

Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

#### July 2023

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# From the Director's Chair

Hello and welcome to our July 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 Fireworks Safety, Extreme Heat Safety, and Summer Flooding.

We also continue to have updates on the 2023 Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee meetings.

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

# **Fireworks Safety**



Every year, thousands of people are injured badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents, with many of the injuries to children and young adults. While the majority of these incidents are due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, homemade or other illegal fireworks or explosives, less powerful devices like small firecrackers and sparklers can also cause significant injuries. For more information, go to: Fireworks | CPSC.gov

# **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.
- 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.
- 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 <u>Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)</u> for help.



## Extreme Heat (Cont'd) 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.
- 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.

## **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 <u>CDC</u> and <u>National Weather Ser-</u><u>vice</u>.



# Extreme Heat 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

**If you suspect heat stroke,** call 9-1-1 or get the person to a hospital immediately. Cool down with whatever methods are available until medical help arrives. Do not give the person anything to drink.



### HEAT CRAMPS

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

# Extreme Heat Heat-Related Illnesses (cont'd)



### HEAT EXAUSTION

- 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)

You Can Help Prevent Hot Car Deaths (NHTSA)

Protective Actions Research for Extreme Heat

National Weather Service - Heat Illnesses

National Weather Service Heat Safety Tips and Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Extreme Heat

Warning Signs and Symptoms of Heat-Related Illness

National Integrated Heat Health Information System

## SUMMER FLOODS

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**

<u>Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center</u> to know types of flood risk in your area. Sign up for your community's warning system. The <u>Emergency Alert System (EAS)</u> and <u>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)</u> 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. <u>Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)</u>.

## SUMMER FLOODS (cont'd)

## Don't Let Flooding be an Unexpected Guest—Be Prepared with Flood Insurance

What if we told you that homeowner's insurance does not cover flood insurance? Homeowners may not know that homeowner's insurance does not cover flooding, purchasing a flood insurance policy can offset the costs of repair due to flooding.

An unexpected guest showing up on your doorstep is always a shock—even more so if that guest is flooding.

Every year, more homes and businesses experience flooding due to rising river levels. Riverine flooding is when the water from streams and rivers rises over its banks and spills out into nearby lowlying land—putting inland communities, including cities, at risk. This type of flooding is especially a risk as weather gets warmer due to the combination of increased rainfall and snowmelt.

FEMA offers flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Individuals can visit www.floodsmart.gov to learn more about the risks of riverine flooding, how flood insurance can offer financial protection and how to find a flood insurance agent. Combining flood insurance with low/no cost mitigation tactics, such as elevating utilities and safely storing important documents, will give you an advantage to protect you and your property from potential flooding during the spring riverine flooding season. It is crucial to be prepared, no matter if you're near or far from a river.

Visit floodsmart.gov/rivers to learn more about the risks of riverine flooding, how to assess your flood risk, learn about flooding damage mitigation and find resources to share among your community.

Buy flood insurance and give yourself the peace of mind you need to protect your home or business. Visit www.floodsmart.gov and find an agent today.

## Preparing for a Flood (cont'd)

<u>Make a plan</u> for your household, including <u>your pets</u>, 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.

## SUMMER FLOODS (cont'd)

## 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 <u>asthma and other lung conditions and/or immune suppression</u> 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.

## **SUMMER FLOODS** (cont'd)

## **Associated Content**

- <u>Flood Information Sheet</u> (PDF)
- Protective Actions Research for Flood
- National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- Flood Safety Social Media Toolkit
- National Weather Service Weather Ready Nation Spring Safety Outreach Materials
- Flood Insurance Facts
- Six Things to Know Before a Disaster (Video)
- <u>When the Cloud Forms</u> (Video)
- How to Prepare for a Flood File A Flood Insurance Claim
- Your Homeowners Insurance Does Not Cover Flood (PDF)
- American Red Cross



## Jefferson County 2023 Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Natural and man-made hazards may cause loss of life, property loss, and threats to public health and safety. During a disaster event, essential services including access to healthcare, fire/EMS, utilities, etc., may be affected. A hazard mitigation plan is maintained to serve as guidance to emergency management professionals.

The purpose of a hazard mitigation plan is to:

- (1) Increase awareness around threats and vulnerabilities;
- (2) Build partnerships for risk reduction;
- (3) Identify long-term strategies for risk reduction;
- (4) Align risk reduction with state and community objectives; and
- (5) Identify approaches that focus resources on greatest risk and vulnerability.

#### Work done to date

Jefferson County OHSEM hosted an Internal Planning Team kick-off meeting on May 5, 2023. During this meeting, the team reviewed the Hazard Mitigation Planning process, as well as changes to the planning process promoted by FEMA's release of updated planning guidance. Additionally, the team discussed scheduling of HMC meetings and public outreach options.

The Hazard Mitigation Committee Kick-Off Meeting was held on May 24, from 2:30 – 4:00PM in person and virtually at the Hospice of the Panhandle 330 Hospice Ln, Kearneysville, WV. Invitations were sent to each municipality, county departments and community stakeholders. During this meeting the Planning Team introduced the project to local municipality representatives and community agency representatives. This included informing them of the plan update process, schedule, and the evaluation of hazards and risks within the county. Meeting attendees were asked to fill out a hazard identification & risk assessment worksheet, a community capacity assessment worksheet, and a third worksheet that addressed equity and social vulnerability.

- Work on the production of the plan has been ongoing and the following sections are either complete or are near completion, and needing a quality control review: Introduction, and Community Profile.
- Documentation of the Planning Process is also ongoing and the planning team has documented the steps that were taken to finalize the membership of the Hazard Mitigation Committee and document committee meetings that have been held to date.
- Work on the Risk Assessment Section has also begun, drafts have been completed for the Flood, Dam, Earthquake, and Hazardous Material hazards.
- Substantial progress has also been made on the following hazards: Drought, Extreme Temperatures, Invasive Species, Land Subsidence, Severe Thunderstorm & Hail, and Severe Winter Storms.

#### Work to be completed by next quarter

- Continue documenting the planning process and the results of the Risk Assessment meeting that scheduled for June 27.
- Continue work on updating natural and manmade hazards and finalize the Risk Assessment Section.
- Begin reviewing County and local jurisdiction plans that will provide information that will be applied to the Capability Assessment Section. Specific attention will be on existing and possible ways to integrate planning opportunities.
- Prepare for the third Hazard Mitigation Committee Meeting that will focus on mitigation strategies for July 26 at the Ranson Civic Center starting at 11AM.



## **Please Participate!**

The **Hazard Mitigation Plan** forms the foundation for Jefferson County and its municipalities' longterm strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. The purpose of this plan is to identify, plan, and implement cost-effective hazard mitigation measures through a comprehensive approach known as hazard mitigation planning. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires hazard mitigation plans to be updated every five years.

To that end, updates to the Jefferson County 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan are underway. Jefferson County's Office Of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCOHSEM) is the lead agency for this plan effort. Therefore, JCOHSEM is seeking input on stakeholder's concerns regarding hazards. This survey is being used to collect your insight and perspective on hazards identified in the plan.

The survey consists of 21 questions and will take an average of 10 minutes or less to complete.

We thank you sincerely for your time.



Use the survey link or the QR Code!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YFSNLX7

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YFSNLX7



## **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
٠	WV Air-Scent Canine Seminar	7/21-23/23	Braxton County
٠	ICS 300	7/25-27/23	Morgantown, ŴV
٠	Land Navigation w/Map, Compass, and Search Tech	7/28-30/23	Summersville, WV
٠	ICS 300	7/31-8/2/23	Beckley, WV
	MGT 417 Crisis Mgmt for School-Based Incidents	8/8-9/23	Braxton County
٠	AWR 392 FEMA Lifelines, Logistics, and Supply Chain	8/23/23	Charleston, WV

To register for the above courses, contact Brent Burger at brent.a.burger@wv.gov or phone number (304) 414-4605 Office or (304) 941-9532 Cell with any questions in regards to these courses.

### **Upcoming Local Training**

	Course	Date/s	Location
•	Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	8/16/23	JCESA
٠	Community First Aid	8/23/23	JCESA
٠	Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	9/20/23	JCESA
٠	Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	10/18/23	JCESA
٠	Community First Aid	10/25/23	JCESA
٠	Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	11/15/23	JCESA
•	Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	12/13/23	JCESA

All classes are being held at the Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency (JCESA) located at 419 Sixteenth Avenue, Ranson, WV 25438

## FEMA On-line Training

FEMA offers a number of online courses at <u>https://training.fema.gov/emi.aspx</u>. 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: <u>FEMA - Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Course | IS-100.C: Introduction to</u> <u>the Incident Command System, ICS 100</u>

## **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 county commissioners, mayors, city managers, and county managers.

Course Length: 1 hour Course Link: <u>FEMA - Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Course | IS-908: Emergency Management for Senior Officials</u>

# Disaster Exercise Series 2023 Functional Exercise will be held in September

The "Grid Lock" Table Top exercise was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 in Jefferson County at the Ranson Civic Center. All 7 WV Homeland Security Region 3 (WV HSR3) counties plus Pendleton County met and set up their Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) at various locations within the facility.

The scenario consisted of a group known as the Ministers of Death and Destruction (MODAD) has threatened to deploy MODAD soldiers to infiltrate the infrastructure of West Virginia. MODAD has issued an ultimatum to the Governor of the State of West Virginia and each of the County Commissioners listing their demands. The exercise included various emergency management agencies from the regions counties and municipalities and also included representatives from law enforcement, EMS, fire service, hazmat, hospitals, nursing homes, community agencies, and USEPA Region 3.

The Functional Exercise will be held on September 6. The location will be announced at a later date.





# **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 <u>sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org</u> 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 Kearneysville, WV 25430



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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 welcomed. 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 2023 Meetings & Events

- National Weather Service Sterling calls, every Monday and Thursday -10:30AM
- WV State weather calls, on Mondays and Fridays—10AM
- WV Emergency Management Council calls each Tuesday 9AM
- July 3/4 Independence Day State/County holiday Office closed
- July 6 Hazard Mitigation bi-weekly meeting 11AM on-line
- July 6 Monthly AARL Amateur Radio Emergency Network Testing 6PM
- July 20 Hazard Mitigation bi-weekly meeting 11AM on-line
- July 26 Monthly HazMit Planning Team meeting Ranson Civic Center 11AM-3PM