



July 1, 2022

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From the Director's Chair

Hello and welcome to the July 2022 edition of the Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (JCOHSEM) newsletter.

This newsletter includes information on Fireworks Safety and continued emphasis on Extreme Heat Safety.

This edition is full of details which we hope you find informative.

Fireworks Safety

Leave Fireworks to the Experts

Summer is synonymous with barbecues parades and fireworks. The National Safety Council advises everyone to enjoy fireworks at public displays conducted by professionals, and not to use any fireworks at home. They may be legal but they are not safe.

In 2017, [eight people died and over 12,000 were injured](#) badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents. Of these, 50% of the injuries were to children and young adults under age 20. Over two-thirds (67%) of injuries took place from June 16 to July 16. And while the majority of these incidents were due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, homemade or other illegal fireworks or explosives, an estimated 1,200 injuries were from less powerful devices like small firecrackers and sparklers.

Additionally, [fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires each year](#), including 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires and nearly 17,000 other fires.

Fireworks Safety Tips: If You Choose to Use Legal Fireworks

If consumer fireworks are legal to buy where you live and you choose to use them, be sure to follow the following safety tips:

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision
- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear
- Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands
- Never light them indoors
- Only use them away from people, houses and flammable material
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting
- Never ignite devices in a container

Fireworks Safety Tips: If you choose to Use Legal Fireworks (cont'd)

- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire
- Never use illegal fireworks

Better yet, grab a blanket and a patch of lawn, kick back and let the experts handle the fireworks show.

Sparklers Are Dangerous

Every year, young children can be found along parade routes and at festivals with sparklers in hand, but sparklers are a lot more dangerous than most people think.

Sparklers burn at about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals. Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, and children have received severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet. According to the [National Fire Protection Association](#), sparklers alone account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries. [For children under 5 years of age, sparklers accounted for nearly half of the total estimated injuries.](#)

Consider using [safer alternatives](#), such as glow sticks, confetti poppers or colored streamers.



Extreme Heat

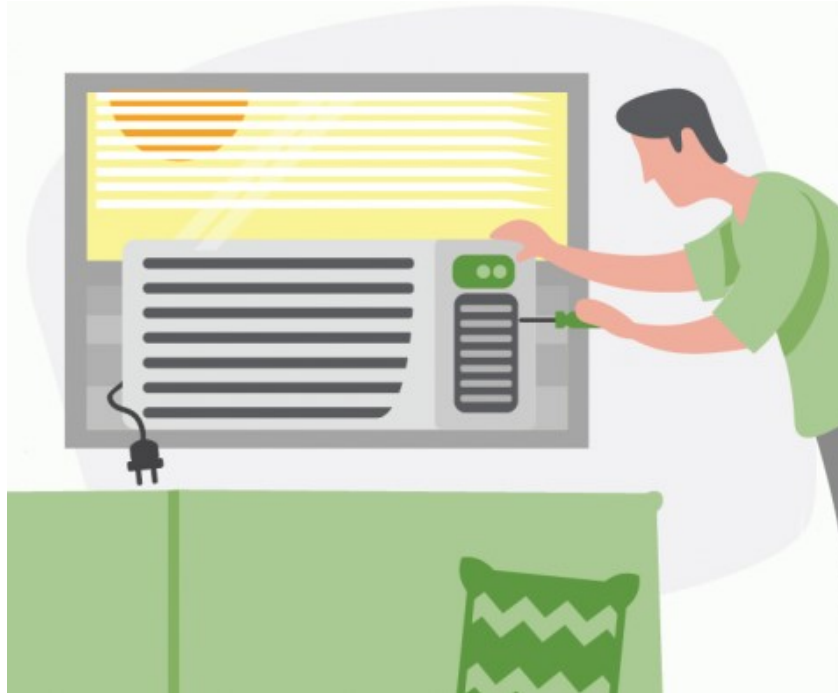
There is hot, and then there is hot! Extreme heat is a period of high heat and humidity with temperatures above 90 degrees for at least two to three days. In extreme heat your body works extra hard to maintain a normal temperature, which can lead to death. Extreme heat is responsible for the highest number of annual deaths among all weather-related hazards.

- Older adults, children and sick or overweight individuals are at greater risk from extreme heat.
- Humidity increases the feeling of heat.

Prepare for Extreme Heat

- Learn to [recognize the signs of heat illness](#).
- Do not rely on a fan as your primary cooling device. Fans create air flow and a false sense of comfort, but do not reduce body temperature or prevent heat-related illnesses.

Prepare for Extreme Heat (Cont'd)



- Hurricanes are not just a coastal problem. Find out how rain, wind, water and even tornadoes could happen far inland from where a hurricane or tropical storm makes landfall. [Start preparing now.](#)
- Identify places in your community where you can go to get cool such as libraries and shopping malls or contact your local health department to find a cooling center in your area.

Know your Evacuation Zone

- You may have to evacuate quickly due to a hurricane if you live in an evacuation zone. [Learn your evacuation routes](#), practice with your household and pets, and identify where you will stay.
- Cover windows with drapes or shades.
- Weather-strip doors and windows.
- Use window reflectors specifically designed to reflect heat back outside.
- Add insulation to keep the heat out.
- Use a powered attic ventilator, or attic fan, to regulate the heat level of a building's attic by clearing out hot air.
- Install window air conditioners and insulate around them.
- If you are unable to afford your cooling costs, weatherization or energy-related home repairs, contact the [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#) for help.

Be Safe DURING

- Never leave people or pets in a closed car on a warm day.
- If air conditioning is not available in your home go to a cooling center.
- Take cool showers or baths.
- Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.

Be Safe DURING (Cont'd)



- Use your oven less to help reduce the temperature in your home.
- If you're outside, find shade. Wear a hat wide enough to protect your face.
- Drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated.
- Avoid high-energy activities or work outdoors, during midday heat, if possible.
- Check on family members, seniors and neighbors.
- Watch for heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.
- Consider pet safety. If they are outside, make sure they have plenty of cool water and access to comfortable shade. Asphalt and dark pavement can be very hot to your pet's feet.
- If using a mask, use one that is made of breathable fabric, such as cotton, instead of polyester. Don't wear a mask if you feel yourself overheating or have trouble breathing.

Heat-Related Illnesses

Know the signs of heat-related illnesses and ways to respond. If you are sick and need medical attention, contact your healthcare provider for advice and shelter in place if you can. If you are experiencing a medical emergency call 9-1-1.

Get more detailed information about heat-related illnesses from the [CDC](#) and [National Weather Service](#).



Heat-Related Illnesses (cont'd)

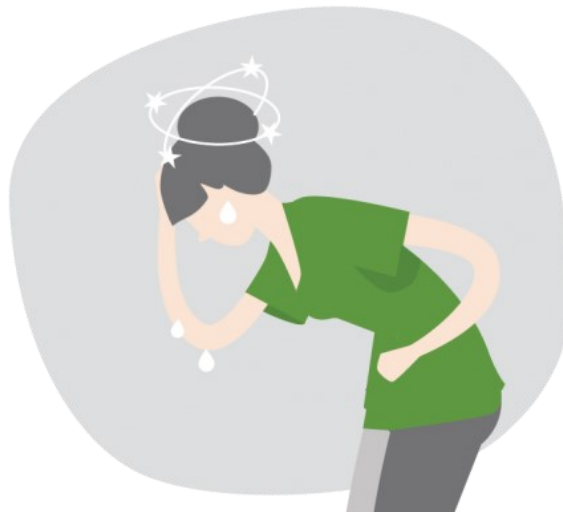
HEAT STROKE

- **Signs:**
- Extremely high body temperature (above 103 degrees F) taken orally
- Red, hot and dry skin with no sweat
- Rapid, strong pulse
- Dizziness, confusion or unconsciousness



HEAT CRAMPS

- **Signs:**
- Muscle pains or spasms in the stomach, arms or legs



Heat-Related Illnesses (cont'd)

HEAT EXHAUSTION

- **Signs:**
- Heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, weakness, fast or weak pulse, dizziness, headache, fainting, nausea, vomiting.

If you have signs of heat cramps or heat exhaustion, go to a cooler location and cool down by removing excess clothing and taking sips of sports drinks or water. Call your healthcare provider if symptoms get worse or last more than an hour.

Associated Content

[Extreme Heat Information Sheet \(PDF\)](#)

[Children, Pets and Vehicles \(weather.gov\)](#)

[Extreme Heat Safety Social Media Toolkit](#)

[You Can Help Prevent Hot Car Deaths \(NHTSA\)](#)

[Protective Actions Research for Extreme Heat](#)

[National Weather Service Heat Safety Tips and Resources](#)

[National Weather Service - Heat Illnesses](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Extreme Heat](#)

[Warning Signs and Symptoms of Heat-Related Illness](#)

[National Integrated Heat Health Information System](#)

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 with any questions in regards to cancelled or rescheduled courses.****

Upcoming Local Training

None Scheduled at this time.

Disaster Exercise Series 2021/2022



The Smoking Mountains exercise for Jefferson County was held on Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at Hospice of the Panhandle, located at 330 Hospice Lane in Kearneysville. Hospice offered us the use of their training/meeting room for the venue. The exercise started at 10AM. The U.S. EPA and its START contractors coordinated the exercise. The other 7 counties held their portion in their Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) in our region. We were able to allow outside agencies who could not participate in-person to engage with us on-line by connecting through the use of MS Teams.

The attendees throughout the region took notes and passed along the responses to the injects from their various locations. A very delicious lunch meal was provided by Hospice. Their facility offered us the opportunity to have a very large room, complete with all of the internet and power capabilities, to operate out of. This allowed the exercise to be a success to all who participated!

The scenario was a series of fires in a mountainous environment, with additional needs 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 fire was an intentionally set fire in construction equipment at a local industrial plant. There was also a hazardous materials incident involving a train and a tractor-trailer. There were many needs for assistance and mutual aid to cover the unmet needs.

An After Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) is being compiled by the U.S. EPA and its START contractors. 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.

It was wonderful to finally be able to get together again to utilize our training, equipment, and experience to simulate the mitigation of these situations! Thanks to all who participated in the endeavor.

If you or your organization are interested in participating in the next portion of the 2021/22 exercise series, please contact Stephen Allen at: sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org.

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: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-100.c>

IS 200.C - Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response

Course Overview: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, reviews the Incident Command System (ICS), provides the context for ICS within initial response, and supports higher level ICS training. This course provides training on, and resources for, personnel who are likely to assume a supervisory position within ICS.

Primary Audience: The intended audience (s) are response personnel at the supervisory level who are involved with emergency planning, response, or recovery efforts.

Course Length: 4 hours

Course Link: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-200.c>

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: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-908>

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

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
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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.

July Meetings & Events

- Sterling National Weather Service calls every Monday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m.
- WV State weather calls on Mondays and Fridays at 10 a.m.
- WV Emergency Management Council calls each Tuesday at 9 a.m.
- Public Awareness, Education and Training committee meeting Wednesday, July 13 9:00 a.m. in the Jefferson County EOC (28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville)
- PLEASE NOTE: Due to a scheduled exercise with the Board of Education, the NEXT LEPC meeting has been rescheduled for August 24th at 8:15 a.m. at Hospice of the Panhandle
- Plan Ahead: August 24 Steering Committee meeting after the LEPC meeting at Hospice of the Panhandle!