Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
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Public Awareness Committee
Sign In Sheet
July 14, 2010

Print Name & Organization	Email	Phone	Sign In
Brown, Bill Association of Retired School Employees Assn.		725-5202	
Cates, Al AARP	striderbo2@aol.com	728-2929	as cates
Cates, Irene AARP	striderbo2@aol.com	728-2929	Irene Cates
Crabill, Collet JCECC	ccrabill@jeffersoncountywv.org	728-3372	
Cunningham, Christian 167th Air Wing			
Davis, Mike CERT Volunteer	mjdavis56@comcast.net	728-8108	[illegible]
Davis, Patricia CERT Volunteer	patriciafdavis@comcast.net	(703) 851-3175	on phone
Dunbar, Katherine Good Shepherd Caregivers	katherinednbr@yahoo.com	725-7366	Katherine Dunbar
Evans, Shirley CERT	shirla0513@aol.com	725-1794	
Grove, Amy Eastern Panhandle American Red Cross	sunnydazerhere@comcast.net	263-5241	

Jones, Amy Jefferson County Dept of Health	amybjones@wvdhhr.org	728-3308	
Levesque, Jeff Eastern Panhandle American Red Cross/ CERT	jeffsque@gmail.com	725-6850	
Maggio, Jennifer JCHSEM	jmaggio@jeffersoncountywv.org	724-8914	
Mehling, Terri JCHSEM	tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org	728-3329	Terri Mehling
Miller, Barbara JCHSEM	bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org	728-3290	Barbara J Miller
Mucher, Thomas 167th Air Wing	Thomas.mucher@wvmart.ang.af.mil	616-5288	
Nilsen, Neal AskNeal	Neal@AskNeal.net	724-1056	
Osterman, Joe CERT Volunteer	josterman@citlink.net	725-1874	
Palmer, Debbi Eastern Panhandle American Red Cross/ CERT	Debbip123@aol.com	728-7157	
Panek, Frank Leetown Science Center	fpanek@aol.com fpanek@usgs.gov	724-4431 229-6865	
Panek, Claire	cepanek@aol.com	229-6865	
Pierce, Lucas Eastern Panhandle American Red Cross/ CERT	PierceL@usa.redcross.org	261-3516	
Rice, Tim 167th Air Wing	Timothy.rice@wvmart.ang.af.mil	616-5314	
Soltow, Sarah Community Lutheran Partners	clp.inc@citlink.net	582-4264	
Stevens, David 167th Air Wing	David.stevens@wvmart.ang.af.mil	616-5288	

Frye, Holly			

Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management
Public Awareness, Education & Training Committee
July 14, 2010
Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Minutes of June 9, 2010 meeting

III. New Meeting Time for Committee

IV. Old Business
   a. February and December Snowstorms
   b. Disaster Ready Kids 2010 Program – 242 children
   c. Jefferson County Fair – August 22 – 28 - LEPC
   d. National Preparedness Month – September
      i. Family Disaster Preparedness Night – September 1
      ii. Business Continuity Planning Workshops – September 20
      iii. Lunch 'N Learn Sessions
         September 2, 2010, Lunch N Learn Session by Jefferson County Chapter, American Red Cross from Noon-1 p.m. at the Jefferson County EOC. Bring your own lunch.
         September 9, 2010, Lunch N Learn Session by Kevin Haymaker, Getting Ready Financially from Noon-1 p.m. at the Jefferson County EOC. Bring your own lunch.
         September 16, 2010, Lunch N Learn Session by Jefferson County Health Department on this years "Hot Topic" from Noon-1 p.m. at the Jefferson County EOC. Bring your own lunch.
         September 23, 2010, Lunch N Learn Session by the National Weather Service in Sterling, VA from Noon-1 p.m. at the Jefferson County EOC. Bring your own lunch.
         September 30, 2010, Lunch N Learn Session by Neal Nilsen, Protecting Technology in Your Home from Noon-1 p.m. at the Jefferson County EOC. Bring your own lunch.
      iv. West Virginia First Lady – Safe America Foundation 9/11 Drill Down for Safety – Pam Holstein-Wallace
      v. Other organizations to do other activities

V. New Business
   a. Red Cross upcoming classes
   b. New Jefferson County Website – JCHSEM - http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/homeland-security.html
   c. NIMS IS 701, 702, 703, 704 Requirements
   d. Quarterly Partnership Luncheon – July 28 – Anvil Restaurant, Harpers Ferry
   e. EOC Operations and Planning for All Hazards training on August 9-11 at The Aikens Center in Martinsburg - To register, go to www.wvdmaps.gov
   f. Theme for Fire Prevention Week announced – Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With
   g. What to do if the power goes out
   h. Recommended EMI Course for July - IS-5a – An Introduction to Hazardous Materials

VI. Member Sharing Time

VII. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee will be held on _____ **at the Jefferson County EOC at 9:00 a.m.**

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Public Awareness Committee
June 09, 2010
Minutes

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Public Awareness Committee met at the Jefferson County EOC on June 09, 2010 at 9am. Present were: Barbara Miller, JCHSEM; Terri Mehling, JCHSEM; Jennifer Maggio, JCHSEM; Mike Davis and Patricia Davis, CERT Volunteers; Al Cates and Irene Cates, AARP and David Stevens and Christian Cunningham, 167th Air Wing.

Introductions

Terri Mehling, JCHSEM Deputy Director opened the meeting.

Old Business

Ms. Mehling announced Jefferson County has been added into the Declaration for the December 2010 snow storm. We are currently working hard on getting all paper work and figures needed to be approved in both the December and February Declarations. Ms. Miller noted all of Jefferson County's information is nearly complete. The 22nd of this month will be the cut off to submit any additional information. Once the papers are in by 22nd and 60 days beyond is the time they have to get their paper work together and submit their grant application. Once FEMA receives all of the grant applications for the State then they will put all of the information together and write one check to the State of West Virginia. The State then sends a letter to all applicants with additional paperwork to fill out. Ms. Miller gave an approximate period of 5 months before we receive a check. Ms. Miller reminded everyone if we do not have a snow fall of record next year we will not be receiving any money from FEMA so it would be a good idea to save money.

Ms. Mehling reported two Boy Scouts asked Ms. Miller if they could interview her as part of a project to earn their emergency preparedness badges. Ms. Miller accepted.

Ms. Mehling reported letters have been sent out to day care centers and libraries in Jefferson County for the upcoming Disaster Ready Kids 2010 Program. During that time volunteers will be reading to children about weather related preparedness. Mr. and Ms. Davis will be reading at the Charles Town Library in July to a total of 50 children.

Ms. Mehling reviewed upcoming events for National Preparedness Month. Some events included will be: Lunch-N-Learn sessions each Thursday in September; National Preparedness night on September 1st; disaster preparedness with seniors; BCP workshop September 20. JCHSEM has ordered materials from Channing Bete which includes National Preparedness Month signs that will be distributed to each Municipality. Ms. Mehling reviewed her idea of a photo contest for National Preparedness Month. Residents of Jefferson County will have the opportunity to send in photos of their disaster kit. Each picture will be reviewed and only three will be chosen, those three will receive a prize. A proclamation will be signed by the County Commission declaring September as NPM. Ms. Mehling will be calling Home Depot in Ranson to see if they can offer home owners a discount on materials they would use to mitigate any problems they may have at home as well as the possibility of having a fire extinguisher demonstration on a Saturday with the hopes that participants purchase a fire extinguisher. If Home Depot is unable to demonstrate we will try to ask Citizens Fire Company. We will also be asking Wal-

Mart to provide discounts on items used in a disaster kit. JCHSEM will provide them with a list of items. Ms. Mehling noted Ms. Miller has asked a lot of agencies in the area to participate and try to do an activity on their own. Ms. Mehling suggested MS. Maggio team up with AARP to do a presentation for seniors. Ms. Maggio will be working with Rob Perks Channel 19, local radio stations and newspapers to announce daily preparedness tips. Ms. Miller noted during the LEPC meeting the Health Department announced they will be working on an exercise in September. They are looking at how to get agencies medication within 48 hours.

New Business

Ms. Palmer who is the new Emergency Services Director for the Eastern Panhandle Red Cross Chapter was unavailable to review upcoming Red Cross classes. Ms. Mehling noted if you re interested in taking classes visit www.EasternPanhandleARC.org.

Mr. Stevens gave a report on the 167th Airlift Wing Air Show Exercise. L-3 Communications presented a 3 day event. The first day was L-3 Communications evaluated on our training techniques. The second day was a full blown exercise starting with a table top. The table top was air show related where an air craft blew up on the field and victims were identified. We went through the process of how we would facilitate getting the victims out to various hospitals. Hospital than strategized how they would deal with the patients and what their process would be. It was a very well done and thought out process. The third day was the disease containment plan. The scenario involved a pneumonic plague where victims on the base were identified and then it spread outside the fence. Because the disease can be passed from person to person the incubation period was from 2-7 days and death was in 18 hours if you have not had medical treatment. There was a briefing at the end on Thursday. Mr. Stevens offered copies of the slides to JCHSEM. There will be follow up training in August. 167th would like JCHSEM to come and observe.

Ms. Mehling announced June 1, 2010 marks the beginning of Hurricane Season. This year has been anticipated to be an active season. Ms. Miller reported there will be at least 18 active hurricanes with 5-8 to make landfall.

Ms. Mehling informed the committee there are new CERT Videos for training sessions. She encourages CERT members to come in for a refresher. Ms. Mehling announced the titles of the new videos. If anyone would like to view them they are on the WV Citizen Corps website under training.

Ms. Mehling announced an upcoming EOC Operations and Planning for All Hazards Training on August 9-11 at the Aikens Center in Martinsburg. Ms. Miller noted anyone who would like to be or will be in the EOC should attend the training. Please sign up on the DMPAS website due to a limit of 40 people.

Ms. Mehling reported the Jefferson County Fair will be August 22-28. Ms. Miller noted the LEPC will be paying volunteers tickets. Ms. Miller reviewed items that will be handed out at the fair. Ms. Davis volunteered for Aug 22nd.

Ms. Mehling reviewed the recommended EMI Course for June-IS-11- Animals in Disaster—Module B.

Member Sharing

Ms. Miller noted Jefferson County is a CRS (Community Rating System) Community of the National Flood Insurance Program. JCHSEM has to send letters to each person that lives in or near a flood plain. By meeting all requirements those who purchase flood insurance will receive a 5% discount and will possibly be going up to a 10% discount next year. Ms. Miller noted there will be a County Commission Meeting for the National Weather Service to rededicate Jefferson County as a StormReady Community. There are 18 requirements to keep the accreditation.

Mr. and Mrs. Cates announced they will be putting together Blizzard Boxes for senior citizens. Ms. Miller noted the Health Department would like to do a project similar to Blizzard Boxes. Ms. Miller asked if it were okay to give the Health Department their contact information. Ms. Cates approved. Ms. Cates suggested Ms. Maggio could include a presentation with Meals on Wheels. Ms. Maggio approved.

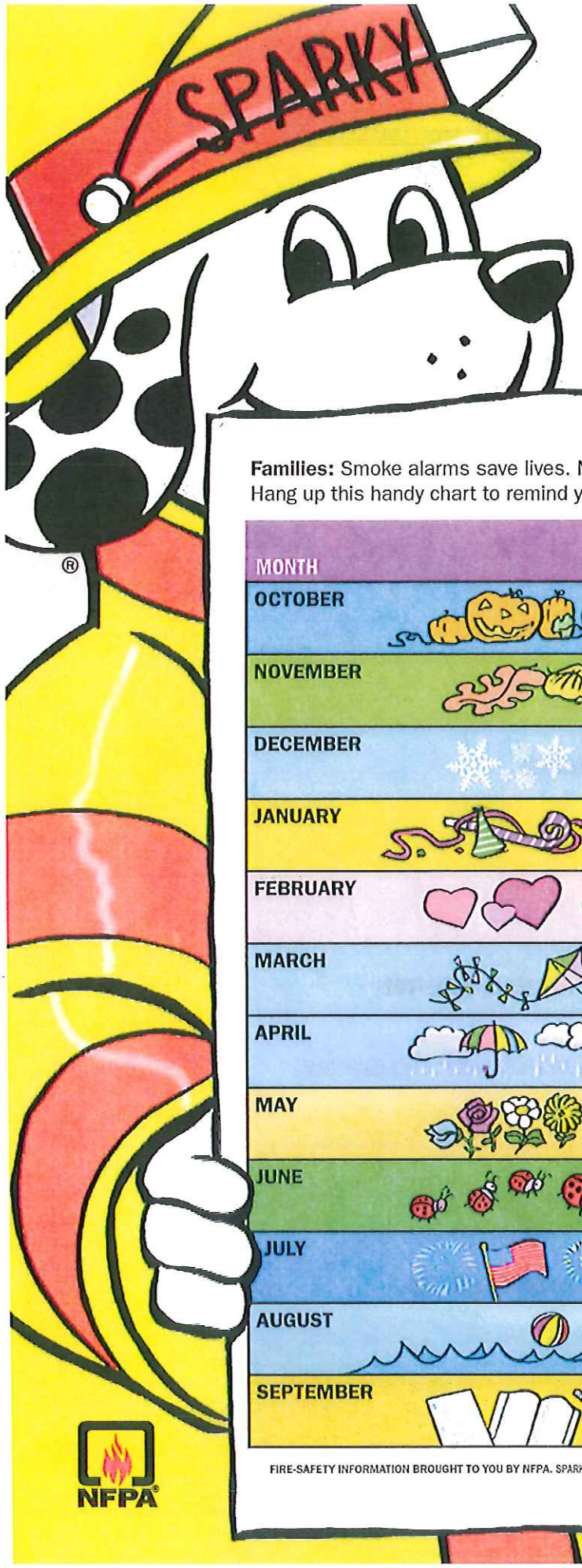
Mr. Stevens announced an upcoming exercise in August 7-8 (tentative). The Air Show will be September 4-5 with an expected attendance of 50,000-60,000 people. There will be a practice run Friday August 3rd at 2 p.m. if anyone would like to observe.

Ms. Miller announced the WV Legislature passed a bill for all day care centers to have a disaster plan. The staff as well as the parents will need to be involved. Every child especially those with disabilities will need an individual evacuation plan. Local Emergency Management and the local health department will have to review and approve in order for the day care center to renew/ receive license. Ms. Miller reported the National Transportation Agency is requiring all Transit Authorities in all States to do a SSEPP (Safety and Security Emergency Preparedness Plan). Along with that plan there are rules, definitions and regulations that differ between every state. Local responders as well as Emergency Management will be asked to sign MOU's. Ms. Miller will be working with the Transit Authority to make sure the rules and regulations are met. Once completed there is a 45 day legal review.

Ms. Maggio reported she is currently working on the new Jefferson County website. Ms. Maggio reviewed what will be available on the website.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 a.m. The next meeting of the Public Awareness/Education/Training Committee will be on July 14, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in the Emergency Operations Center located at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville.

Course Name:	NIMS Multiagency Coordination System (MACS) Course
Course Code:	IS-701.a
CEUs:	0.5
College Credits:	1.0 (When combined with IS 704, IS 706)
Course Name:	National Incident Management System (NIMS) Public Information Systems - **New (6/11/2010)**
Course Code:	IS-702.a
CEUs:	0.3
College Credits:	n/a
Course Name:	NIMS Resource Management
Course Code:	IS-703.a
CEUs:	0.3
College Credits:	1.0 (When combined w/ IS-700.a and IS-702)
Course Name:	NIMS Communications and Information Management
Course Code:	IS-704
CEUs:	0.2
College Credits:	1.0 (When combined with IS 701.a, IS 706)



SMOKE ALARM
Safety Sheet

Families: Smoke alarms save lives. Make sure the smoke alarms in your home are working. Hang up this handy chart to remind you to test your smoke alarms every month.

MONTH	TESTED SMOKE ALARMS	SMOKE ALARMS WORKED
OCTOBER		
NOVEMBER		
DECEMBER		
JANUARY		
FEBRUARY		
MARCH		
APRIL		
MAY		
JUNE		
JULY		
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER		

NFPA®

Smoke Alarms...
a sound you can live with!

The smoke alarm sounds.

+

I go outside.

+

I go to my meeting place.

=

My family is safe.

sparky.org

Smoke Alarms...
a sound you can live with!

The smoke alarm sounds.

+

I go outside.

+

I go to my meeting place.

=

My family is safe.

sparky.org

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Public Awareness Committee
July 14, 2010
Minutes

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management's Public Awareness Committee met at the Jefferson County EOC on July 14, 2010 at 9am. Present were: Barbara Miller, JCHSEM; Terri Mehling, JCHSEM; Mike & Patricia Davis, CERT Volunteers; Al and Irene Cates, AARP; Holly Morgan-Frye, Shepherd University and Katherine Dunbar, Good Shepherd Caregivers.

Introductions

Katherine Dunbar, Committee Chair opened the meeting with approval of the minutes. Mike Davis moved to approve the minutes and Irene Cates was second to approve. Motion carried.

Ms. Mehling announced the Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee will now be the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Dunbar asked the committee if everyone accepted, all approved. Due to EOC training in August the next meeting will be August 17, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

Old Business

Ms. Miller reported the check for the February snow storm is in the mail, which means Jefferson County is complete. As far as other organizations they will have to check with FEMA. Ms. Miller noted we have not received any additional information for the December snowstorm.

Ms. Mehling reported the Disaster Ready Kids 2010 Program is underway. Letters have been mailed and Daycares that have not sent in their forms will be contacted for a follow-up. So far on the schedule, through September there are a total of 242 students that will have participated in the reading program. Mike and Pat Davis volunteered for Head Start, Toni Milbourne volunteered for the Harpers Ferry/Bolivar Library, Peggy Sclater and Todd Coyle will be volunteering at the Energy Express in Ranson and JCHSEM volunteered at Grammy's Place. Ms. Mehling noted if anyone is interested in volunteering to contact her.

Ms. Mehling reported JCHSEM and the LEPC will be sharing a booth at the Jefferson County Fair August 22-28. Ms. Mehling passed around the sign-up sheet. Ms. Miller noted the LEPC will be providing tickets for volunteers.

Ms. Mehling reported National Preparedness Month is in September 2010. Ms. Miller announced JCHSEM will be asking the County Commission to kick off National Preparedness Month by signing a proclamation in August encouraging everyone to participate in the activities that will take place during September. The official kick off will be September 1st during Family Disaster Preparedness Night. Ms. Miller is hoping there will be something going on everyday in September, not only with JCHSEM but other organizations as well. Ms. Miller reported there will be two Business Continuity Planning workshops taught by Neal Nilsen, Dave Skeen and herself on September 20th at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Lunch 'N Learn sessions will be every Thursday in September. Each participant will need to bring their own lunch. Ms. Miller reviewed each session and what topic will be discussed.

Ms. Miller announced West Virginia's First Lady, Gayle Manchin will be the national leader/ spokes person for the Safe America Foundation 9/11 Texting Drill Down for Safety. The idea is to use texting technology to message people and let them know you are okay when something happens. Ms. Miller handed out information on the background of the drill down and information on how to participate. To participate go to www.SafeAmerica.org ; click on take the pledge. The drills encourage family/ friends, emergency contacts and employers to employees texts to consist of I AM OK, RU OK and GOOD. Ms. Miller noted the bandwidth is 800 phone calls to 1 text message. Ms. Miller noted Ms. Crabill from JCECC mentioned she would like the media to let the public know not to text 911. Ms. Miller asked Ms. Morgan-Frye to pass this information onto Shepherd University students.

Ms. Mehling announced additional activities throughout September. Stacy Tressler from MRC will be putting together disaster kits. JCHSEM may be teaming up with Wal-Mart and Home Depot for discounts on disaster kit items and a fire extinguisher demonstration. JCHSEM will also be promoting a photo contest for Jefferson County Residents to show their disaster supply kits. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. Ms. Miller announced Ms. Maggio will be working with Shawnna Molina on a fire safety presentation with seniors. Ms. Mehling noted Ms. Maggio will also be using the media to send out a daily disaster preparedness tip of the day.

New Business

Ms. Miller noted Red Cross is unavailable to provide information on upcoming classes. If you are interested you can find them on their website.

Ms. Mehling announced Jefferson County has a new website. We are now able to update our website instantly. Ms. Miller noted JCHSEM minutes and forms will now be posted on the website.

Ms. Miller announced there are new NIMS classes this year and are available online.

Ms. Mehling announced the Quarterly Partnership Luncheon will be July 28th at the Anvil Restaurant in Harpers Ferry. Jeff Jefferies will be speaking about the new additions to Jefferson Memorial Hospital. Lunch will be a total of $15.00 which includes a choice of Chicken Marsala, Veggie Pasta or Crab Cakes. If anyone is interested, contact her.

Ms. Miller reported there will be an EOC Operations and Planning for All Hazards training on August 9-11 at The Aikens Center in Martinsburg. The training is for anyone who would be in the EOC during activation. If you would like to register, go to www.wvdmaps.gov .

Ms. Mehling announced the theme for Fire Prevention Week is Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With. A handout was given and reviewed. Ms. Miller mentioned Fire Prevention Week has been cut from our budget this year.

Ms. Mehling handed out information regarding Allegheny Power and consumer tips regarding power outages. Ms. Miller noted the reason for discussion is due to hot weather. The power grid is old and may not withstand the strain of consumers using high levels of electricity. WV Department of Homeland Security is requiring each county to complete prime power surveys on all critical infrastructure facilities.

Ms. Mehling announced the recommended EMI Course for July; IS-5a – An Introduction to Hazardous Materials. The course is an overview of what hazardous materials are and the best way to store them.

Member Sharing

Ms. Morgan-Frye announced Shepherd University's Day of Service is August 11th. If there is anything Ms. Miller or other agencies would like them to add to their projects to let her know.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 a.m. The next meeting of the Public Awareness/Education/Training Committee will be on August 17, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in the Emergency Operations Center located at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville.

Consumer Tips

BEING PREPARED IF THE POWER GOES OUT

There are basic things any house needs to be prepared if the power goes out - both winter and summer.

- First, know where your circuit breakers are located and how to check to see if a breaker switch is tripped or a fuse blown. Have space fuses of various amp sizes if you don't have breakers.
- Have a number of flash lights with fresh batteries in your home, and know where they are located. Also consider having a plug-in flashlight that remains charged until you need it - use, for example, in a dark hallway socket. Or consider one of the "shake it" flashlights that does not need batteries.
- Have spare batteries to replace ones that run out. (Make sure you dispose of the old batteries properly - don't just toss them in the trash.)
- Have a battery-powered (or one with a built-in, hand-crank generator) radio or television set to listen to news and weather announcements. If you don't have those, a quick trip to your car will give you a radio to listen to. Don't start up your car with garage door closed, and don't run your car for long periods of time inside your garage.
- Have candles and or oil lamps (don't forget matches) for light. Make sure you keep them away from flammable materials such as drapes. Have additional candles, lamp oil and wicks available.
- Post the emergency number for your electric utility so it's handy in case you need to call.
- Have an ice chest available to store needed medications that must remain cold. Have "blue Ice" freezer packs ready for the ice chest to keep your medication cold.
- Have a regular, hard-wired telephone, not just a cordless model. A cordless phone needs electricity in its base to operate the transmitter. Unless the telephone lines are down, you should have telephones. Cell phones may or may not work depending on whether there is power to the cell towers system.

Main Consumer Tips Page

Find Out More...

Rotational or Rolling Blackouts

Getting Your Home Ready for Summer

Summertime Home Energy Tips

If the Lights Go Out in Your House In the Summer

Being Prepared for Power Outages in Your Home

Portable Electric Generator Safety in Your Home

Summertime Energy Tips for Offices & Small Business

Other Places to Visit...

Red Cross Disaster Preparedness
www.redcross.org/services/disaster/

Red Cross Disaster Checklist (PDF file)
www.redcross.org/static/file_cont3615_lang0_1395.pdf

Family Preparedness Checklist
http://nsc.org/issues/firstaid/familychklist.htm

FEMA Disaster Preparedness
www.fema.gov/preparedness/

Did You Know....

The country's largest blackout of August 22, 2003, affected an

- If you use electricity for your water, such as a well with an electric pump, have enough water available to last a couple of days. You should have at least a gallon of drinking water a day for each person in your house for drinking and cooking.

- If you want to have a backup generator, make sure it is installed by a licensed electrician. Check with your local building department to see if a permit is needed. Make sure the system has an automatic breaker that disconnects the house from the power company's regular electricity lines when it is running. This prevents electricity from leaking back into the grid and making it dangerous for utility workers.

- Have a household first aid kit and a disaster preparedness backpack kit (the American Red Cross offers this kit for sale) in case something happens.

- Have a household disaster plan that you and your family can follow if something occurs.

estimated 50 million people in Canada, Ohio, Michigan, Connecticut, New Jersey and New York. New York City Comptroller William Thompson estimated the economic impact of the blackout at $800 million to $1 billion in the city.

The Western States power outage of August 10, 1996, affected about one-half of California's population.

Cinematographer Geoffrey Unsworth mistakenly believed he had caused the New York City Blackout of July 13-14, 1977, by plugging in a spotlight to a lamppost while filming the movie "Superman."

West Virginia First Lady to Serve as Spokesperson for National Emergency Planning Drill

(L to R) Safe America Foundation President Len Pagano; West Virginia First Lady Gayle Manchin, and Volunteer West Virginia Chair and West Virginia Business Volunteer Council Co-Chair Sam Cipoletti.

West Virginia First Lady Gayle Manchin announced today that she will participate in the Safe America Foundation's 9/11 Drill Down for Safety national preparedness drill. Mrs. Manchin has agreed to serve as a special spokesperson for the emergency drill to promote the planning and practicing of preparedness drills with her fellow West Virginians. The First Lady has also agreed to help Safe America promote the program with other First Spouses from around the nation.

Safe America launched the Drill Down in 2009. Its purpose is to promote the planning and execution of emergency preparedness drills and to create a "culture of preparedness." Last year, over 400,000 American families, businesses, public institutions and NGOs participated in Drill Down and demonstrated their preparedness through drills, exercises, text emergency alerts, building an emergency preparedness kit, and other activities.

"I have lent my support to this effort because I recognize how vital it is to have every family across our state - and across America - become more self-reliant," Mrs. Manchin said. "Having people practice what they would do in an emergency - conducting a text 'drill' by phone - is a good step in recognizing how to react - and to begin a multi-phased process of having a plan, knowing how to exercise it - and having emergency supplies in place." Mrs. Manchin, along with Volunteer West Virginia Chair and West Virginia Business Volunteer Council Co-Chair, Sam Cipoletti, will assist the Safe America Foundation's Drill Down in a number of ways including:

- They will record television public service announcements promoting "Drill Down." The spots will be distributed within West Virginia and nationwide.
- The First Lady will serve as a national spokesperson for "Drill Down" and attend a 'preview' event for New York media on June 30, 2010 in New York.
- Mrs. Manchin has offered to 'promote' Safe America's '9/11 Drill Down for Safety' with other 'First Spouses' at the upcoming meeting of the National Governor's Association and in an advertisement appearing in USA TODAY.
- She also will be leading the "West Virginia First Family Text, Don't Talk Drill" announcing the program at a statewide kick-off (being planned during halftime of the West Virginia v. Marshall college football game on September 10, 2010).

"After meeting with First Lady Manchin, I came away very impressed by her commitment to serving as a real voice for safety in West Virginia," said Safe America President Len Pagano.

"Most impressive was the fact that she didn't want to be involved in the program unless she could make a true contribution toward making West Virginians and others more prepared to handle emergencies. I think that speaks volumes about the kind of woman she is," Pagano noted.

Both Volunteer West Virginia and the West Virginia Business Volunteer Council will spearhead the Drill Down rollout with educational programming. They will also hold local West Virginia events aimed at encouraging businesses, communities and individual families to 'drill' on September 11, 2010 or during the month of September, which is National Preparedness Month.

"We're pleased to be leading the nation in bringing the preparedness message to the public," said West

Virginia Business Volunteer Council Co-Chair Sam Cipoletti. "We believe that there is a need to make Americans 'self-sufficient' - and it begins with knowing how to send a text message during an emergency and where to rendezvous if you cannot go home immediately after a crisis occurs."

Cipoletti, who is also the Director of Government Relations for Verizon West Virginia has confirmed that the company will be the official corporate sponsor for all Drill-Down activities in West Virginia.

Cipoletti also noted that additional information will be made available free-of-charge this summer to members of the West Virginia Business Volunteer Council. Online training via webinars will also be provided via Safe America and Volunteer West Virginia.

For further information, contact Mitzi L.M. Vince at (800)-WV-HELPS (1-800-984-3577).

About the Safe America Foundation
The Safe America Foundation is a Marietta, Georgia based 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to addressing emerging health and safety issues - at home, work and play. Founded in 1994, the foundation develops educational programs in partnership with the academic, corporate, public and non-profit sectors. For more information, visit www.safeamerica.org or call 770-973-7233. Safe America can also be found on Twitter @safeamerica.

For more information contact Cullen Gossett at (770)-973-SAFE (7233).

About Volunteer West Virginia
Volunteer West Virginia is the state's Commission for National and Community Service. Established in 1994 to administer the state's AmeriCorps *State programs, the agency challenges citizens to strengthen their communities through service and volunteerism. Volunteer West Virginia now administers the West Virginia Citizen Corps program and the West Virginia Business Volunteer Council in addition to AmeriCorps *State. For more information, visit www.volunteerwv.org or call (800) WV-HELPS. Volunteer West Virginia can also be found on Facebook and Twitter.

About West Virginia Business Volunteer Council
The West Virginia Business Volunteer Council (WVBVC) is a program of Volunteer West Virginia, the state's Commission for National and Community Service. The WVBVC is a membership organization that encourages, educates, and connects private sector entities that support employee volunteer programs as a business strategy. Members include statewide businesses, professional and business associations, and labor organizations. For more information, visit www.volunteerwv.org and click on the "Business Volunteer Council" link in the left menu or call (800) WV-HELPS.

About West Virginia Citizen Corps
West Virginia Citizen Corps, also a program of Volunteer West Virginia,is a state and local initiative created to involve community organizations, individuals and volunteers in building a culture of preparedness. At the state level, the Citizen Corps program promotes the message of citizen preparedness and supports the integration of local trained disaster volunteers into the state's emergency plans. Across the state, local Citizen Corps Councils and volunteers are actively engaged in promoting and enhancing community preparedness. For more information, visit www.volunteerwv.org and click on "Citizen Corps" or call (800) WV-HELPS.

Power Outages

View Current Power Outages
View Outage Map
Power Restoration Priorities
What Causes Power Outages
General Tips During Outages

At Allegheny Power, we're proud of our dependable energy delivery service, and we are constantly searching for opportunities to improve our performance. But regardless of how hard we work, power interruptions still can occur.

When the power goes out, look out the window to see if you can tell if your neighbors still have power. If they do, or if you have electricity in part of your house, your problem may be a blown fuse or a tripped circuit breaker. Carefully replace the fuse or reset the breaker.

To Report an Outage - Call 1-800-Allegheny (1-800-255-3443)

If you are without service, **call us at 1-800-Allegheny (1-800-255-3443)**.To report an outage, simply say "power outage." For other electrical emergencies, say "hazard."

When you call, you will be connected to our automated telephone system. If the automated telephone system is unable to process your call, you will be connected to a representative who will help you. Be prepared to give your name, address, telephone number, and good directions to your location. This will help us find the trouble quickly.

We will work to restore your service as quickly as possible. It is not necessary to keep calling; however, if you see that your neighbors' service is restored and yours is still off, call us again. If you must go outside to assess the situation, take a flashlight and stay away from downed power lines. Contact with one could cause serious injury or even death. Your best bet is to stay inside and look out a window.

Be Prepared for Power Outages

Power interruptions, whether they are momentary or prolonged, can be an inconvenience. However, careful planning and preparation can help to prevent problems and to make you more comfortable during an outage.

Prepare an emergency kit

Being prepared for a power outage can help to reduce your inconvenience until service is restored. A typical emergency kit should include:

- Flashlights and extra batteries.

- A battery-powered radio with fresh batteries.
- Water for drinking and cooking.
- A portable heater (such as kerosene or LP gas).
- Camping equipment such as sleeping bags, a portable lamp or lantern, and a camp stove.
- A telephone that does not require electricity to operate. Cordless phones do not work when the power is off.

Safety

The American Red Cross and other emergency organizations strongly recommend against the use of candles and other open flames during a power outage. This is due to the extreme fire hazard that they present.

What Causes Power Outages

Most interruptions in your electric service are caused by situations we can't control, such as lightning and high winds in the summer, ice and heavy snow in winter, or when a vehicle hits one of our poles.

Power Restoration Priorities

When a major electrical outage occurs, we quickly dispatch service crews and emergency personnel to the scene, and we don't stop working until all service has been restored.

Obviously, following a major outage, we cannot reconnect all customers at the same time. We follow a priority system of restoring service to ensure the health and welfare of the public. Following this plan, we:

- Eliminate safety hazards, such as downed lines, fires, and accidents.
- Restore substations and main feeder lines.
- Restore critical services, such as hospitals, emergency services, communication facilities, and water/sewage facilities.
- Restore service to the largest blocks of customers possible with each repair.
- Restore service to individual customers. Life support customers will be restored first when possible.

General Tips

Life Support Equipment

If you or other family members depend on a respirator, ventilator, oxygen concentrator, suction machine, medication compressor, or other life sustaining devices, ask your home health-care provider if your equipment needs continuous operation. If it does, consider such options as a portable generator, battery backup, or reserve storage oxygen tank. Establish a contingency plan for extreme emergencies. Identify places where you can go for shelter, and remember to call first to make sure these locations have power. Make provisions for emergency transportation if it becomes necessary to leave your home.

Turn Off Appliances

After you report the trouble, turn off your computer and major appliances such as refrigerators, electric water heaters, air conditioners, and pumps. Leave one or two lamps switched on so you will know when power has been restored. If major appliances are left on, they could overload electric lines when power is restored and cause a second

interruption.

Refrigerators and Freezers

Refrigerators and freezers will keep food cold for a day or two if the doors are kept closed. In winter, you can store food outside if the temperature is low. You could also freeze water outdoors and then use it in the refrigerator to keep food cool. In a severe case, look into the possibility of transferring food to a frozen food locker. To avoid spoilage, try to use frozen food as quickly as possible. Some partially frozen foods can be refrozen as long as they contain ice crystals or are no warmer than 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Don't refreeze seafood, poultry, ice cream, cream sauces, or anything susceptible to spoilage. If you have any doubt about frozen food, throw it away.

Emergency Generators

If you keep an emergency generator in your home to provide electricity during an outage, a double throw transfer switch is required when connecting it to your permanent wiring system. This switch protects your equipment and prevents feedback on our lines, which could cause injury to our employees who might assume the line is dead. If you have an emergency generator, please call us at 1-800-Allegheny (1-800-255-3443) so we can enter that information on your account.

Protect Your Electronic Equipment

It is always a good idea to protect your appliances and sensitive electronic equipment with a good quality surge suppressor. Lightning can increase the potential for electrical surges that can harm your home appliances and valuable electronic equipment. While you can't control lightning, you can reduce its effects on appliances by making sure your home is properly wired and grounded and by using surge protection equipment.

Water Heater

If you drain your electric water heater to prevent damage from freezing, you must turn off the appropriate circuit breaker or remove the fuse to disconnect the appliance. Otherwise, the heating elements may burn out if the power comes on while the tank is empty. Never turn on your water heater unless the tank is full.

Water Supply

Private water systems, such as wells or cisterns using electric pumps, are out of service during a power outage. You may want to store drinking or cooking water for such emergencies. If you do, avoid using metal containers and boil the water before it is used.

Plumbing

Plumbing can present problems during a prolonged power outage because of the potential for freezing. Take note of the areas in your house where water collects and, if possible, drain them. These areas include pumps, supply lines, water heaters, boilers, and traps in drains of tubs, sinks, commodes, washing machines, and dishwashers.

Heating and Cooling

Heating equipment usually presents no problems aside from loss of heat during an outage; however, if your house is heated by hot water or steam, you could have freezing damage if the outage is prolonged. Check with your heating dealer for information about your particular system. If you have a heat pump, you should operate it on "emergency heat" for a brief period following a power interruption of an hour or more.

Fireplace

Make good use of a fireplace. It can provide some heat, light, and cooking capability. Keep a screen in front of the fireplace, and close the damper when it's not being used.

Live in One Room

If possible, try to live in one room. Choose the room with the fireplace or one that can be heated easily with a portable heater.

Telephones

Remember, cordless phones will not work during a power interruption.

Flooding

If your home is flooded, do not attempt to move or use appliances while they are submerged in water. After the water recedes, have a qualified serviceman check the motors in your furnace, freezer, and other appliances that may have gotten wet. If your electrical service panels are affected by water, turn off all circuit breakers, including the main disconnect switch, and have a serviceman check them.

Radio

Use a portable radio. Tune in to a local station for information on the power outage or storm. Allegheny Power provides the stations with regular reports and estimates of the time service will be restored.