commissioners:**

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Chuck Ellison, Frontier Communications, Utility Representative.

John Reisenweber, Jefferson County Development Authority

Sanford H. "Sandy" Green, Region 3 Homeland Security Area Liaison

Holly Frye, Shepherd University Service Learning Program

**Staff:**

Barbara Miller, CEM, CFM Director

Sandee Niles, Planner/Program Manager/Deputy Director

Brandon Vallee, Administrative Assistant, Public Information Officer and Volunteer Coordinator

Are you prepared for the holidays? The Federal Emergency Management Agency is pleased to invite you to join a webinar on how to prepare for winter weather and discuss holiday preparedness safety tips.

**Title: 'Tis the Season: Preparing for a Winter Storm and the Holidays**

**Date: Thursday, December 10, 2015**

**Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. (ET)**

**Speakers:**

Matthew Lyttle, from the FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Division, will discuss America's PrepareAthon! and ways to prepare for a winter storm.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service will present on the winter seasonal outlook, El Niño, Winter Weather Safety Campaign and driving safety.

Judy Comoletti, from the National Fire Protection Association, will present on holiday safety and the risk of Christmas tree and cooking fires.

Sandy Facinoli, from the FEMA U.S. Fire Administration, will present on holiday safety, the risk of electrical and candle fires, the danger of New Year's fireworks and heating safety.

**How to Join the Webinar:**

Adobe Connect Registration Web Link.

Please register for the event at: [https://events-na11.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1087126544/en/events/event/shared/default\\_template\\_simple/event\\_registration.html?sco-id=1412957375&\\_charset\\_=utf-8](https://events-na11.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1087126544/en/events/event/shared/default_template_simple/event_registration.html?sco-id=1412957375&_charset_=utf-8)

Be sure to test your Adobe Connect connection before the meeting. This webinar will offer closed captioning.

We hope that you will be able to participate on December 10!



## Red Cross collects unprecedented number of cards for Holidays for Heroes Program!

The Kearneysville office of the American Red Cross collected an unprecedented number of cards for their **2015 Holidays for Heroes** program. A card signing event happened in November that was very successful and served as the kick off for a campaign that included several groups and individuals making, signing, or collecting cards for the program. They collected 2,644 cards that will be distributed by the Red Cross to Veterans in West Virginia.

The cards are shown in the picture on the left along with our local Red Cross Disaster Program Specialist, Clair Brendel. The Red Cross can be reached at 304-725-5015.

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## JCHSEM participated in the West Virginia Source Water Protection, Preparedness and Response Table Top Exercise in Berkeley County

JCHSEM staff participated in the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources' Source Water Protection, Preparedness, and Response Tabletop Exercise that was held at the Byrd Center at WVU Hospitals East in Martinsburg on November 19th. The TTX was developed and led by Environmental Protection Agency contractors, Horsley-Witten.

Source water contaminant detection can be crucial in protecting drinking water supplies and public health. With occurrences of unexpected chemical releases, extreme weather events, new state requirements and recent federal initiatives, early warning and response is more important now than ever. This TTX discussed the response to a hypothetical chemical release into a waterway that could impact West Virginia drinking water utilities.

Others who participated in the regional TTX were WV Bureau of Public Health Environmental Resources, EPA, and water providers. Additional Tabletop Exercises for the rest of the state are being held in Tridelpia, Charleston, and Williamson.





## JCHSEM to sponsor Winter Storm Skywarn Stormspotter Class in January

JCHSEM is sponsoring a National Weather Service Winter Storm Skywarn Stormspotter Class on January 28, 2016 at the Independent Fire Company, 200 West Second Street, Ranson, WV. The class will be held from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Training in the Winter Storm class is a good overview of winter weather threats in this area. It is intended for everyone. Basics I is a prerequisite for this class.

The Winter Storm class includes: Winter hazards in this region, Winter preparation and safety, Winter normals and Extremes, What makes winter storms, NWS forecasts and products, Role of Skywarn and reporting.

To register for this course, go to <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-weather-service-stormspotter-class-winter-storms-tickets-19390713145?aff=es2>. If you need assistance registering, contact Sandee Niles at 304-728-3329.

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## JCHSEM Tree Wins Santa's Polar Party Tree Decorating Contest

JCHSEM staff participated in the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Center's Santa's Polar Party Tree Decorating Contest. When the results were announced at the Sam Michael's Park event on Saturday, December 5, the JCHSEM tree won both the Facebook on-line voting and the event voting. The tree, named, "George" by the JCHSEM staff, was a tribute to the U.S. Military/Veterans. The trees were raffled off at the event by Jefferson County Parks and Recreation. Brandon Vallee, Administrative Assistant/PIO/Volunteer Coordinator for JCHSEM won George in the raffle.



The winners!! JCHSEM- Barbara Miller, Brandon Vallee, and Sandee Niles who was unable to attend the Polar Party.

Trees were entered by the staffs of: Jefferson Co Commission, IT, GIS, Planning and Zoning, Sheriff's Department, Maintenance, Communications and the Assessor's Office, in addition to JCHSEM.



Congratulations to Brandon Vallee who won the raffle for the JCHSEM tree!



## **Natural Disaster Awareness for Caregivers of Senior Citizens to be taught in Moorefield on December 8th.**

Date: December 8, 2015

Time: 8am to 12pm

Location: 157 Freedom Way, Moorefield, WV 26836

Course Description:

Senior citizens are particularly vulnerable to natural hazards. Factors such as physical limitations, mental ailments, and medication requirements are issues of concern for caregivers of senior citizens. These specific needs, amongst others considerations for natural hazards, must be addressed in preparedness plans for these at-risk citizens.

This course is designed to enhance the caregiver's awareness of vulnerability factors associated with senior citizens. Participants will learn how to identify, prepared, and perform a number of support activities that will ensure the safety and security of senior citizens when a natural hazard event occurs. Particular attention is directed toward developing an awareness of the preparedness and response needs of all senior citizens, inclusive of economic, medical, cognitive and mobility determinants.

Course Modules include:

- What to Expect: Natural Hazards and Natural Disasters
- Constraints, Vulnerabilities, and Resilience
- Preparedness Exercise

Target Audience: Senior care providers, family members, friends, personal attendants, home health agencies, in-house services, roommates, medical personnel, General Public, Emergency Managers

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## **Natural Disaster Awareness for Community Leaders to be taught in Moorefield on December 8th**

Date: December 8, 2015

Time: 1pm to 5pm

Location: 157 Freedom Way, Moorefield, WV 26836

Course Description:

Community leaders have the opportunity to enhance their community's ability to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against all forms of disasters. This course will help to enhance understanding of natural disasters, risk assessment in the context of disaster management, prevailing emergency management procedures and operations, and the different vulnerability factors that exist within their local community.

This course will also provide community leaders with an understanding of the necessary plans and tools needed in planning for natural disasters, and will help them to better understand and identify the personnel best equipped to address response and recovery requirements in the case of an actual disaster.

Course Modules include:

- Hazards and Vulnerabilities
- Community Preparedness & Mitigation
- Value of Partnerships

Target Audience: Citizen/Community Volunteers, Religious organizations, Business community, Civic groups, Elected leaders, General Public, Emergency Managers, Responders

To register for each course, go to the WV Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety's website at: <http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6/cm710/home.html>

If you have not yet registered for courses on this site, you will need to create a username and password first. Questions about signing up for this course should be directed to WV State Training Officer, Christian Fernley at 304-558-5380. There is NO travel reimbursement for these courses.

**LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**



**LEPC**  
*...safety in knowledge®*

## **The LEPC of Jefferson County, West Virginia Presents: 2015 Mass Fatalities Conference**

The LEPC of Jefferson County, West Virginia will present the 2016 Mass Fatalities Conference on March 22/23, 2016 at The Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Shepherdstown.

This conference will bring together various disciplines from across the State and our partners in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, DC to explore past incidents, discuss lessons learned, and define best practices to enhance future responses and decision-making in these complex disasters. The presentations given during this conference will be led by speakers with extensive disaster response background.

In addition to the presentations, a two day workshop on mass casualty incident management has been added for first responders. It is highly recommended to register early, as this workshop will fill quickly!

To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2015-mass-fatalities-conference-tickets-15444450768>

This year, we also have special pricing for Military, Law Enforcement, Firefighters, and EMS personnel. Cost for that group is \$90.67.  
Full Conference Registration is \$179.29

At the conference website listed above, you will also find out additional information about hotel reservations and the full conference agenda, as well as vendor and sponsor opportunities. Questions can be sent to [lepc@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:lepc@jeffersoncountywv.org)

# Disaster Exercises, 2015

WV Homeland Security Region III (WVHSR3) Initial Planning Workshop was held in Moorefield in December, 2014. Representatives of all of the Counties of WVHSR3 were in attendance. Additional planning meetings are upcoming.

WV Hospital Association, Regions 8 & 9 After Action Meeting.....January 20, 2015 in Hampshire Co.

Jefferson County Government, Continuity of Operations Training and Tabletop Exercise, January 23, 2015

THIRA Training Workshop, Berkeley County.....April 13, 2015

WV Homeland Security Region III Tabletop Exercise.....April 22, 2015

WV Homeland Security Region III Functional Exercise.....July 20, 2015

Jefferson County LEPC Table Top Exercise.....July 23, 2015

WV Homeland Security Region III EM Communications Drill.....August 1, 2015

WV Homeland Security Region III Full Scale Exercise.....September 19, 2015 in each of the Counties of WV Homeland Security Region III. The Jefferson County EOC will be activated, as well as, Emergency Responders in the field.

WV Homeland Security Region 3 Improvement Planning Workshop ..October 2, 2015 at Canaan Valley Hotel and Conference Center, Davis, WV

Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program Training, October 7/8, 2015 at Jefferson County Maintenance Department.

WV Source Water Protection, Preparedness, and Response Tabletop Exercise at Byrd Health Services, Martinsburg. Sponsored by WV Department of Health and Human Services and conducted by EPA contractors, Horsleywitten.

**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.**



## 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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 monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the at 0830 in the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

### **Partnership and Volunteer Development Committee, Holly 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 0830 on the last Monday of January, April, July and October.

### **Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning Committee, Jeff Jefferies, Chair**

Any interested person may serve on this committee. The Risk Assessment/Mitigation Planning Committee examine the community's risks and vulnerability to all hazards and assess the community's vulnerability to those risks. A Risk Assessment and 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. This committee meets Quarterly. Please call the office 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 [bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org), [sniles@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:sniles@jeffersoncountywv.org) or [bvallee@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:bvallee@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; Public Awareness, Education and Training; Counter Terrorism; Partnership Development and Retention; 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.



## **Meetings & Events**

### **December, 2015**

- 1-JCHSEM Steering Committee Meeting at Jefferson County EOC at 0900
- 1-JCHSEM Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting at Jefferson County EOC at 1400
- 4-HAM Radio Night at the EOC
- 5 Eastern Panhandle Emergency Management Agencies meeting at Grant County EOC, Petersburg, WV
- 8-Natural Hazards Awareness for Caregivers of People with Special Needs 0800-Noon, Hardy County EOC
- 8-Natural Hazards Awareness for Community Leaders, 1300-1700, Hardy County EOC
- 10-'Tis the Season Webinar. See page 1 on how to register!
- 17-Jefferson County LEPC Meeting at The Anvil in Harpers Ferry, Noon, Must RSVP by December 14
- 24-Office is closed at Noon for Christmas Eve
- 25-Office is closed for Christmas
- 31-Office is closed at Noon for New Years Eve

### **January, 2016** (More meetings and events in the January newsletter!)

- 1-Office is closed for New Years Day
- 5-JCHSEM Steering Committee annual organizational meeting at 0900 at the Jefferson County EOC
- 8-WV Emergency Management Council Meeting in Charleston
- 13-Media Day at the EOC
- 28-Skywarn Winter Weather Storm Spotter Class with the NWS at Independent Fire Department, Ranson.