



Stephen S. Allen was unanimously appointed Director on January 18, 2018 by the Jefferson County Commission. He previously served as the Deputy Director/Planner/Program Manager for Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management since May of 2016. His accomplishments (beyond the daily operational responsibilities and meetings) since coming to Jefferson County are organizing and updating the Community Rating System list of properties located in floodplains and the distribution of the annual informational letters to the property owners, reviewing our county emergency operations plans prior to acceptance by the county, participating in our community outreach programs, overseeing the technical aspects of retention of hazardous materials site data and reviewing the updated hazardous material commodity flow studies of materials passing through or located in Jefferson County for the Jefferson County Local Emergency Planning Committee, and actively participating in our disaster exercises to ensure the community is ready for disasters and large-scale emergencies.

Prior to coming to work for Jefferson County, Steve retired as the director of the Berkeley County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (formerly Office of Emergency Services) after 29 years of service to the people of Berkeley County. He began his emergency management career in 1986. In that position, he coordinated the community's endeavors to provide for the health, safety, and preparedness for threats from numerous types of large-scale emergencies and disasters. He also developed and maintained the county's emergency operations plan for the county and provided guidance and oversaw the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which is a facility for key officials to operate from during disasters and other large-scale events. Under Mr. Allen's direction, the agency was also responsible for providing mutual aid for fire protection for the county in support of volunteer fire departments.

Mr. Allen organized and led Berkeley County's Hazardous Incident Response Team and was the chairman of the county's Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for nearly all of its existence.

Before becoming the director of the Berkeley County's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, he enjoyed an extensive background in emergency services starting in 1974, including 12 years as a professional firefighter and EMT in both the private and public sectors as well as Crash/Fire/Rescue at the WV Air National Guard and Fairchild Republic Company in Hagerstown, MD.. He was the Chief for the Bedington Fire and Rescue Department directly before joining Berkeley County government. Mr. Allen is a charter member of the Berkeley County Fire Service Board. He also served as Chairman of the WV Emergency Management Council, and was a Regional Team Leader for the WV Regional Response Team.

Mr. Allen, a Martinsburg, WV native, is also a HazMat Technician and a certified Field Instructor for Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) VIII and has been an instructor for the West Virginia Fire Service Extension of West Virginia University. He has also served as a State instructor for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) courses at the local level and has extensive on-scene experience and classroom training experience in firefighting, hazardous materials handling and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. He is a graduate of Martinsburg High School, Martinsburg, WV and has several course credits at Shepherd College.

In Berkeley County, Mr. Allen received numerous awards and recognition for his public service from state and local government, community service agencies and the WV Air National Guard.