



September 2023

Jefferson County Commission

Steve Stolipher, President
Vacant, Vice President
Tricia Jackson
Jennifer Krouse
Jane M. Tabb

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

John Sherwood, Chair, Chamber of
Commerce Representative
Ed Smith, Vice Chair, Fire and Rescue
Representative
Donald Grubb, Health Representative
Jesse Hott, Mass Care Representative
Paula Marrone-Reese,
Non-Governmental
Organization Representative
Mason Carter, Jefferson County
Department of Engineering
Representative
Jeffrey A. Polezynski, ENP, Jefferson
County Emergency Communications
Center Representative
Tricia Jackson, County Commission
Representative
Kelly Parsons, Private Industry
Representative
Thomas H. Hansen, Sheriff, Law
Enforcement Representative
Thomas Butcher, Utilities Representative
Lyn Goodwin, Jefferson County
Development Authority Representative
Holly Morgan Frye, Shepherd
University, V. P. for Student Affairs,
Education Representative
Sanford "Sandy" Green, Region 3
Homeland Security Area Liaison

JCOHSEM Staff

Stephen S. Allen, Director
Dick Myers, Deputy Director/ Planner/
Program Manager
VACANT, Administrative
Assistant/Public Information Officer/
Volunteer Coordinator

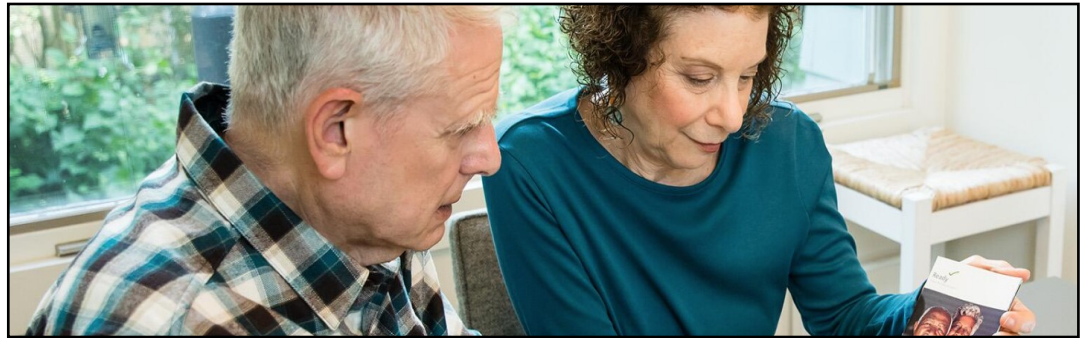
From the Director's Chair

Hello and welcome to our September 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 theme: National Preparedness Month.

We also continue to have updates on the 2023 Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee meetings, the Jefferson County Fair, and the upcoming "GridLock" regional exercise.

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



National Preparedness Month Take Control in 1, 2, 3

The Ready Campaign's 2023 National Preparedness Month theme is "Take Control in 1, 2, 3". The campaign's focus is on preparing older adults for disasters, specifically older adults from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the all-hazard events, which continue to threaten the nation.

We know older adults can face greater risks when it comes to the multitude of extreme weather events and emergencies we now face, especially if they are living alone, are low-income, have a disability, or live in rural areas.

For more information, and to access the new webpage available in English and Spanish languages at [Ready.gov/older-adults](https://www.ready.gov/older-adults) and [Ready.gov/es/adultos-mayores](https://www.ready.gov/es/adultos-mayores). For more information on preparing with people with disabilities visit [Ready.gov/disability](https://www.ready.gov/disability) or [Ready.gov/es/discapacidad](https://www.ready.gov/es/discapacidad) in Spanish.

Jefferson County Fair 2023

The 2023 Jefferson County Fair was a success! Each year JCOHSEM helps coordinate the volunteers to staff our Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) booth. During this event we engaged the community in preparedness discussions and handed out preparedness materials and provided explanations of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update and survey. Disaster preparedness is crucial in mitigating the effects and hazards disasters have on individuals, families, and our community. We thank all of our volunteer representative from the various disciplines in our Local Emergency Planning Committee for coming out to staff the booth this year. This year we had two giveaways, one was a cat bed donated by the Jefferson County Animal Welfare Society and the other prize was a “go” bag made up of first aid and safety equipment from our stock of supplies. The winners were Toni Milbourne and Denise Force.



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.

Third Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee Meeting (in person) - July 26 from 1PM to 4PM

The focus of this meeting was to have the committee members review and update plan goals, review mitigation actions and add new actions, and develop specific project sheets. Committee members were then asked to review the 2018 hazard mitigation plan goals. The groups were instructed to keep remove or modify existing goals and add new goals.

2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan Goals:

GOAL 1: Improve communication resiliency through planning, partnerships, and infrastructure development.

GOAL 2: Enhance resiliency of county and municipal water resources to reduce flood damage by limiting development in floodplains, effectively managing stormwater, and reducing the possibility of source water contamination.

GOAL 3: Promote all-hazards preparedness, awareness, education, and training to the public, responders, and officials.

GOAL 4: Reduce the vulnerability of populations by creating and integrating programs and projects that are designed to reduce hazards in risk areas.

GOAL 5: Promote hazard mitigation as a local community value in recognition of its importance to the health, safety, and welfare of the population

GOAL 6: Improve operating systems and backup servers to enhance cyber security measures.

GOAL 7: Enhance hazardous materials response planning and response operations.

A total of seventy three (73) mitigation action from the 2018 plan were evaluated during this workshop. Committee members had the opportunity to review each action and determine if it should be carried over into the 2023 plan. Committee members reported top action items and whether or not they added any new mitigation projects. Fourteen (14) new action items were developed during the workshop.

Following the workshop, an online prioritization survey was provided to HMPC members to determine “high”, “medium”, and “low” priority projects. Results of this survey indicated six “high” priority mitigation projects. High priority projects include the following:

Project 4: Snow Removal MOU and Debris Management Plan

Project 5: Dark Grid Training & Exercises

Project 13: Citizen Preparedness Training and Outreach

Project 14: Hazard Materials Response Plan and Training

Draft Plan Review & Public Open House - August 29 from 1PM to 5PM

The purpose of this final HMPC meeting was to provide general findings in the Jefferson County draft plan. The meeting was an open house format where committee members were provided a briefing on the results of the mitigation strategy workshop for both County-wide projects and municipal specific priority projects. Results of the public survey were presented and compared to how committee members rated hazards and capabilities. During the meeting committee members were able reviewed an electronic copy of the draft plan and a question-and-answer period was used to gain feedback on plan details, process and next steps.

The committee determined that a 2-week review period should be allowed for members to provide comment and feedback on the final draft plan. A draft version of the plan will be circulated to committee members during the first week of September and comments collected and discussed on a September 18 virtual meeting. The meeting space was then opened to the public for a 3-hour period, during which a running slide show summarizing the elements of the plan, committee meetings and results of the plan played and large hazard maps were displayed for the public to view.

Public input was also solicited through an online **hazard mitigation survey** composed by Jefferson County and disseminated on Jefferson County agency websites. The survey collected demographic data of respondents, had respondents assess hazard risks, asked for mitigation action ideas, and gauged respondents’ participation in public hazard mitigation efforts. About 56 residents participated, a large increase from the 2018 survey. Participants were most concerned about utility interruption, hazardous materials, and severe thunderstorms. Hazards that were rated as lowest concern included landslide, dam failure, and earthquake. Most participants felt that their county and municipality ability to handle a hazard event was average. Overall, residents agreed that cell phone alerts are the most effective way for the community to alert and advise them during a hazard event.

Participants were most concerned with not having access to clean water, not having electrical power for extended time, not having police or fire protection, not having access to medical services and required medicine, and not being able to get warning messages or other information regarding the hazard.

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
• Pipeline Security for Rural Communities	9/8	Charleston, WV
• Railcar Incident Response for Flammable liquids	9/9-10	Charleston, WV
• Pipeline Security for Rural Communities	9/21	Martinsburg, WV
• Railcar Incident Response for Flammable Liquids	9/22-23	Martinsburg, WV
• PER 340 Active Threat Integrated Response	9/26-28	Charleston, WV
• Pipeline Security for Rural Communities	9/28	Princeton, WV
• Railcar Incident Response for Flammable Liquids	9/29-30	Princeton, 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	9/20/23	JCESA
• Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	10/18/23	JCESA
• Community First Aid	10/25/23	JCESA
• 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 <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-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: [FEMA - Emergency Management Institute \(EMI\) Course | IS-908: Emergency Management for Senior Officials](#)

Disaster Exercise Series 2023

Functional Exercise will be held September 6

The Functional Exercise will be held on Wednesday, 6 September 2023 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM EDT at the Hope Christian Church, 15338 Northwestern Turnpike, Augusta, WV, 26704.

This is the second phase of our 2023 regional exercise program. The 'GridLock' scenario is based upon terrorist attacks on local electrical substations and water treatment plants that take down power for large sections of the region, while dumping toxic transformer coolants on the ground and releasing chlorine in the air. Multiple challenges spanning the list of Emergency Support Functions - <https://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nrf/nrf-esf-intro.pdf> - from law enforcement, to hazmat containment and clean-up, to mass care and beyond, come into play.

This will be a challenge for emergency management, LE, fire and EMS, along with all the other stakeholders in the community.

This will be a Functional Exercise. As events unfold within each module, all phone calls, text messages, radio traffic and other communications will be executed, based upon the injects and your Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Short of putting boots on the ground, this will be as real as it gets.

Lunch will be provided.

To register, contact Sandy Green at sanford.h.green@wv.gov or call (304) 807-5135.



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**

**28 Industrial Blvd., Suite 101
Kearneysville, WV 25430**



STAFF

Stephen Allen, Director

Office: 304-728-3290

Email: sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org

Dick Myers, Deputy Director, Planner,
Program Manager

Office: 304-728-3329

Email: dmyers@jeffersoncountywv.org

VACANT, Public Affairs Coordinator

Office: 304-724-8914

Email:

**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 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.

September 2023 Meetings & Events

- WV State weather calls, on Mondays and Fridays—10AM
- National Weather Service - Sterling calls, every Monday and Thursday -10:30AM
- WV Emergency Management Council calls every other Tuesday - 9AM
- September 6 - GridLock Regional Exercise - Augusta, WV - 9AM - 3PM
- September 7 - Monthly AARL Amateur Radio Emergency Network Testing - 6PM
- September 12 - Monthly Counter-Terrorism Committee meeting - EOC - 2PM
- September 14 - Hazard Mitigation Team bi-weekly meeting - on-line - 11AM
- September 15 - Regional Collaborative meeting NQS/EMPG/LEPC - Romney
- September 20 - First Responder meeting with DoH - Rt. 340 Detour – Ranson Civic Center - 10:30AM
- September 28 - Hazard Mitigation Team bi-weekly meeting - on-line - 11AM