



March 2023

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From the Director's Chair

Hello and welcome to our March 2023 edition of the Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (JCOHSEM) newsletter.

This newsletter contains information about various topics including this month's READY.GOV topics of the "It's Not Luck" Campaign, and Spring and Flood Safety.

We hope you find the topics in this month's edition informative and helpful.

It's Not Luck!



Don't get pinched this year by flooding,
 prepare your emergency plan now.



- For each petal on the shamrock that brings a wish your way – good preparedness and Irish blessings for today and every day.
- Take care of your little leprechauns and plan for your pet's preparedness too!

It's Not Luck (cont'd)

- **When thunder roars, bring your pets indoors!** Always bring pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm or disaster.
- **Don't leave pet preparedness to chance.** Have your pet microchipped. Make sure to keep your address and phone number up-to-date and include contact information for an emergency contact outside of your immediate area.
- **Lucky is counting on you to fetch him.** Have a picture of you and your pet together. If you become separated from your pet during an emergency, a picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in identifying your pet.
- **A pet preparedness kit can be Lucky's lucky charm!** Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, have a basics for survival kit for your pet that includes a collar with ID tag, a harness or leash, food, water, medicine, grooming supplies, first aid kit, sanitation needs, traveling bag, crate or sturdy carrier, ideally one for each pet, and other familiar items.
- There will be zero lucks given today – get prepared!
- Is your go bag ready to sham-rock and roll in case of a disaster?



- ✓ [Know your risk](#) for the area where you [live and work](#).
- ✓ [Make a plan](#) to lessen the impact of those risks.
- ✓ [Build a kit](#) to be ready for disasters and emergencies.

Spring and Flood Safety



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.

Spring and Flood Safety

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.

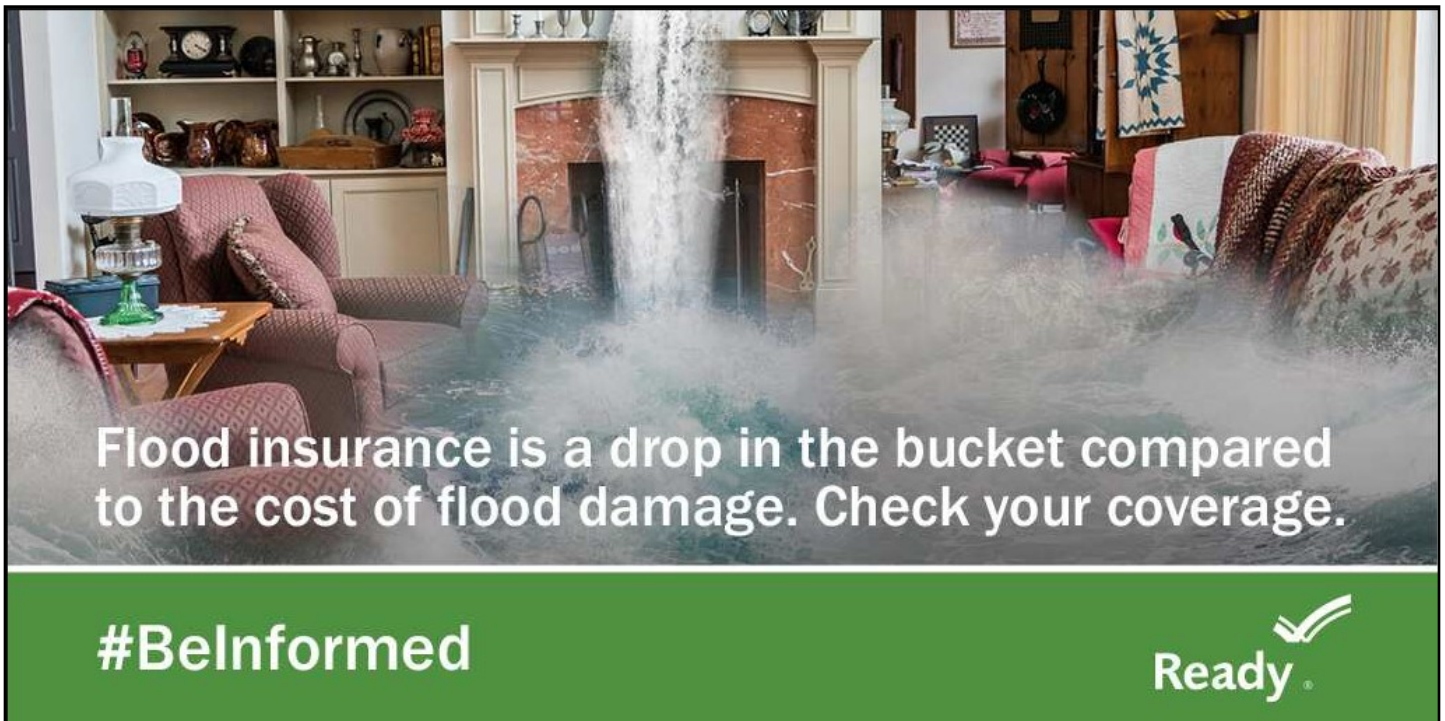


Spring and Flood Safety

Preparing for a Flood: (Cont'd)

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 \(NFIP\).](#)



Make a plan

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.

Spring and Flood Safety

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.

Spring and Flood Safety

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.

State-Sponsored Training Courses

Course	Date/s	Location
• Incident Tactical Dispatch	3/20-3/23/23	Sutton, WV
• WV- specific Auxiliary Communications Course	3/11- 3/12/23	Ripley, WV
• WV- specific Auxiliary Communications Course	3/25- 3/26/23	Raleigh County, WV
• WV- specific Auxiliary Communications Course	4/22- 4/23/23	Berkeley Springs, WV

To register for the above courses, go to the State's CourseMil training site.

The courses below are available by contacting Brent Burger at the email address listed below. They are available through Texas A & M Engineering Extension Service.

• Demystifying Cyber Attacks	4/4/23	Charleston, WV
• Cybersecurity Resiliency in Industrial Control Systems	4/5/23	Charleston, WV
• Demystifying Cyber Attacks	5/16/23	Morgantown, WV
• Cybersecurity Resiliency in Industrial Control Systems	5/17/23	Morgantown, WV

Please check the State's CourseMil site at <http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmaps/cm6> or contact Brent Burger at brent.a.burger@wv.gov with any questions in regards to these courses.

Upcoming Local Training

Course	Date/s	Location
• Amtrak Passenger Train Emergency Responder (PTER) Training 3-hour course 2 - separate classes will be offered - 1- daytime 1- evening	04/05/23	TBD

Online FEMA Training

FEMA offers a number of online courses at <https://training.fema.gov/emi.aspx>. From this training portal, anyone can take their online independent study courses for free. There are over a hundred courses to that are available. 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: 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-230: Fundamentals of Emergency Management

Course Description: The goal of this course is to provide all FEMA employees with basic information to prepare them for incident management and support activities. Additionally, this course will provide an overview of FEMA; introduce basic emergency management concepts; and provide a high-level look at how FEMA meets its mission.

Primary Audience: This entry-level course is designed for individuals new to the field of emergency management or persons with a desire to understand the fundamentals of emergency management.

Course Length: Approximately 6 hours

Course Link: [FEMA - Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\) Course | IS-230.E: Fundamentals of Emergency Management](#)

Disaster Exercise Series 2023

Typically, over the course of the year, a table top, a functional, and a full scale exercise will be held. An effective exercise program is an essential component of our preparedness as it validates our county emergency operations plan, tests operational plans and capabilities, maintains our leadership effectiveness, and examines ways to utilize the whole community. An exercise program management involves a collaborative approach that integrates all of our resource's, organizations, and individuals in order to identify gaps and achieve program priorities.

The WV Homeland Security Region 3 counties are now in the process of developing this years exercises in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. An Initial Planning Meeting in conjunction with the After Action Report/Improvement Plan for the 2022 exercise series is scheduled for Thursday, March 9th from 9AM until 1PM. This meeting will be an on-line meeting.

If your organization is interested in participating in the 2023 exercise series when it is scheduled, please contact Stephen Allen at sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org.



JCOHSEM 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, the 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. We are in the process of updating the plan at this time.

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



**Jefferson County Office
of Homeland Security and
Emergency Management**




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**PUBLIC SAFETY;
PUBLIC TRUST**



The Jefferson County Commission's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (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.

March 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.
- March 9—2022 / 2023 Exercise Series AAR/IP meeting (on-line) 9AM-1PM
- March 14—Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park's Mather Training Center.