



# Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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

**December 1, 2022**

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## From the Director's Chair

Welcome to the December 2022 edition of the Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (JCOHSEM) newsletter. This newsletter includes information about various topics including Resolve to be Ready, National Influenza Vaccination Week, Winter Safety, Holiday Fire Safety, Holiday Online Shopping Safety, and Flooding. This edition is full of details with which we hope you find informative.

## Resolve to be Ready

### Make a Resolution

- Make an emergency plan: choose a safe place to meet, learn evacuation routes, and establish an out-of-town contact.
- Take a current photo of you and your pet together in case you get separated during a disaster.
- Get to know your neighbor and invite them to be a part of your emergency plan.
- Snap photos of important documents and save them in a secure place or online.
- Set up group text lists so you can communicate with friends and family during emergencies.
- Take a class in CPR and first aid.
- Keep and update emergency supplies; remember to include cash.
- Have back-up power sources available to charge devices in case of a power outage.
- Snap pictures of your property for insurance purposes.
- Check your insurance for coverage on disasters like floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes.
- Sign up for alerts and warnings. Download the FEMA app to get real-time alerts, safety tips, and locate open shelters.
- Save for a rainy day! Start and grow your emergency fund.
- Financially prepare for the New Year. Find out how with the [Emergency Financial First Aid Kit](#).



- Spend within your means. Use a personal budgeting worksheet to help plan for holiday expenses and beyond.
- Build up your savings. Put a small amount in your account the first of every month beginning January 1.

## **Preparedness Tips**

- Include cash in your emergency supply kit. During an extended power outage, ATMs and credit card machines may not work.
- Check-in with neighbors to see how you can help each other out before and after a storm.
- Pick an out-of-town person for everyone to contact during an emergency.
- Preparing your family for an emergency is as simple as having a conversation over dinner. Make a plan tonight.
- As part of your family's emergency supply kit, include games and toys to keep children entertained.
- Get prepared by having an emergency supply kit already stored. [www.ready.gov/kit](http://www.ready.gov/kit) #ResolveToBeReady
- Snap pictures of your property and make an inventory for insurance purposes.
- 30: The number of days it takes for flood insurance to begin. **The time to buy is when it's dry.**
- If you rely on public transportation, contact your local emergency management agency about evacuation procedures before a hurricane.
- Make a list of the things you would need or want to take with you if you had to leave your home quickly.
- Prepare your car for winter: keep your gas tank near full to help avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Make a plan to check on neighbors if extreme cold or winter weather knocks out your power.
- Learn how to shut off the utilities where you live, including water, electricity, and gas.
- #PrepTips: Take a first aid and CPR class. [www.ready.gov/safety-skills](http://www.ready.gov/safety-skills) #ResolveToBeReady
- Plan how you will leave and where you will go if you are advised to evacuate. Don't forget to include pets in your plans! [www.ready.gov/evacuation](http://www.ready.gov/evacuation) #ResolveToBeReady
- Assemble supplies for a "go-bag" you can carry if you need to evacuate [www.ready.gov/evacuation](http://www.ready.gov/evacuation) #ResolveToBeReady #PrepTips
- Make a portable emergency kit for your car [www.ready.gov/car](http://www.ready.gov/car) #ResolveToBeReady
- Save. Save. Save. Your emergency savings can help you get life saving items like food, shelter, and water in an emergency. Saving tips: [www.ready.gov/financial-preparedness](http://www.ready.gov/financial-preparedness) #FinancialFuture
- 48% of people have an emergency fund, which gives them the savings to overcome simple emergencies. [www.ready.gov/financial-preparedness](http://www.ready.gov/financial-preparedness) #FinancialFuture

## **Planning with Pets**

- Take a current photo of you and your pet together in case you get separated during a disaster. [www.ready.gopets](http://www.ready.gopets) #ResolveToBeReady #PetPreparedness
- Search online today for local pet-friendly evacuation locations in case you need to evacuate.

- Update your pet's microchip registration info so you can be contacted if your pet gets lost in a disaster. [www.ready.gov/pets](http://www.ready.gov/pets) #ResolveToBeReady #PetPreparedness
- Search online today for local pet-friendly evacuation locations in case you need to evacuate.
- Put your name and contact information on your pet's ID tag in case you're separated in an emergency. [www.ready.gov/pets](http://www.ready.gov/pets) #ResolveToBeReady #PetPreparedness
- Remember to include your pets in your family's emergency plans.

## National Influenza Vaccination Week

### **This holiday season, spread cheer, not flu.**

The holiday season is here. That means more time to spend with your children, family, and friends. However, as holiday cheer spreads, so can flu, with potentially serious complications. Getting a flu vaccine is the best way to stay protected against flu.

### **Help kids fight flu.**

Flu is more dangerous for children than the common cold. Each year, millions of children get sick with seasonal flu, thousands of children are hospitalized, and some even die from flu. The good news is a flu vaccine can help protect your children against flu.



Children younger than 5 years old – especially those younger than 2 – and children of any age with certain chronic health conditions, like asthma and diabetes, are at higher risk of developing serious flu complications. Because these children are at higher risk, it is especially important that they get a seasonal flu vaccine to help prevent flu, and to reduce their risk of being hospitalized or dying from flu if they get sick.

Parents can help children fight flu with flu vaccines for the whole family each year.

### **Protect all your loved ones.**

Getting vaccinated against flu also protects your other loved ones, like adults 65 years and older and people living with certain chronic conditions who are at increased risk of suffering from serious flu complications. These groups also face a higher risk of hospitalization if they get sick with flu.

A flu vaccine can protect everyone as communities gather to celebrate the holiday season.

### **Flu vaccines are safe and effective – and there's still time to get vaccinated.**

Every year, flu vaccines are updated to better match the four flu viruses that research indicates will circulate during the season.

While it is ideal to get a flu vaccine before flu starts spreading in your community (usually in October each year), getting vaccinated later is beneficial anytime flu viruses are circulating. Getting vaccinated now can still provide protection against flu because flu activity is still elevated, and activity most commonly peaks in February, and significant flu activity can continue into May.

# Winter Safety

Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion. Winter storms including blizzards can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice and high winds.



## A winter storm can:



Last a few hours or several days.



Cut off heat, power and communication services.



Put older adults, children, sick individuals and pets at greater risk.

## How to Protect Yourself from Winter Weather

(IF YOU ARE UNDER A WINTER STORM WARNING, FIND SHELTER RIGHT AWAY!)

### Know your winter weather terms:

#### Winter Storm Warning

Issued when hazardous winter weather in the form of heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet is imminent or occurring. Winter Storm Warnings are usually issued 12 to 24 hours before the event is expected to begin.

#### Winter Storm Watch

Alerts the public to the possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet. Winter Storm Watches are usually issued 12 to 48 hours before the beginning of a Winter Storm.

#### Winter Weather Advisory

Issued for accumulations of snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and sleet which will cause significant inconveniences and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to life-threatening situations.

<h2>WINTER STORM WATCH</h2> <p>A Winter Storm Watch is issued when <b>heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain is possible.</b></p> <p>Be prepared to adjust travel plans in case a Warning is issued.</p> <h2>Be Prepared.</h2>	<h2>WINTER STORM WARNING</h2> <p>A Winter Storm Warning is issued when <b>heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain is expected.</b></p> <p>Travel will become dangerous. Delay or adjust travel plans until conditions improve.</p> <h2>Take Action!</h2>
 <a href="https://www.weather.gov">weather.gov</a>	



## Prepare for Winter Weather

Prepare your home to keep out the cold with insulation, caulking and weather stripping. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups. Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Remember the needs of your pets. Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights. If you are unable to afford your heating costs, weatherization or energy-related home repairs, contact [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#) for help.

## In Case of an Emergency

Be prepared for winter weather at home, at work and in your car. Create an emergency supply kit for your car. Include jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water and non-perishable snacks. Keep a full tank of gas.



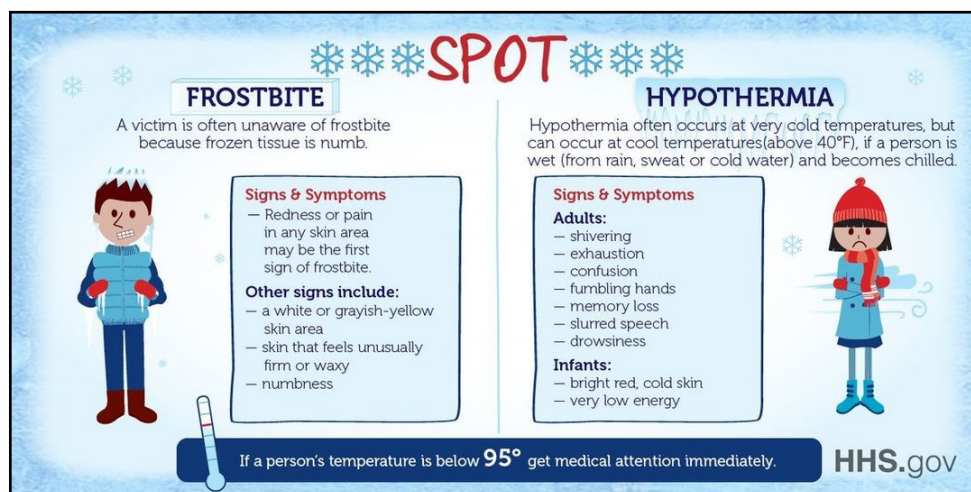
## Stay Safe During Winter Weather

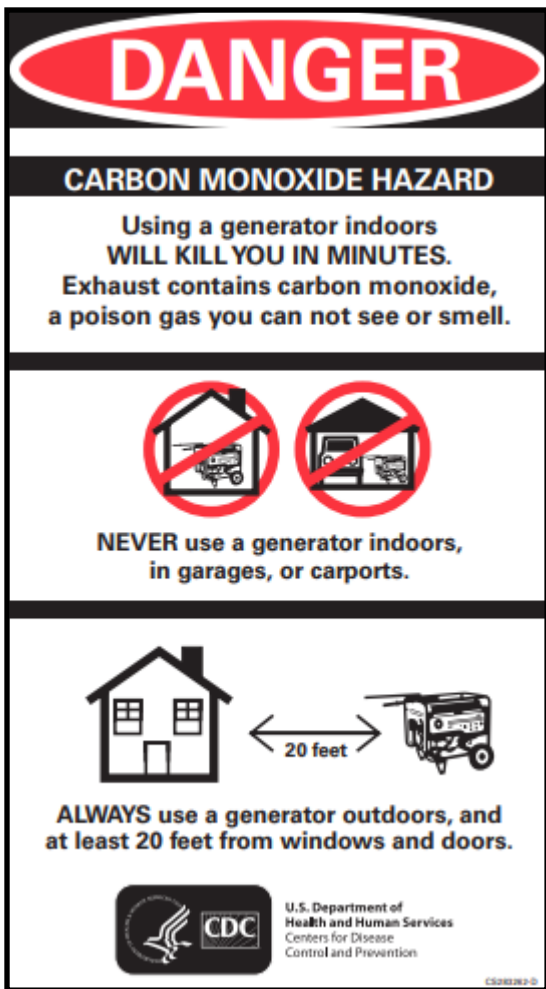


**Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Only use generators and grills outdoors and away from windows. Never heat your home with a gas stovetop or oven.**

- Stay off roads, if at all possible. If trapped in your car, then stay inside.
- Limit your time outside. If you need to go outside, then wear layers of warm clothing. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
- Reduce the risk of a heart attack by avoiding overexertion when shoveling snow and walking in the snow.

## Learn the signs of, and basic treatments for frostbite and hypothermia.





## Generator Safety

Generators can be helpful when the power goes out. It is important to know how to use them safely to prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and other hazards.

- Generators and fuel should always be used outdoors and *at least* 20 feet away from windows, doors, and attached garages.
- **Install working carbon monoxide detectors on every level or your home.** Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can kill you, your family, and pets.
- Keep the generator dry and protected from rain or flooding. Touching a wet generator or devices connected to one can cause electrical shock.
- Always connect the generator to appliance with heavy-duty extension cords.
- Let the generator cool before refueling. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts can ignite.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions *carefully*.

## Power Outage Safety

Extended power outages may impact the whole community and the economy. A power outage is when the electrical power goes out unexpectedly. A power outage may:

- Disrupt communications, water and transportation.
- Close retail businesses, grocery stores, gas stations, ATMs, banks and other services.
- Cause food spoilage and water contamination.
- Prevent use of medical devices.

## Power Outage Tips

- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.
- Use a generator, but **ONLY** outdoors and away from windows.
- Don not use a gas stove or oven to heat your home.
- Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.
- Have alternative plans for refrigeration medications or using power-dependent medical devices.
- Check with the local officials about heating and cooling locations open near you.

## POWER OUTAGES

<div style="background-color: white; color: #007bff; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">DO</div> <p>Surround your food with ice in a cooler or refrigerator.</p>	<div style="background-color: white; color: #007bff; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">DO</div> <p>Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home if you use a generator.</p>
<div style="background-color: white; color: #dc3545; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">DON'T</div> <p>Eat food exposed to temperatures higher than 40° F.</p>	<div style="background-color: white; color: #dc3545; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">DON'T</div> <p>Use candles for light. Instead, use a flashlight.</p>

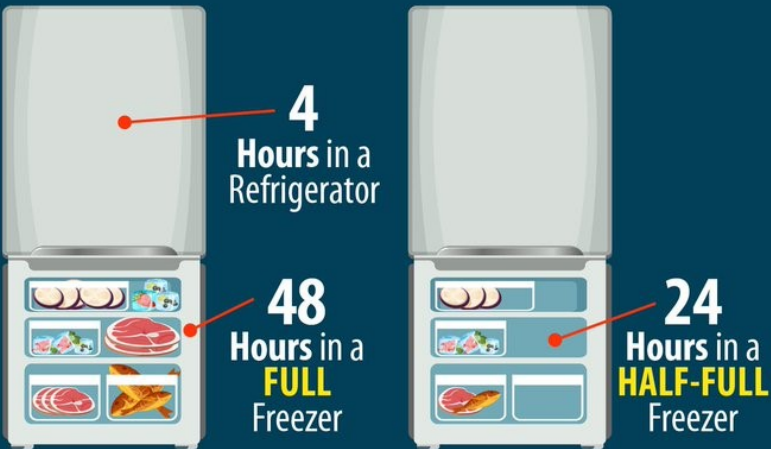
## Returning After a Power Outage

- When in doubt, throw it out! Throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40 degrees or higher for two hours or more, or that has an unusual odor, color or texture.
- If the power is out for more than a day, discard any medication that should be refrigerated, unless the drug's label says otherwise. Consult your doctor or pharmacist immediately for a new supply.

# Eat Safe Food after a Power Outage

**During a power outage, keep refrigerator & freezer doors closed**

⚡ If the doors stay closed, food will stay safe for up to:



[www.cdc.gov/foodsafety](http://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety)

CS310309-C

## Holiday Fire Safety

📅 The top three days of the year for home candle fires are Christmas, New Year's Day, and New Year's Eve.

- Only use decorations that are flame-retardant or not flammable.
- Check holiday lights each year for frayed wires or excessive wear.
- Don't link more than three strands of holiday lights.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended. Consider using battery-operated candles.
- Keep your live Christmas tree away from heat sources and room exits.
- Water your live Christmas trees daily to keep it from becoming dry.

### Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Holiday Fires

**Did you know?** More than 1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles.

**As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.** Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns.

Think about using **battery-operated flameless candles.**



### Water your Christmas tree everyday.

A dry tree is dangerous because it can catch on fire easily.



# Holiday Online Shopping Safety

The holiday shopping season is here, and while millions of Americans will be looking for the best deals the internet has to offer, cyber criminals will be hard at work looking to target online shoppers. The holiday shopping season is a prime opportunity for bad actors to take advantage of unsuspecting shoppers through fake websites, malicious links, and even fake charities. Their goal is simple: get a hold of your personal and financial information to compromise your data, insert malicious software, steal your identity and take your money.

- **Protect your devices** by keeping the software **up-to-date**. These include items like mobile phones, computers, and tablets, **but also appliances, electronics, and children's toys**.
- Once you've purchased an internet connected device, **change the default password** and **use different and complex passwords** for each one. Consider using a password manager to help.
- **Check the devices' privacy and security settings to make sure you understand how your information will be used and stored**. Also make sure you're not sharing more information than you want or need to provide.
- **Enable automatic software updates** where applicable, as running the latest version of software helps ensure the manufacturers are still supporting it and providing the latest patches for vulnerabilities.

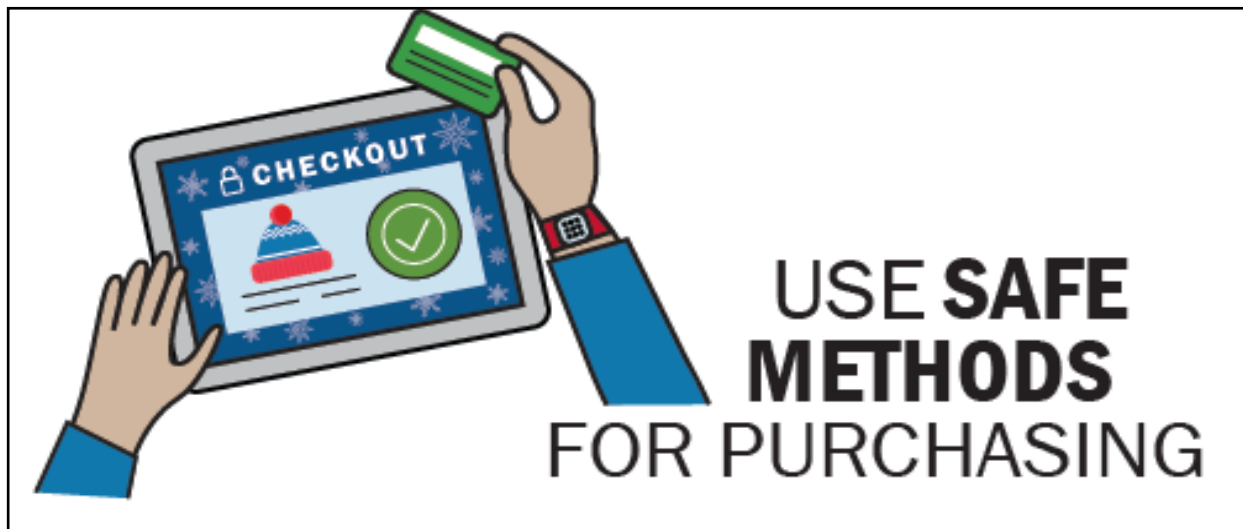


- Before providing any personal or financial information, **make sure that you are interacting with a reputable, established vendor**.
- Some attackers may try to trick you by creating malicious websites that appear to be legitimate. **Always verify the legitimacy before supplying any information**. If you've never heard of it before, check twice before handing over your information.
- Most of us receive emails from retailers about special offers during the holidays. **Cyber criminals will often send phishing emails**—designed to look like

they're from retailers—that have malicious links or that ask for you to input your personal or financial information.

- **Don't click links or download attachments** unless you're confident of where they came from. **If you're unsure if an email is legitimate, type the URL of the retailer or other company into your web browser** as opposed to clicking the link.
- **Never provide your password, or personal or financial information in response to an unsolicited email**. Legitimate businesses will not email you asking for this information.
- **Make sure your information is being encrypted**. All reputable merchants use encryption to transmit information from your browser to their servers. Look in your browser's location bar to **make sure the website address begins with "https:"** instead of "http:". Also look at the padlock icon. If the padlock is locked, your information is encrypted.





If you're going to make that purchase, what information are you handing over? Before providing personal or financial information, check the website's privacy policy. Make sure you understand how your information will be stored and used.



You'll likely make more purchases over the holiday season, **be sure to check your credit card and bank statements for any fraudulent charges frequently.** Immediately, notify your bank or financial institution.



You'll likely make more purchases over the holiday season, **be sure to check your credit card and bank statements for any fraudulent charges frequently.** Immediately, notify your bank or financial institution.



**Be wary of emails requesting personal information.** Attackers may attempt to gather information by sending emails requesting that you confirm purchase or account information. Legitimate businesses will not solicit this type of information through email. Do not provide sensitive information through email.



If you receive a suspicious email that you think may be a phishing scam, **you can report it at [us-cert.gov/report-phishing](https://us-cert.gov/report-phishing).**

# Flooding

Flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States. Failing to evacuate flooded areas or entering flood waters can lead to injury or death.

Floods may:

- Result from rain, snow, coastal storms, storm surges and overflows of dams and other water systems.
- Develop slowly or quickly. Flash floods can come with no warning.
- Cause outages, disrupt transportation, damage buildings and create landslides.

## **If you are under a flood warning:**

- Find safe shelter right away.
- Do not walk, swim or drive through flood waters. **Turn Around, Don't Drown!**
- Remember, just six inches of moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.
- Depending on the type of flooding:
  - Evacuate if told to do so.
  - Move to higher ground or a higher floor.
  - Stay where you are.



## **Preparing for a Flood**

### **Know Your Risk for Floods**

[Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center](#) to know types of flood risk in your area. Sign up for your community's warning system. The [Emergency Alert System \(EAS\)](#) and [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

### **Purchase Flood Insurance**

Purchase or renew a flood insurance policy. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flooding. It typically takes up to 30 days for a policy to go into effect so the time to buy is well before a disaster. [Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\).](#)

### **Preparing for a Flood**

[Make a plan](#) for your household, including [your pets](#), so that you and your family know what to do, where to go, and what you will need to protect yourselves from flooding. Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash flood response. Gather supplies, including non-perishable foods, cleaning supplies, and water for several days, in case you must leave immediately or if services are cut off in your area.

## **In Case of Emergency**

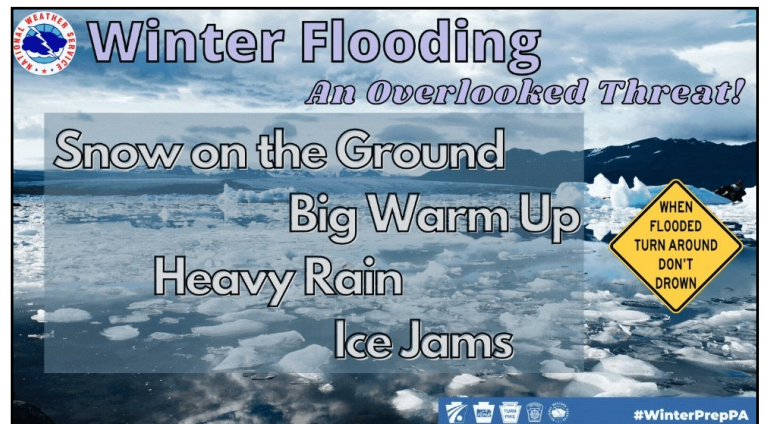
Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies. Protect your property. Move valuables to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.

## **Staying Safe During a Flood**

- Evacuate immediately, if told to evacuate. Never drive around barricades. Local responders use them to safely direct traffic out of flooded areas.
- Contact your healthcare provider If you are sick and need medical attention. Wait for further care instructions and shelter in place, if possible. If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 9-1-1.
- Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions regarding flooding.
- Do not walk, swim or drive through flood waters. **Turn Around. Don't Drown!**
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water. Fast-moving water can wash bridges away without warning.
- Stay inside your car if it is trapped in rapidly moving water. Get on the roof if water is rising inside the car.
- Get to the highest level if trapped in a building. Only get on the roof if necessary and once there signal for help. Do not climb into a closed attic to avoid getting trapped by rising floodwater.

## **Staying Safe After a Flood**

- Pay attention to authorities for information and instructions. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Avoid driving except in emergencies.
- Wear heavy work gloves, protective clothing and boots during clean up and use appropriate face coverings or masks if cleaning mold or other debris.
- People with asthma and other lung conditions and/or immune suppression should not enter buildings with indoor water leaks or mold growth that can be seen or smelled. Children should not take part in disaster cleanup work.
- Be aware that snakes and other animals may be in your house.
- Be aware of the risk of electrocution. Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water. Turn off the electricity to prevent electric shock if it is safe to do so.
- Avoid wading in floodwater, which can be contaminated and contain dangerous debris. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.
- Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machinery **ONLY** outdoors and away from windows.



## 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.

**\*\*Due to the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, many of the previously scheduled courses have been cancelled. Please check <http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6> or contact Chuck Bennett at [charles.w.bennett@wv.gov](mailto:charles.w.bennett@wv.gov) with any questions in regards to cancelled or rescheduled courses.\*\***  
(None Scheduled at this Time.)

## Upcoming Local Training

- NIMS 300 Course @ Morgan County Rescue Squad on 12/3 & 12/4 from 8am-6pm.
- NIMS 400 Course @ Morgan County Rescue Squad on 12/10 & 12/11 from 8am-6pm.

(These courses are free and pre-registration can be accomplished at [www.wvpst.org](http://www.wvpst.org), select Martinsburg.)

## Disaster Exercise Series 2022



The Smoking Mountains II “Functional” exercise was held on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 in Hardy County at the Hardy County National Guard Armory. All 7 Region 3 counties plus Pendleton County met and set up their Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) at various locations within the gymnasium/drill hall. The exercise was also available virtually in order to allow agencies who could not participate in-person to engage with us on-line by connecting through the use of a virtual meeting platform.

The scenario consisted of a series of mountain/woods fires in both Blue Ridge Mountain and also in Halltown near Route 340 and DHS/Customs & Border Protection. They required the need for investigations and securing of the scenes. It involved the evacuations of residences and the need for sheltering and feeding of the evacuees and the first responders. Secondary to the mountain/woods fires was an intentionally set fire and vandalism to construction equipment at a local industrial plant. A hazardous materials incident involving a train and a tractor-trailer also was included in the scenario. Many requests for assistance and mutual aid to cover the unmet needs was discussed as well as the availability of the resources due to the problems being encountered over our entire region.

The After Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) is being compiled by the U.S. EPA and its START contractors and is expected to be received sometime after the beginning of next year. The participating agencies will be receiving a copy of the draft document to review and report any changes or corrections to the document along with a response to the shortcomings or discrepancies presented in the exercise along with actions which may be taken to mitigate the problems encountered. As this document is finalized, copies will be distributed to all of the agencies for their review and future corrective actions.

Those participating were: Stephen Allen, Dick Myers, Jennifer Walters – JC OHSEM; Nathan Cochran—JC Prosecuting Attys. Office; Jeff Polczynski—JC ECC; Sara Considine, Lynn Costello—JC ESA; Dr. Terrence Reidy, Gino Sisco, Gillian Beach, Mason Weikle, Bevin Keiter—JC Health Department; Brandan Caton—JC Schools; George Butler, Jason Wiser, Maria Otero, Patrick Orender, Gustavo Renteria, Wayne Mitchell - DHS/Customs & Border Protection



# **Online FEMA Training**

FEMA offers a number of online courses at <https://training.fema.gov/is/>. 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 in the federal, state, local or tribal governments.

JCOHSEM recommends the following FEMA Independent Study Courses. These courses are free and available online. After the course is completed an online test can be taken. Once the test is passed you will receive a completion certificate.

## **IS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System**

**Course Overview:** ICS 100, Introduction to the Incident Command System, introduces the Incident Command System (ICS) and provides the foundation for higher level ICS training. This course describes the history, features and principles, and organizational structure of the Incident Command System. It also explains the relationship between ICS and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

**Primary Audience:** The target audience includes persons involved with emergency planning, and response or recovery efforts.

**Course Length:** 2 hours

**Course Link:** [FEMA - Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\) Course | IS-100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100](#)

## **IS-907 : Active Shooter: What You Can Do**

**Course Overview:** An active shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and other populated area. In most cases, active shooters use firearms and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims. Active shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly.

All employees can help prevent and prepare for potential active shooter situations. This course provides guidance to individuals, including managers and employees, so that they can prepare to respond to an active shooter situation.

**Primary Audience:** All individuals, including managers and employees.

**Course Length:** 1 hour

**Course Link:** [FEMA - Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\) Course | IS-907: Active Shooter: What You Can Do](#)

## **IS 908 - Emergency Management for Senior Officials**

**Course Overview:** The purpose of this course is to introduce senior officials to the important role they play in emergency management. The responsibility for preparing for, responding to, and recovering from incidents, both natural and manmade, begins at the local level – with individuals and public officials in the county, city, or town affected by the incident. This course presents:

- Simple steps official can take to become acquainted with their emergency management role, authorities, and team members.
- Video presentations sharing lessons learned from officials of the City of Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana.

**Primary Audience:** Senior officials, including mayors, city managers, and county managers.

**Course Length:** 1 hour

**Course Link:** [FEMA - Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\) Course | IS-908: Emergency Management for Senior Officials](#)

# Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management-Committees

## **Steering Committee, John Sherwood, Chair**

The Steering Committee works with the JCOHSEM director to guide the activities of JCOHSEM. A fourteen-member Steering Committee is made up of public and private representation. JCOHSEM 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 Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Meetings held on the third Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December. 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 JCOHSEM's programs. They work with the director and other staff to keep the entire community focused on the objectives of JCOHSEM, 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. This committee is responsible in assisting the director in setting up speaking engagements and public awareness events. This committee meets monthly on the second 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 examines 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, West Virginia Emergency Management Division of the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security (WVEMD) and FEMA in July 2003. The plan was updated in 2008 and 2013. The 2013 plan was approved by WVEMD and FEMA in June 2013 and the 2018 plan was approved in November 2018.

## **Counter Terrorism Committee, Stephen Allen, 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 counterterrorism or human-caused disasters. Meetings are held on the second 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](mailto:sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org)

Times, dates, and places may need to be changed due to inclement weather, scheduling conflicts,  
or Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation.

If you have questions, call the JCOHSEM office at (304) 728-3290.

Jefferson County Office of  
Homeland Security and  
Emergency Management

28 Industrial Blvd., Suite 101  
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**PUBLIC SAFETY;  
PUBLIC TRUST**



The Jefferson County Commission's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCOHSEM) is responsible for the coordination of preparedness, , 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, StormReady, Community Rating System, Resilient Neighbor Network and Project Impact programs. JCOHSEM is also responsible for the Jefferson County R.A.C.E.S. group.

## December Meetings & Events

- Sterling National Weather Service call every Monday and Thursday at 1030a.m.
- WV State weather calls on Mondays and Fridays at 10a.m.
- WV Emergency Management Council calls each Tuesday at 9a.m.
- WV Amateur Radio Network Test Thursday, December 1 at 6:00p.m.
- Bovine Emergency Response Planning, JCHSEM EOC on December 1st at 6:00p.m.
- Jefferson County Public Awareness/Training/Education Committee Training meeting at the JCHSEM EOC at 9:00a.m.
- The Counter-Terrorism Committee meeting on December 13 at the JCHSEM EOC at 2:00-3:00p.m.
- Jefferson County Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting on December 21 at Hospice of the Panhandle, 330 Hospice Lane, Kearneysville, WV. Meeting starts at 8:15a.m.