



Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

<http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/county-government/departments/homeland-security-and-emergency-management>

September 2019

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- Stephen S. Allen, Director
- James M. Sager, Deputy Director, Planner, Program Manager
- Brianna L. Gustafson, Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer/Volunteer Coordinator

Falling Leaves are Summer Waving Goodbye



Summer is slowly fading away and the brisk nights of fall will soon overtake the hot summer weather. Fall officially starts in Jefferson County on Monday, September 23.

Intense reds, brilliant yellows, and vivid oranges are what many

people have associated with the autumn season. To create these rich colors, leaves undergo a very complex chemical change to create the vibrant and beautiful colors we admire. Chemicals such as chlorophyll and xanthophyll are taken by the tree from the leaves in preparation for winter. The breakdown of these chemicals reveals the warm colors of fall. Factors, such as, rainfall, and temperature can also effect the vibrancy and timing of when the leaves will change color.

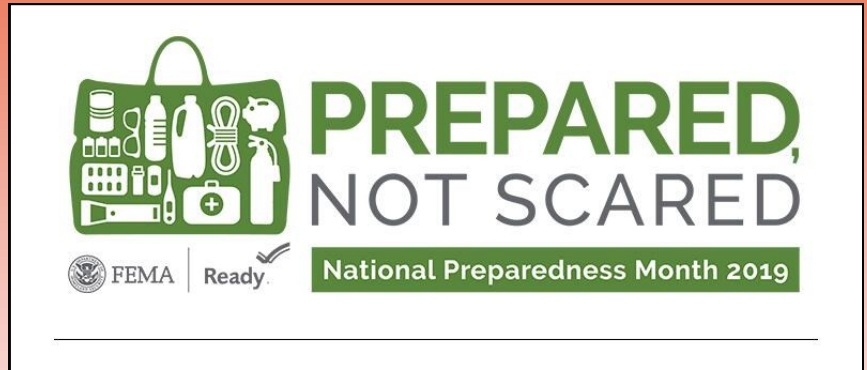
Sweater weather, fall colors, and pumpkin flavored everything will soon be upon us. Many people will enjoy the outdoors with camping trips, campfires, and hiking excursions. In this edition of the Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (JCHSEM) newsletter, we will look at the hazards and weather issues indicative of the fall season as the weather cools down.

Together with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), JCHSEM will be recognizing September as National Preparedness Month. September's topics include 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance, National "See Something Say Something Day", National Weather Service Fall Safety, and National Chimney Safety Week. We will discuss upcoming training opportunities offered locally as well as training offered by the FEMA. We will also be sharing disaster preparedness tips for you and your family.



National Preparedness Month

Together with FEMA, JCHSEM is recognizing National Preparedness Month. Each year September is recognized to promote community and family disaster and emergency planning. The theme for 2019 is Prepared, Not Scared. Preparing for emergencies before they happen is the best way to mitigate the effects of a disaster. Being ready ahead of a disaster is the best way to protect what matters most: your family, your home, your pets, and yourself. Now is the best time to ensure you and your family are prepared for emergencies!



National Preparedness Month is broken up into four weekly themes. Each week a different aspect of emergency preparedness will be highlighted. These weekly themes include: save early for disaster costs, make a plan to prepare for disasters, teach youth to prepare for disaster, and get involved in your community's preparedness.



Week 1, September 1 - 7: Save Early for Disaster

Costs. Nobody knows when a disaster will strike. Disasters can be costly, and most insurance claims can take months to go into effect. Are you financially prepared for a disaster? Rebuilding your life after a disaster strikes can be challenging. Here are some ways to help you become financially prepared for emergencies:

- Gather all financial and critical personal, household, and medical information. Be sure to keep these documents in a safe and easy to access location. You can make a copy to include in your emergency supply kit. You can also take a picture of these documents to keep electronically.
- Consider saving money in an emergency savings account. This money can then be used in any type of crisis. It is also important to have a small amount of cash in a safe place at home. Some credit cards and ATM's may not work during an emergency.
- Obtain insurance for your home, your health, and your life. If you already have these policies, be sure to review them and ensure they fit the needs of you and your family.
- Download the Emergency Financial First Aid Kit to start planning today! [https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1524144185649-5dd9736e7ff89b5997182396f4e13fee/Emergency_Financial_First_Aid_Kit_\(EFFAK\)_signed_04.09.18_508.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1524144185649-5dd9736e7ff89b5997182396f4e13fee/Emergency_Financial_First_Aid_Kit_(EFFAK)_signed_04.09.18_508.pdf)

Week 2, September 8 - 14: Make a Plan. During an emergency it is important to have a plan in place to mitigate any hazards or issues that a disaster may bring. Your family may not be together when a disaster strikes so it is important to have a plan in place that is communicated to each member of your family. The first step in creating a plan is to discuss the following five questions with your household: How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings? What is my shelter plan? What is my evacuation plan? What is my family communication plan? What is my family reunification plan? Discussing these questions will help you begin to plan for disasters and emergencies. Next, you should consider any specific needs for your household. Do you have children, pets, or seniors living in your home? Each of these individuals will require different items in the event of a disaster. After you have discussed your emergency plan with your family, and considered the specific needs of your household, you should fill out a family emergency communication plan. A downloadable plan can be found here: https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1530826217620-10775bfc5d7600be8e6b88308b24d8c/P1094_CreateYourFamilyEmergencyCommunicationPlan_070318.pdf. You can fill this form out or use it as a template to create your own. The final step in creating your family emergency plan would be to practice your plan with your family. Ensure that every member of your family knows what to do during an emergency. Practice what to do if you have to shelter in place as well as what to do if you have to evacuate. Practicing your plan is a great way to make certain that everyone will be prepared when a disaster strikes.



Week 3, September 15 - 21: Teach Youth to Prepare for Disasters. Including children in disaster preparedness discussions is very important. Children respond to disasters differently than adults. Children have unique needs that must be accounted for when a disaster strikes. Many parents think that discussing disasters with their children is too scary. The truth is discussing preparedness with your children can help empower your child and ensure they are ready when a disaster takes place. Ensure your child knows what to do and who to call during an emergency. Help your child memorize important phone numbers. Make sure your child knows your designated meeting place as well as what to do if he/she is away from home during an emergency. Make sure to update any school records and confirm the school has all the correct contact information. Get the kids involved. Make a fun activity out of creating a disaster supply kit. This is a great way to include every member of your family!

Week 4, September 22 - 30: Get Involved in Your Community's Preparedness. Every community has different volunteer organizations that help when a disaster strikes. Visit <https://www.nvoad.org> to see what organizations are active in your community. The Red Cross is a volunteer organization who helps with food and sheltering during large scale emergencies and disasters. You can contact the Red Cross for Jefferson County at (304) 725-5015. In addition, your local fire department is always looking for volunteers. Prepare yourself for emergency situations by getting certified in life saving skills such as CPR/AED and first aid.

Creating an emergency supply kit is an important step in preparing for an emergency. Many people already have items that make up an emergency supply kit in their home. In the event of a disaster, it is important to have everything in one spot so you can grab it when needed. Although every family has different needs, here is a list of common things you would find in an emergency supply kit:



- Food and water. Have one gallon of water per person per day. Don't forget to include water for your pets.
- Change of clothes for each family member.
- Battery or hand-powered radio and a NOAA Weather radio.
- Extra batteries.
- First aid kit with gloves, bandages, gauze, antibiotic ointment, tweezers, scissors, and over the counter medications such as ibuprofen.
- Flashlight.
- Matches.
- Small fire extinguisher.
- Manual can opener.
- Toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, soap, and other hygiene items.
- Sleeping bag and blankets.
- Cash.
- Household documents.
- Emergency contact list.
- Supplies for children such as coloring books, games, books, etc.
- Pet supplies such as food, water, toy, bowls, etc.

Your emergency supply kit needs to be checked every six months to ensure everything is in working order and all food and water is still within its 'best by' date. You should have enough supplies to last your family at least 72 hours.

9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance



September 11, 2001 is a day many people will never forget. It was the single deadliest terrorist attack in human history and remains a critical symbol of loss. On that fateful day, 2,977 people lost their lives in the September 11 terrorist attacks. These attacks shook us as a nation as four coordinated planes were hijacked by extremists. However, the aftermath of that fateful day showed us something special. It showed us what it means to be an American. Flags were proudly displayed.

Neighbors, friends, and families banded together to help others in need.

We stood tall, we stood proud, we stood united. Despite the horrific

tragedy that had occurred, we were filled with hope and love. That day became more than a symbol of loss, it became a symbol of unity.

Every year on that day we remember all those who lost their lives. We remember the firefighters and police officers who rushed in to save the people from the Twin Towers and the Pentagon, knowing they may be laying down their own lives for the life of their fellow man. We remember the people on flight 93, who bravely took back their plane and saved the lives of hundreds of people. We remember the workers who stayed in the Pentagon to help others evacuate to safety. We remember the mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, husbands, and wives who will never again get to see or hold their loved ones in their arms. And we remember the soldiers who bravely fought in hopes of never seeing an attack happen again. This day will forever be a part of our history, but what we do next, and what we take away from our actions, is what really matters.

On September 11 take a moment to reflect and remember. Perhaps commit to a simple act of kindness, or turn the whole day into a day of service. There are many great organizations and individuals who have made it their mission to honor those we lost by serving others. Visit <https://www.911day.org/> to see all the ways individuals are helping make a difference as well as how you can get involved. Independent Fire Company will host its 18th annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony from 9:58 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in front of the fire station located at 200 W. 2nd Avenue, Ranson. The commemoration will occur between the times the World Trade Center towers collapsed. Members from the public are encouraged to attend. As Alice Hoagland, who lost her son during the attacks, said “We can’t bring our loved ones back. But perhaps in tribute, we can work to rekindle the spirit of unity that arose in the aftermath of the attacks.”



weather for your area. During a flood, follow all evacuation orders and never drive into flooded roadways. The water can be deeper than you think.

- Fog: If you encounter fog while driving be sure to slow down and use your low beam headlights. Do not change lanes unless absolutely necessary.
- Wildfires: are most often started by lightning and humans. When camping, only burn in designated areas, stay with the fire you lit, and fully extinguish the fire before leaving. When burning at home follow any burning laws in your area and never burn on windy days. If you smoke, never throw a lit cigarette butt out a car window or into a field. Always extinguish and dispose of smoking material properly.
- Hurricanes: Before a hurricane be sure to remove any lawn furniture and other items that may blow around outside your home. Be sure to have your disaster supply kit ready and well stocked. During a hurricane be sure to follow all emergency alerts issued, including evacuation notices. If you are required to evacuate, know where you will go and who you will call. If you have a pet be sure to include them in your evacuation plans.



Be prepared for seasonal weather and weather related hazards by preparing your emergency supply kit today! Always heed any watches, warnings, or advisories issued by the National Weather Service. Residents of Jefferson County are encouraged to sign up for NIXLE, the county's Community Information Service. This service provides accurate and timely information on any severe weather hazards. To sign up for the opt-in service go to <https://local.nixle.com/register/> or, on your phone, text your Jefferson County zip code to 888777.

National Chimney Safety Week



National Chimney Safety Week takes place from September 29 to October 5. There are over 20,000 chimney fires annually but most are preventable! National Chimney Safety Week aims to prepare individuals by encouraging them to have their chimney cleaned and inspected by a certified chimney sweep every year. Visit the Chimney Safety Institute of America's Website at <https://web.csia.org/search> to search for a local certified chimney sweep near you.

2019 Jefferson County Fair

The 2019 Jefferson County Fair was a success! Each year JCHSEM helps coordinate the volunteers to staff our Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) booth. During this event we engaged the community in preparedness discussions and handed out preparedness materials. Disaster preparedness is crucial in mitigating the effects and hazards disasters have on individuals, families, and our community.



National Night Out

Shepherdstown Police Department, in conjunction with the Shepherd University Police Department, will be hosting a National Night Out Event on Saturday September 21, 2019. This event is a great way to foster police and community relationships. National Night Out aims to make our neighborhoods safer places to live by fostering community relationships and inspiring friendships among individuals from all walks of life.

Disaster Exercise Series 2019



The West Virginia Region 3 Tabletop Exercise was held on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at Charles Town Middle School. The Functional Exercise will be held on Tuesday, December 10 at Hardy County OEM/911.

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.

If you or your organization is interested in participating in the 2019 exercise series, please contact Stephen Allen at: sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org.

Need Training?

Emergency management is a constantly-changing field. Whether it is keeping up with the latest technology, to working with stakeholders to develop plans, conducting successful floodplain management, performing damage assessments, managing debris after a disaster, helping our communities to recover, or just learning the fundamentals, there are plenty of options available to you. Here are some great opportunities for training that you may or may not know about:

West Virginia Military Affairs and Public Safety's Training Center, CourseMill. If you are involved in emergency management in West Virginia, you can set up your free account at <http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6/home.html>.

Here is a listing of upcoming state sponsored training opportunities. These courses are free to attend, however, registration is required.

Incident Tactical Dispatcher Training

Date: September 2-5, 2019 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: RETI Training Facility, Sutton WV

Course Description: An Incident Tactical Dispatcher is a specially trained individual qualified to operate away from the dispatch center in a command post, base camp or at the incident scene. Incident Tactical Dispatchers leverage the multi-tasking, communication, accountability and documentation skills of successful Tele communicators to provide public safety communications expertise and support at planned events and extended incidents such as hostage situations, multi-alarm fires, search and rescue operations, bombings, and active shooter incidents. Incident Tactical Dispatchers may support the Communications Unit as a single resource or as part of an incident tactical dispatch team. This course provides a basic understanding for the roles and responsibilities of an incident tactical dispatcher working in a tactical environment. This course is taught by OEC/ICTAP instructors who have both dispatch and communications unit experience. The course provides a realistic, hands-on approach to mastering the tasks and skills of an Incident Tactical Dispatcher. This course is designed for experienced dispatchers who are familiar with the Incident Command System and dispatch operations.

Critical Decision Making for Complex Coordinated Attacks—PER 335

Date: September 4-5, 2019 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Columbia Gas Building

Course Description: This course provides first responders from multiple disciplines with skills to manage the initial response to a large-scale attack in a chaotic environment during a complex coordinated attack (CCA). It aims to train responders in how to use intuitive skills such as observation, analysis, anticipation, and awareness to recognize the possibility of an attack involving multiple incidents of an extreme magnitude that inundate resources, exceed conventional tactics and strategies, and often require a joint response involving members from multiple disciplines and jurisdictions. Topics for discussion include recognizing the characteristics of a potential CCA; coordinating and integrating the response of multiple disciplines and agencies; managing resources; using information sharing and intelligence gathering to develop awareness; and solving problems using creative thinking. Participants will learn to gather and disseminate critical information accordingly in order to facilitate rapid analysis. They will also learn to recognize and prevent potential response obstacles or risks to safety including self-deployment and over convergence of assets. Participants will apply the skills learned in Critical Decision Making for Complex Coordinated Attacks through interactive activities, facilitated discussion, and practical application in a training environment. Professional Disciplines: Law Enforcement, Fire Service, EMS. The primary target audience for the Direct Delivery version of this course includes Emergency responders: police, fire, and emergency medical services personnel, including those who are likely to assume command at some point during response to a complex coordinated attack.

Public Information and Warning

Date: September 17-18, 2019 8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

Location: Days Hotel & Suites - Flatwoods, WV

Course Description: This National Emergency Management Basic Academy course introduces the participants to what the Public Information Officer (PIO) does in emergency management along with the basic information about the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). The PIO topics covered include the role of the PIO; communication tools and resources encompassing social media; effective communication; preparing the community through outreach and other means; and communication in an incident. The IPAWS topics covered include what the system is and does, preparing alert and warning messages, and writing common alerting protocol messages. This is a 2-day classroom course which gives participants time to perform activities and exercises to reinforce the knowledge and build basic skills.

Bovine Emergency Response Plan Training for First Responders

Date: October 19, 2019 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Cabela's Retail Store, Triadelphia, WV

Course Description: The number of livestock transported in the United States via semi-truck and trailer has significantly increased since the mid 1950's. As the number of livestock being transported via motor vehicle has increased, so has the number of accidents involving livestock. A major percentage of the livestock transport accidents in the United States and Canada involved semi-trucks carrying cattle. Currently in the United States, standard operating procedures for addressing accidents involving the transport of livestock do not exist. The Bovine Emergency Response Plan (BERP) developed a framework for local emergency responders and law enforcement to more appropriately address accidents involving cattle transport vehicles. The Plan includes standardized procedures, suggestions and materials for dispatchers and first responders in the areas of call assessment, scene arrival and assessment, scene containment and security, extraction of cattle from the trailer, relocation of cattle involved in the accident, mortality disposal, securing the wrecked transport vehicle (if needed), humane euthanasia of cattle, and debriefing.

To Register for these FREE Classes, go to: <http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6>. Once you set up your account, you can log on and look at the list of available courses taught in West Virginia.

For questions about the course or registration, contact Gregory.c.fernley@wv.gov or call 304-558-5380.

FEMA also offers a number of online courses at <https://training.fema.gov/emi.aspx>. From this training portal, anyone can take their online independent study courses for free. There are over 100 courses to choose from. You can also browse the schedules and information about their on-campus resident courses for those who are involved in emergency management at the federal, state, local or tribal governments.

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management recommends the following FEMA Independent Study Courses. These courses are free and available online. Those courses can be found at: <https://training.fema.gov/is/>.

- IS 248 - Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) for the American Public
- IS 366 - Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters
- IS 394 - Protecting Your Home or Small Business From Disaster
- IS 909 - Community Preparedness: Implementing Simple Activities for Everyone

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 following the Quarterly Partnership Luncheons held in January, April, July, and October and meetings are scheduled as needed. Please call the office for exact dates, locations, and times.

Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee, Paula Marrone-Reese, 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 2nd Wednesday of the month at 0830 in the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee, Mason Carter, Chair

Any interested person may serve on this committee. The All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee examine the community's risks and vulnerability to all hazards and assess the community's vulnerability to those risks. An All Hazards 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 and the 2018 plan was approved in November 2018.

Counter Terrorism Committee, Stephen Allen, 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 Stephen Allen at sallen@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 at (304) 728-3290.

**Jefferson County
Homeland Security and
Emergency Management**

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**PUBLIC SAFETY;
PUBLIC TRUST**



The Jefferson County Commission's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) 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 All Hazards Mitigation Planning; Public Awareness, Education and Training; Counter Terrorism; and a Steering Committee that acts as an advisory group.

We are responsible for the Citizen Corps/CERT, Storm-Ready, Community Rating System, Resilient Neighbor Network and Project Impact programs. JCHSEM is also responsible for the Jefferson County R.A.C.E.S. group.

September Meetings & Events

- Sterling National Weather Service Calls every Monday at 9 a.m.
- Weather calls every Monday and Friday at 10 a.m. with State EOC and National Weather Service
- September 2 - County Offices Closed for Labor Day
- September 4 - Department Head Meeting
- September 10 - Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting
- September 11 - Public Awareness Committee Meeting
- September 12 - Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan Meeting
- September 24 - IT Squad Meeting

