

March 2025

Monthly Newsletter



**JEFFERSON COUNTY WV
OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY
& EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

From the Director's Chair

Hello and welcome to the March 2025 edition of the Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's newsletter.

This newsletter contains information about various topics including this month's READY.GOV "It's Not Luck" Campaign, News in our Office, and Flood Safety.

We hope you find the topics this month informative and helpful.



NEWS

Help Us Name This Newsletter!

We are calling on your creativity! The Monthly Newsletter is looking for a fresh new name, and we want YOU to be a part of it. If you have a clever, catchy, or unique name in mind send it our way. The newsletter goes out every month, covering essential preparedness tips, available training, upcoming meetings, and important news from our office.

Submit your name ideas to srivera@jeffersoncountywv.org, and you could see your suggestion featured as the official name of our newsletter. We look forward to hearing your ideas!

Region 3 Quarterly LEPC Meeting - February 21, 2025

On February 21, 2025, the Region 3 Quarterly Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting took place in Moorefield, WV, with representatives from Jefferson County, WV in attendance.

During the meeting, Tony Domingo, Assistant Section Chief for Preparedness and Response at West Virginia Emergency Management, led a detailed discussion on the baseline requirements for LEPCs.

Additionally, Andy Teter, Supervisor of the WVEMD Integrated Flood Observing and Warning System (IFLOWS), presented valuable information on how counties can install additional stream gauges to enhance local flood monitoring and response capabilities.

What is the LEPC?

One primary role of the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) is Community Right to Know, which involves emergency response plans, managing Tier II and Extremely Hazardous Substances reports from industry and disclosure to citizens on request.



NEWS

What is the LEPC? (continued...)

The Jefferson County LEPC interacts, informs, and assists the public in understanding the Community Right to Know Act. For more information on the Community Right to Know Act [Click Here](#).

The other primary role is in Emergency Planning. Planning includes information and facilities training for first responders who are called upon to protect the public in the event of a hazardous materials incident.

Some examples of this planning include the County's Hazardous Material Response Plan, Propane Risk Assessment projects, a Tier II and Extremely Hazardous Substances Study, and Commodity Flow Studies.

The LEPC also sponsors public awareness activities such as an informational booth at the Jefferson County Fair.

The Jefferson County LEPC member organizations take part in annual exercises to validate our Emergency response Plan as well as to identify gaps in our response capabilities.



It's Not Luck!

Don't leave disaster prep to chance - start preparing now.



Know the *RISKS* for the area where you live.

Make a *PLAN* to lessen the impact of those risks.

Build a kit to be *READY* for disasters and emergencies.



1) Put a plan together by discussing the questions below with you family, friends or household to start your emergency plan.

- How will I receive [emergency alerts and warnings](#)?
- What is my [shelter](#) plan?
- What is my [evacuation](#) route?
- What is my [family/household communication plan](#)?
- Do I need to update my [emergency preparedness kit](#)?



**It's Not Luck.
It's Being
Prepared.**

Ready

2) Consider specific needs in your household.

- As you prepare your plan tailor your plans and supplies to your specific daily living needs and responsibilities. Discuss your needs and responsibilities and how people in the network can assist each other with communication, care of children, business, pets or specific needs like operating medical equipment. Create your own personal network for specific areas where you need assistance.

3) Create a family Emergency Plan: [CLICK HERE](#)

Flood Preparedness

If you are under a Flood Warning:

- Find Shelter right away
- Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters
- Depending on the type of flood:
 - Evacuate if told to do so
 - Move to higher ground
 - Stay where you are



Stay Safe During a Flood



- Evacuate immediately, if told to evacuate.
- Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions regarding flooding.
- 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.

Stay Safe After a Flood:

- Pay attention to authorities for information and instructions. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Wear heavy work gloves, protective clothing and boots during clean up and use appropriate face coverings or masks if cleaning [mold or other debris](#).
- 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.



Flood Preparedness

Flood Hazard Awareness: “Turn Around, Don’t Drown!”

- Floods are the second greatest weather-related hazard and cause of death.
- Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.
- Remember, just six inches of moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Flooding doesn’t just happen near the ocean or near a river – many urban and suburban areas in our Region are flood prone.



Severe Weather Awareness: “When thunder roars, go indoors.”

- At the first sign of thunder in your area stop all outdoor activity and seek shelter within a substantial building or hard-topped vehicle.
- Wait 30 minutes after the storm to resume activity.

Evacuation and Shelter Awareness: “Hide from the wind, run from the water.”

- If told to seek shelter or evacuate, do so without delay.
- Planning is vital to making sure that you can evacuate quickly and safely. Know how you will leave and where you will go if needed.
- If advised to shelter in place, bring your family and pets inside. If possible, go into an interior room with few windows. Pay attention to local media outlets for official news and instructions as they become available.



Flood Preparedness

**3 SIMPLE STEPS FOR
FLASH FLOOD SAFETY**


During a flood, water levels and the rate at which the water is flowing can quickly change. Remain aware and monitor local radio and television.

1 GET TO HIGHER GROUND
Get out of the areas subject to Flooding

2 DO NOT DRIVE INTO WATER
Do NOT drive or walk into flooded areas. It only takes 6" of water to knock you off your feet.

3 STAY INFORMED
Monitor local radar, television, weather radio, internet or social media for updates.

WHEN FLOODED
TURN AROUND
DON'T
DROWN

 weather.gov/flood

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 \(NFIP\)](#).

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.

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



Flood Preparedness

Steps to Minimize Flood Loss

Minimize your potential losses from flooding by taking the following steps:

- **Elevate and anchor utilities**
 - ⇒ Elevate and anchor your critical utilities, including electrical panels, propane tanks, sockets, wiring, appliances, and heating systems.
- **Waterproof your basement**
 - ⇒ Install a water alarm and maintain a working sump pump to protect your basement. Install a battery-operated backup pump in case of power failure.
- **Clear debris from gutters**
 - ⇒ Make sure that you clear any debris from gutters and downspouts to avoid an accumulation of water.
- **Elevate or move your furniture**
 - ⇒ When flooding is predicted or imminent, move furniture and valuables to a safe place, such as an attic or the highest floor of your home.



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.

FEMA Independent Study Courses:

Course	Date	Location
IS-700.B An Introduction to the National Incident Management System	N/A	Online
IS-800.D National Response Framework, An introduction	N/A	Online
IS-100.C Introduction to the Incident Command System	N/A	Online
IS-200.C Basic incident Command System for Initial Response	N/A	Online
IS-907 Active Shooter: What Can You Do	N/A	Online
IS-908 Emergency Management for Senior Officials	N/A	Online



FEMA

State and Local 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
ICS-400 Advanced ICS for Complex Incidents	3/10-11/25	Hurricane Fire Department
Lake CISM Training	3/11/25 3/21-23/25	Pendleton County
Spring Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW)	3/21/25	Berkeley Springs
Vehicle Rescue Technician Course	3/28-20/25	Bedington Volunteer Fire Company
FUNSAR SARTECH	3/04-20/25	Berkeley County
FUNSAR/SARTECH II	3/4,6,11,13,18/25 3/15,16,22,23/25	Hedgesville, WV

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

State and Local Training

Upcoming Local Training

Course	Date	Location
Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	3/11/25	JCESA
Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	4/8/25	JCESA
Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	5/13/25	JCESA
Child and Babysitting Safety (CABS)	5/15/25	JCESA
Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	6/10/25	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.



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.

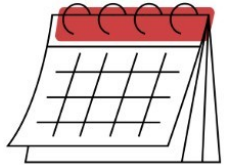




The Jefferson County Commission's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCOHSEM) is responsible for the coordination of preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation of disasters and large emergencies in Jefferson County, West Virginia. Volunteer and community participation is encouraged 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.

FEBRUARY 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.
- The Counter-Terrorism Committee meeting on March 11 at the JCHSEM EOC at 2:00p.m.

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