

## **UPDATE ON THE STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY**

At this point in time, Jefferson County has not received a qualifying number of damage reports for individual and public assistance during preliminary damage assessments done by local first responders, West Virginia National Guard, and the American Red Cross.

If your household was damaged by the rainfall event on June 2 and 3, 2018 and the subsequent river flooding on the Potomac River, Shenandoah River, and Opequon Creek; please contact the Director of Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Stephen Allen at: [sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org).

### **How the Disaster Declaration process works:**

It is the responsibility of Jefferson County's government to protect life and property from the effects of hazardous events before, during, and following an emergency.

Each local government has the primary responsibility for emergency management activities within its jurisdiction. When an emergency exceeds the jurisdiction's ability to respond, assistance is typically requested from neighboring jurisdictions (or the next "highest" jurisdiction which, in the case of a municipality, would be the county).

When the emergency exceeds the county's capability to respond, assistance may be requested by the Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director from regional or state sources through the state emergency operations center. A county "state of emergency" allows Jefferson County request assistance from higher levels of government.

In Jefferson County, the County Commission President is ultimately responsible in an emergency or disaster situation for the well-being of county residents and is authorized by the county to declare a "state of emergency".

Should the emergency event impact multiple counties, the Governor may declare a state of emergency for the State. This declaration will allow the utilization of additional resources in the State to respond to the disaster such as National Guard and the authorization of additional money to resolve the issue. During this response, the State and local officials conduct a preliminary damage assessment to assess the needs for additional assistance. If the disaster is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and local governments, the Governor can request a presidentially declared state of emergency.

Federal assistance programs are not always activated during a disaster. The determination of which programs are activated is based on the needs found during damage assessments and subsequent information that has not been determined. Disaster assistance is broken down into three main groups: Individual Assistance (aid for individuals and households), Public Assistance (aid to public and certain private non-profit entities for certain emergency services and repair or replacement of disaster damaged public facilities), and Hazard Mitigation Assistance (funding for measures designed to reduce future losses to public and private property).

Additional information about the disaster declaration process at the State and Federal levels can be found here: [https://www.fema.gov/pdf/rrr/dec\\_proc.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/pdf/rrr/dec_proc.pdf)