



From the Director's Chair

Welcome to the December 2024 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.

Welcome Stephen Rivera

Stephen Rivera joins the JCOHSEM team as the Public Affairs Coordinator (PAC). He will also be available as the PAC for the County Commission and other county departments as needed. He will enhance communication between departments, foster community connections, and support the Commission's mission to serve the residents of Jefferson County effectively.

Stephen is a local resident and a recent graduate of Shepherd University, where he earned both a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and an MBA in Public Management. He was also recognized with Shepherd University's highest academic honor, the McMurrin Scholar Award.



"I am excited and humbled for the opportunity to serve Jefferson County," said Stephen "I look forward to continuing the relationships between county departments and connecting with the local community."

We look forward to seeing the positive impact he will have. Welcome to the team Stephen!

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](#).



**PROTECT YOUR LEGACY
AND RESOLVE TO BE READY**



- 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 #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 #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 #ResolveToBeReady
- Assemble supplies for a “go-bag” you can carry if you need to evacuate www.ready.gov/evacuation #ResolveToBeReady #PrepTips
- Make a portable emergency kit for your car 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 #FinancialFuture
- 48% of people have an emergency fund, which gives them the savings to overcome simple emergencies. 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 #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 #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 #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

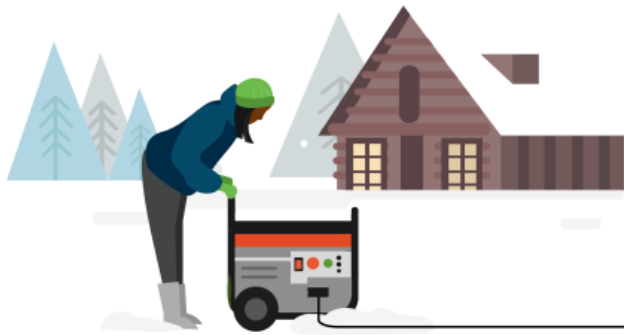
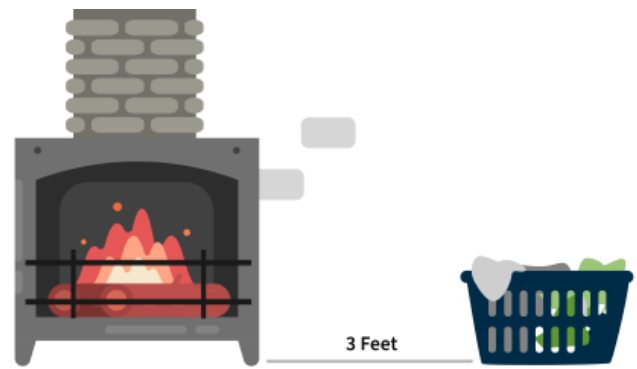
Issued for accumulations of snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and sleet which will cause significant inconveniences and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to life-threatening situations.

WINTER STORM WATCH	WINTER STORM WARNING
A Winter Storm Watch is issued when heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain is possible.	A Winter Storm Warning is issued when heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain is expected.
Be prepared to adjust travel plans in case a Warning is issued.	Travel will become dangerous. Delay or adjust travel plans until conditions improve.
Be Prepared.	Take Action!

NOAA weather.gov

Preventing House Heating Fires

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from all heat sources including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, portable heaters or candles.
- Always plug space heaters directly into an outlet, and make sure its cord isn't damaged or frayed.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected each year by a professional.
- Visit the U.S. Fire Administration [Home Fires page](#) to learn about how to prepare for and prevent home fires including tips for [individuals with disabilities](#) and [older adults](#).



Preparing for Power Outages

- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed. 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 you use a generator, **ONLY** use it outdoors and away from windows.
 - Do not use a gas stove or oven to heat your home.
 - Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.
 - Have alternate plans for refrigerating medicines or using power-dependent medical devices.
- Go to a community location with power if cold is extreme and you can't heat your home.

On the Road

- Make sure your vehicle is in good working condition before you travel.
- Keep your gas tank as full as you can. A full tank will also keep the fuel line from freezing.
- Install good winter tires and make sure they have enough tread, or any chains or studs required in your local area.
- When driving, [increase your following distance](#) from 3-4 seconds to 5-6 seconds. It takes longer to slow down and stop on icy roads.
- Every vehicle should have an [emergency supply kit](#) in the trunk. Kits should be checked every six months and expired items should be replaced regularly.
- Keep family and emergency phone numbers, including your auto insurance provider and a towing company in your phone.



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.



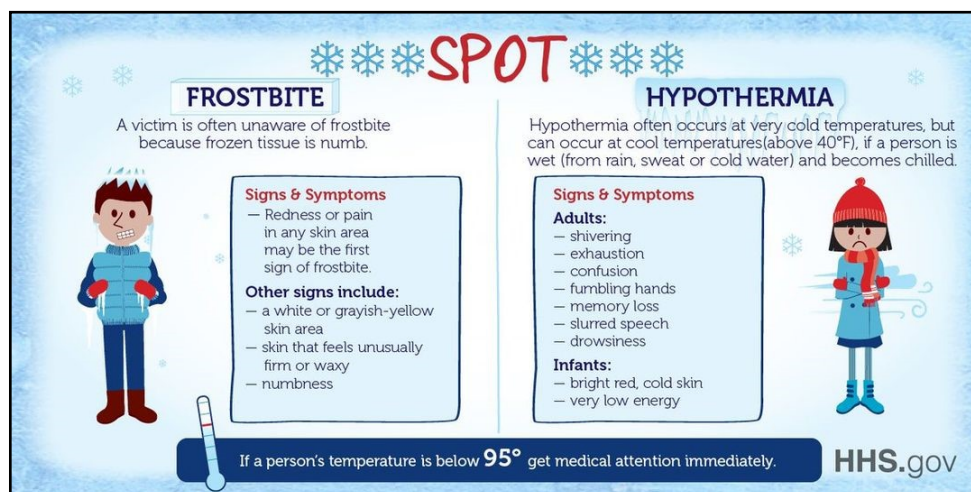
Stay Safe During Winter Weather



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.



SPOT

FROSTBITE
A victim is often unaware of frostbite because frozen tissue is numb.

Signs & Symptoms

- Redness or pain in any skin area may be the first sign of frostbite.

Other signs include:

- a white or grayish-yellow skin area
- skin that feels unusually firm or waxy
- numbness

HYPOTHERMIA
Hypothermia often occurs at very cold temperatures, but can occur at cool temperatures (above 40°F), if a person is wet (from rain, sweat or cold water) and becomes chilled.

Signs & Symptoms

Adults:

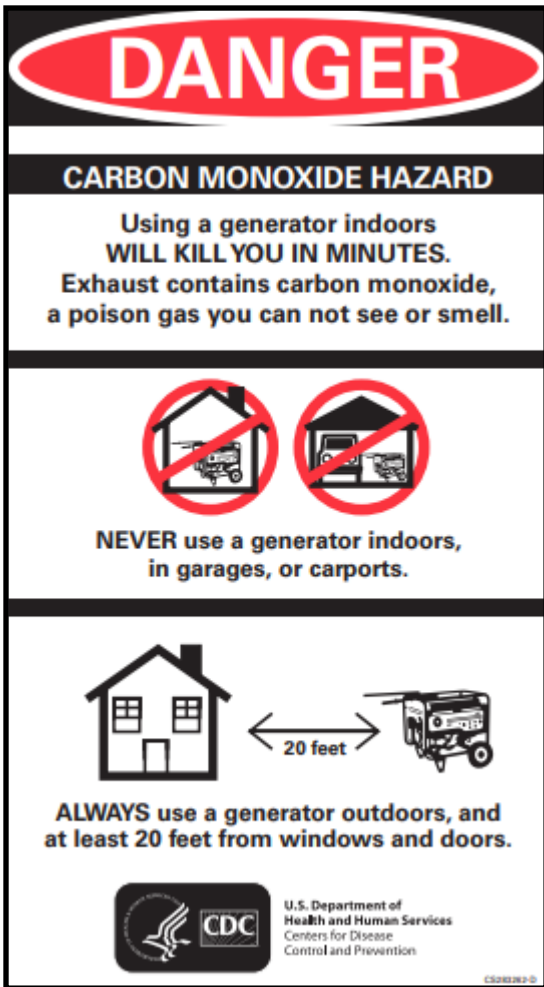
- shivering
- exhaustion
- confusion
- fumbling hands
- memory loss
- slurred speech
- drowsiness

Infants:

- bright red, cold skin
- very low energy

If a person's temperature is below **95°** get medical attention immediately.

HHS.gov



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*.

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.

Holiday Fire Safety

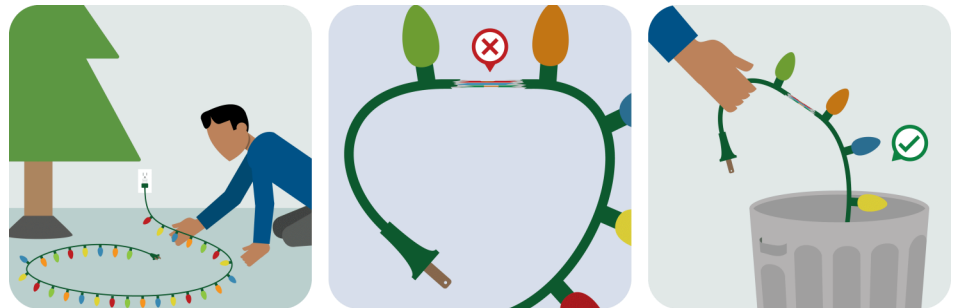
📌 The top three days of the year for home candle fires are Christmas, New Year's Day, and New Year's Eve.

Decorating homes and businesses is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase your community's chances of a fire.

- Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light stands to connect.
- Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles.
- Inspect holiday lights each year before you put them up. Throw away light strands with frayed or pinched wires.
- Get rid of your Christmas tree when it is dry.
- Water your Christmas tree every day. A dry Christmas tree can burn very hot and very fast.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns. Make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be knocked down easily.
- Make sure your tree is at least 3 feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.

Did you know:
Almost one-third of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.

Inspect holiday lights each year before you put them on your tree. Throw away light strands with frayed or



Always unplug Christmas tree lights before going to bed or leaving your home.

Holiday Online Shopping Safety

The holiday season is a prime time for hackers, scammers, and online thieves. While millions of Americans will be online looking for the best gifts and Cyber Monday deals, hackers will be looking to take advantage of unsuspecting shoppers by searching for weaknesses in their devices or internet connections or attempting to extract personal and financial information through fake websites or charities.

The best defense against these threats is awareness. There are a few simple steps we all can take to be more secure before and after we shop.

Tip #1: Check Your Devices

- **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.



Tip #2: Use Safe Methods For Purchasing

- 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.



Tip #3: Use Safe Methods For Purchasing

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.



If you can, use a credit card as opposed to a debit card. There are laws to limit your liability for fraudulent credit card charges, but you may not have the same level of protection for your debit cards. Additionally, because a debit card draws money directly from your bank account, unauthorized charges could leave you with insufficient funds to pay other bills. Also use a credit card when using a payment gateway such as PayPal, Google Wallet, or Apple Pay.



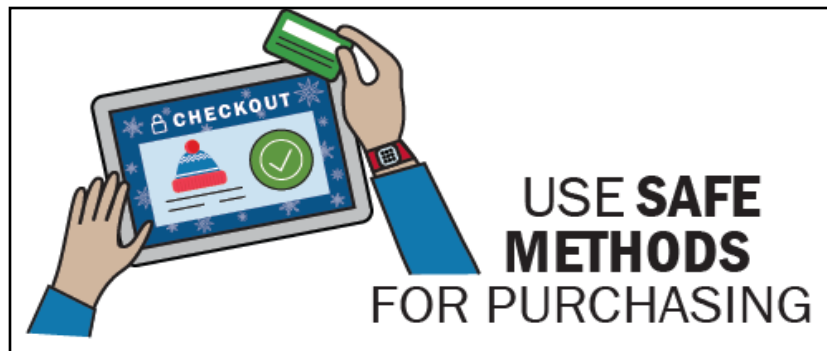
You'll likely make more purchases over the holiday season, be sure to check your credit card and bank statements for any fraudulent charges frequently. Immediately notify your bank or financial institution.



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: cisa.gov/uscirt/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

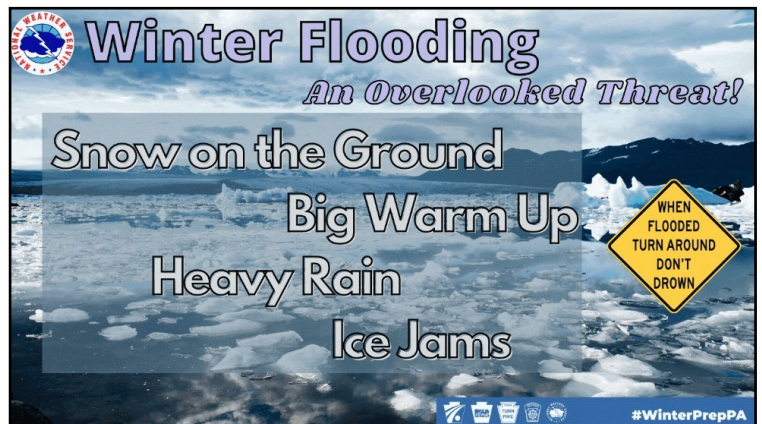
Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies. Protect your property. Move valuables to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.

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.

State-Sponsored Training

Course	Date	Location
Wilderness First Aid	12/03-04/25	Kanawha County
Drones for First Responders	12/09-12/25	Charleston PD
Drones for First Responders	01/13-16/25	WV State Police Hdqtrs.
Lake CISM Training	03/11/25	Pendleton County

To register, contact Brent Burger at brent.burger@wv.gov or call 304-414-4605 with any questions in regards to these classes.

Upcoming Local Training

Course	Date	Location
Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	12/10/24	JCESA
Child and Babysitting Safety	12/12/24	JCESA
Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	01/14/25	JCESA
Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	02/11/25	JCESA
Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	03/11/25	JCESA

All classes are being held at the Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency (JCESA) located at 419 Sixteenth Avenue, Ranson, WV 25438 @ 6:00 pm.

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](#)

Online FEMA Training

***Newly Added**

IS-101.C: Preparing for Federal Disaster Operations: FEMA

Course Overview: This course is designed to help prepare participants for deployment to a domestic incident. Responding to incidents requires that we must be ready, willing, and able to deploy at a moment's notice. This course provides personnel with practical tips and advice for incident deployment.

Primary Audience: This course is designed for FEMA employees who deploy to domestic incidents. It is suggested that personnel who have not completed the IS-700 and IS-800b courses do so before completing this course.

Course Length: 1.5 hours

Course Link: [FEMA - Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\) Course | IS-101.C: Preparing for Federal Disaster Operations: FEMA](#)

IS-245.C: Introduction to the Federal Priorities and Allocations System

Course Overview: This course introduces the Federal Priorities and Allocations System (FPAS), a regulation to help ensure the priority performance of contracts and orders for the timely delivery of critical materials and services to meet program requirements. The course describes how the FPAS supports the FEMA mission.

Primary Audience: The audience for this course consists of: Heads of DHS Components or associated agencies ("Delegated Senior Officials" or "DSOs") who have been delegated authority by the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to direct use of priority ratings in contracts and orders supporting eligible programs. "Authorized Component Officials" or "ACOs" authorized by DSOs to direct use of priority ratings in contracts and orders supporting eligible programs. DHS Component or associated agency FPAS Officers appointed to advise interested parties on the usages of the Defense Production Act authorities. Other personnel involved in program execution, such as anyone interested in learning more about the FPAS, such as contracting officers/specialists and contractors

Course Length: 1 hours

Course Link: [FEMA - Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\) Course | IS-245.C: Introduction to the Federal Priorities and Allocations System](#)

IS-247.C: Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) for Alert Originators

Course Overview: The goal of this course is to equip authorized public safety officials with a foundational understanding of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) and to provide the essential knowledge and skills to create appropriate, effective and accessible alert and warning messages.

Primary Audience: The audience for this course is alert originators who may consist of emergency managers, law enforcement officials, fire department personnel, dispatch personnel (911), National Weather Service (NWS) personnel and other authorized centers (according to a State's EAS plan, State emergency plan, AMBER Plan/AMBER Alert).

Course Length: 2 hours

Course Link: [FEMA - Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\) Course | IS-247.C: Integrated Public Alert and Warning System \(IPAWS\) for Alert Originators](#)

Online FEMA Training

***Newly Added**

IS-251.B: Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) for Alerting Administrators

Course Overview: This course provides information on the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) for Alerting Administrators. The goal of this course is to provide guidance to those becoming authorized Alerting Administrators for IPAWS by:

- Developing effective policies, plans, and procedures
- Defining the approval process
- Defining the importance of training, practice, and exercising with IPAWS
- Illustrating best practices and effective use of IPAWS to reach members of the public

The learner must achieve a minimum passing score of 75% on final knowledge assessments or demonstrate mastery on performance assessments or research assignments to earn the IACET CEU.

Primary Audience: Alerting Administrators

Course Length: 1.5 hours

Course Link: [FEMA - Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\) Course | IS-251.B: Integrated Public Alert and Warning System \(IPAWS\) for Alerting Administrators](#)

IS-871.B: Dams Sector: Security Awareness

Course Overview: Dams Sector: Security Awareness is the second course in the Dams Sector Web-based Training Series. The purpose of this series of courses is to provide owners, operators, and others with responsibilities associated with the Dams Sector with information to understand security risk, view examples of security and protective measures to address risk, and respond effectively to security incidents.

This course explains how security awareness is an important component of an overall risk management program. It provides owners, operators, and the response community with information about the factors contributing to security in the Dams Sector, how the components of security risk relate to sector assets, and the principles of suspicious activity reporting.

Primary Audience: All Dams Sector facility owners and operators and the response community supporting dam facilities, with emphasis on those seeking the fundamentals of the security awareness elements of a risk management program. Note: This course is designated For Official Use Only.

Course Length: 5 hours

Course Link: [FEMA - Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\) Course | IS-871.B: Dams Sector: Security Awareness](#)

IS-1300.A: Introduction to Continuity

Course Overview: This course is intended to lay the foundation of knowledge for students who wish to increase their understanding of continuity and how continuity can improve their organization and overall community.

Primary Audience: Whole Community

Course Length: 1 hour

Course Link: [FEMA - Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\) Course | IS-1300.A: Introduction to Continuity](#)

Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management-Committees

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. The plan was approved by FEMA in December 2023 and pending approval by the Jefferson County Commission and all five municipalities.

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
Homeland Security and
Emergency Management

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STAFF

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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; and Counter Terrorism.

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 10:30a.m.
- WV State weather calls on Mondays and Fridays at 10a.m.
- WV Amateur Radio Network Test Thursday, December 1 at 6:00p.m.
- The Counter-Terrorism Committee meeting on December 10 at the JCHSEM EOC at 2:00p.m.
- The JCOHSEM Steering Committee meeting on December 19 at the JCHSEM EOC at 2:00p.m.
- Jefferson County Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting on December 18 at Hospice of the Panhandle, 330 Hospice Lane, Kearneysville, WV. Meeting starts at 8:15a.m.