



FEBRUARY 2025

Monthly Newsletter



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

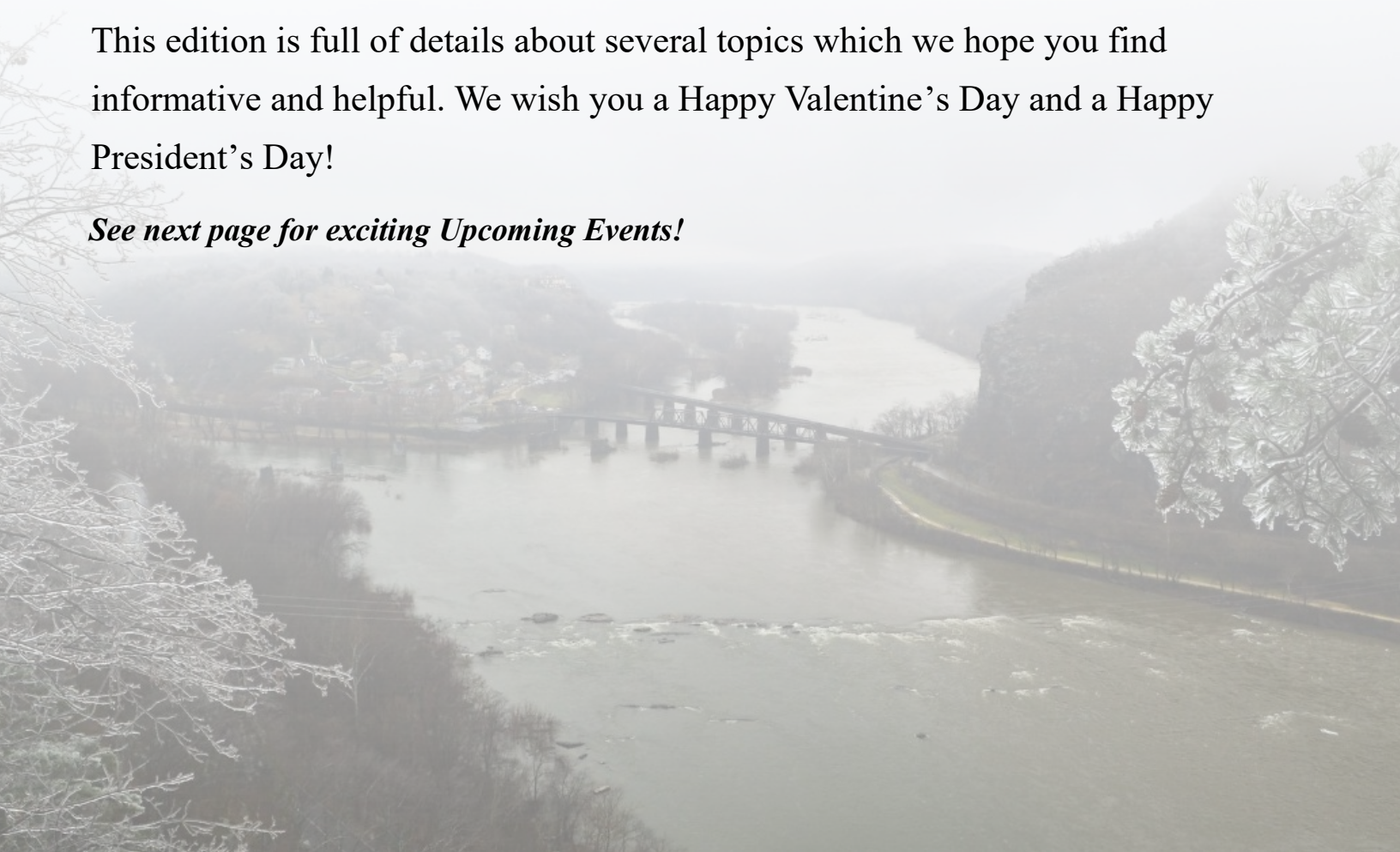
From the Director's Chair

Hello and welcome to the February 2025 edition of the Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (JCOHSEM) newsletter.

This newsletter contains information about various topics including Winter Weather Safety and National Canned Food Month and continued preparedness tips on flooding.

This edition is full of details about several topics which we hope you find informative and helpful. We wish you a Happy Valentine's Day and a Happy President's Day!

See next page for exciting Upcoming Events!



Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendars

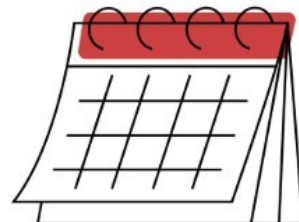
Lunch and Learn

Bring a lunch and come ready to learn! Join us this spring for an informative presentation on flood preparedness, led by a National Weather Service Representative. This event will be free and open to the public and will take place at Moulton Park, located on Bloomery Rd. in Charles Town along the Shenandoah River. Stay tuned for the time and date. For more information follow us on [Facebook](#) or call us at 304-724-8914.

Media Day

The Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is hosting a Media Day on February 26th from 2:00pm—4:00pm. Local media and public information officers are invited and will gather for a time of connection and collaboration. This event provides an opportunity to discuss the roles and procedures of public information during a critical incident while also working towards the common goal of keeping the general public safe and informed during an emergency event. To reserve your spot contact Stephen Rivera by email (srivera@jeffersoncountywv.org) or phone (304-724-8914)

Location: 28 Industrial Blvd, Suite 100 Kearneysville, WV 25430



Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendars

Fire Safety Day

The Blue Ridge Mountain Fire Company and the WV Division of Forestry are hosting a Fire Safety Day event which will be open to the public. This event is tentatively scheduled for March 1st from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. The location is TDB. This free community event will familiarize residents with the wildfire hazards and risks, and introduce them to the first responders and other agencies involved in fire prevention and suppression in their community. For more information follow us on [Facebook](#) or call us at 304-724-8914.

See Page 4 for the Flyer

Jefferson County Emergency Communications

9-1-1 Open House

This is your chance to see behind the console! On February 17th at 6:00pm come take a tour of the Emergency Communications Center, take a peak at our new high school program available for seniors, see a demo of our CAD and protocols, and learn about NextGen 911. All ages are welcome to come! Follow on [Facebook](#) for more information.

Location: 28 Industrial Blvd, Suite 100 Kearneysville, WV 25430

See Page 5 for Flyer

Fire Safety Day

for the Shannondale Community

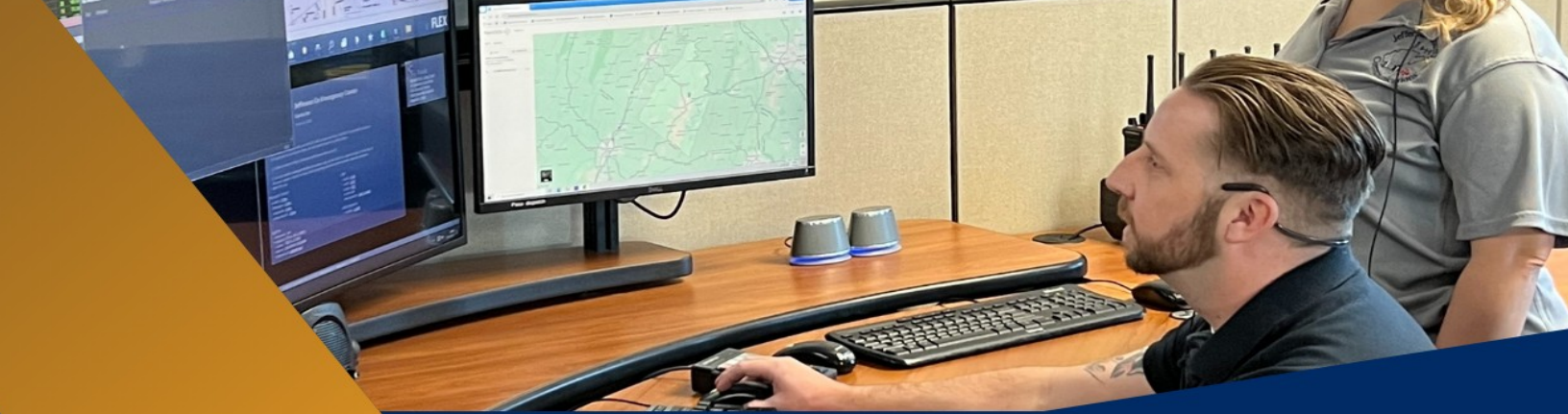
Saturday, March 1, 2025

10:00am — 2:00pm

- Come out and visit with your local firefighters!
- See and touch fire engines, wildland fire 4x4's, pumps and lots of other firefighting equipment!
- Learn about fire safety around your home!
- Check out displays, drones and even visits from Smokey Bear!

Bring the kids out for some fresh air and learn more about how we can all work together to prepare for and prevent wildfires.





JEFFERSON COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS **9-1-1 OPEN HOUSE**

This is your chance to see behind the console! Come take a tour of our center, meet the dispatchers, and learn about new programs and innovations that are happening in Jefferson County

LEARN ABOUT OUR NEW HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

- ✓ Tour our emergency communications center
- ✓ Learn about NextGen 911
- ✓ See a Demo of our CAD and protocols
- ✓ Take a peek at our new High School program available for seniors

All ages are welcome to come and learn about 9-1-1 and our center



Visit us on Facebook



Jefferson County
Emergency
Communications
Center



Date: February 17, 2025

Time: 6:00PM

Jefferson County Emergency
Communications
28 Industrial Blvd, Suite 100
Kearneysville, WV 25430

National Canned Food Month

To help support nutrition education and reduce nutrition insecurity of low-income families, USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) provides funding to the Supplemental Nutrition Education Program – Education (SNAP-Ed) and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). During National Canned Food Month, celebrate with NIFA as we highlight a few federally funded programs aimed to help families obtain nutritional foods.



SNAP-Ed



NIFA's involvement with [SNAP-Ed](#) began in 1999, as Land-grant University administrators identified the need for national leadership through their federal partner. NIFA supports SNAP-Ed by providing leadership, establishing collaborative relationships and strengthening communication across federal, state, and local partners. Specifically, it promotes well-trained staff; effective program planning, management and reporting; identification and use of effective and appropriate resources; and improved consistency and clarity of communication among SNAP-Ed's many partners.

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program ([EFNEP](#)) is a Federal Extension (community outreach) program that currently operates through the 1862 and 1890 Land-grant Universities in every state, the District of Columbia, and the six United States territories – American Samoa, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. EFNEP uses education to support participants' efforts toward self-sufficiency, nutritional health and well-being. EFNEP combines hands-on learning, applied science and program data to ensure program effectiveness, efficiency and accountability.



Program Impacts



The [Plan. Eat. Move.](#) program— through the **University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment**— encompasses SNAP-Ed and EFNEP to show individuals how to plan nutritious meals on a limited budget, acquire safe food handling practices, improve food preparation skills, and change behaviors necessary to have a healthy lifestyle. Plan. Eat. Move. provides resources surrounding healthy eating, adapting physically activity and numerous recipes.

Here are two recipes that use canned foods that you may have in your cabinet. Switch up your taco Tuesday night dinner with [zubeanie boats](#). Do you need a quick soup recipe? Check out this [10-minute bean soup](#).

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.



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 Safety

STAY SAFE DURING WINTER TRAVEL

Travel during the winter has unique risks, especially if you travel by car. Being prepared can help you “expect the unexpected” so your trip isn’t ruined by common problems travelers face in the winter.



Know before you go

From blizzards, to [avalanches](#), to ice storms, be aware of the [winter risks](#) in places you visit. Check the local weather forecasts and warnings before heading out. Visit [National Weather Service](#) for up to date forecasts and download the FEMA App for alerts in up to five locations.

- ♦ Check your local weather and traffic reports before heading out.
- ♦ If your roads are not in good shape, consider postponing non-essential travel until the roads are cleared. If you do have to go out, make sure you are prepared in case you become delayed while traveling.
- ♦ Tell others your route and anticipated arrival time.

Want more tips on travel safety? [Watch this PSA](#), made in partnership with FEMA and the TSA, for additional tips on travel safety.



Winter Safety

Car Safety Tips

- Keep your gas tank full in case of evacuation or power outages. 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.
- Do not drive through flooded areas. Six inches of water can cause a vehicle to lose control or possibly stall. A foot of water will float many cars.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- If a power line falls on your car you are at risk of electrical shock. Stay inside until a trained person removes the wire.
- If it becomes hard to control the car, pull over, stop the car and set the parking brake.



Car Emergency Kit Recommendations:

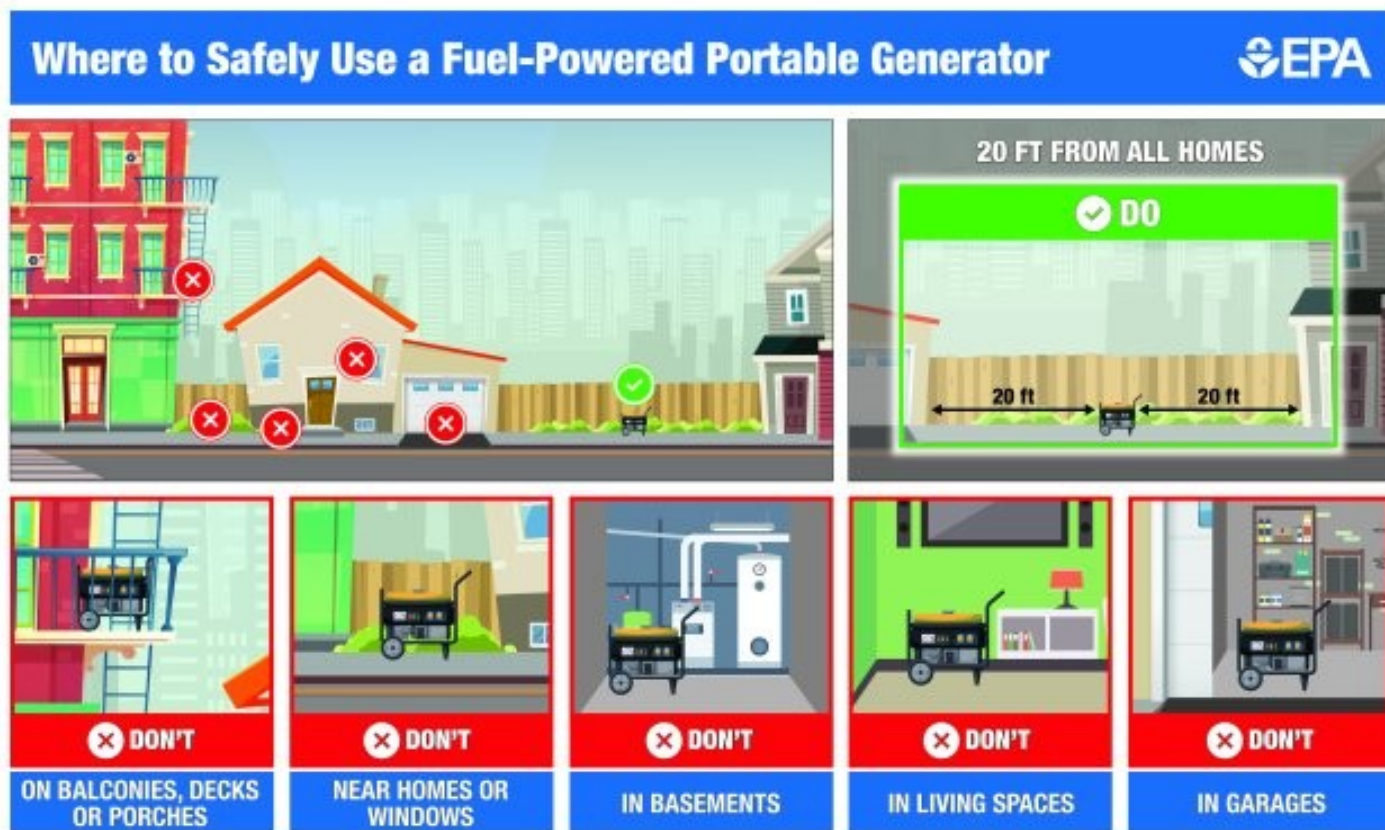
- *Jumper Cables*
- *Flares or Reflective Triangle*
- *Ice Scraper*
- *Car Cell Phone Charger*
- *Blanket*
- *Map*
- *Cat Litter or Sand (for better traction)*



Winter Safety

Portable Generator Tips

During power outages, portable generators can be used to help temporarily restore power to a few key appliances such as refrigerators, lights and fans. Most portable generators are powered by fuels such as gasoline, natural gas or kerosene. If they are not used correctly, these generators can be hazardous because they give off toxic fumes.



- 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 of 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 appliances with heavy-duty extension cords.
- Let the generator cool before refueling. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts can ignite.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions *carefully*.

Winter Safety

Essential Tasks After it Warms Up

Check Your Pipes: Your pipes may be frozen. Water pipes on exterior walls and in places that are subject to cold, like in the basement, attic, and under kitchen cabinets, freeze most often. Water expands as it freezes, causing pipes to burst. If they are frozen, first turn on the faucet. Water will drip as you warm the pipes. Heat the pipes using a space heater, heating pad, electric hair dryer, or hot water on a cloth. Never use an open flame. Continue until water pressure returns to normal or call a plumber if you have more issues.

Salt Your Walkways: Once it warms up enough to go out, it's important to shovel the snow from your sidewalks and driveway or sprinkle salt if there is ice. If there is a thick layer of snow on the ground that you cannot move, salt the area so that the snow melts. You should also put down salt if there is ice on the stairs leading into your house – less than a quarter inch of ice can be dangerous!

Call Your Neighbors: Check to see that your neighbors are okay, particularly seniors, disabled persons, or others living alone. Carbon monoxide poisoning is one of the leading causes of death after extreme cold, particularly if there are power outages. Cases of [frostbite and hypothermia](#) are also common for elderly people who were stuck in their homes.

Refill Your Supplies: This cold event may be over, but there might be another one soon. It is important to always be prepared.



Flood Preparedness

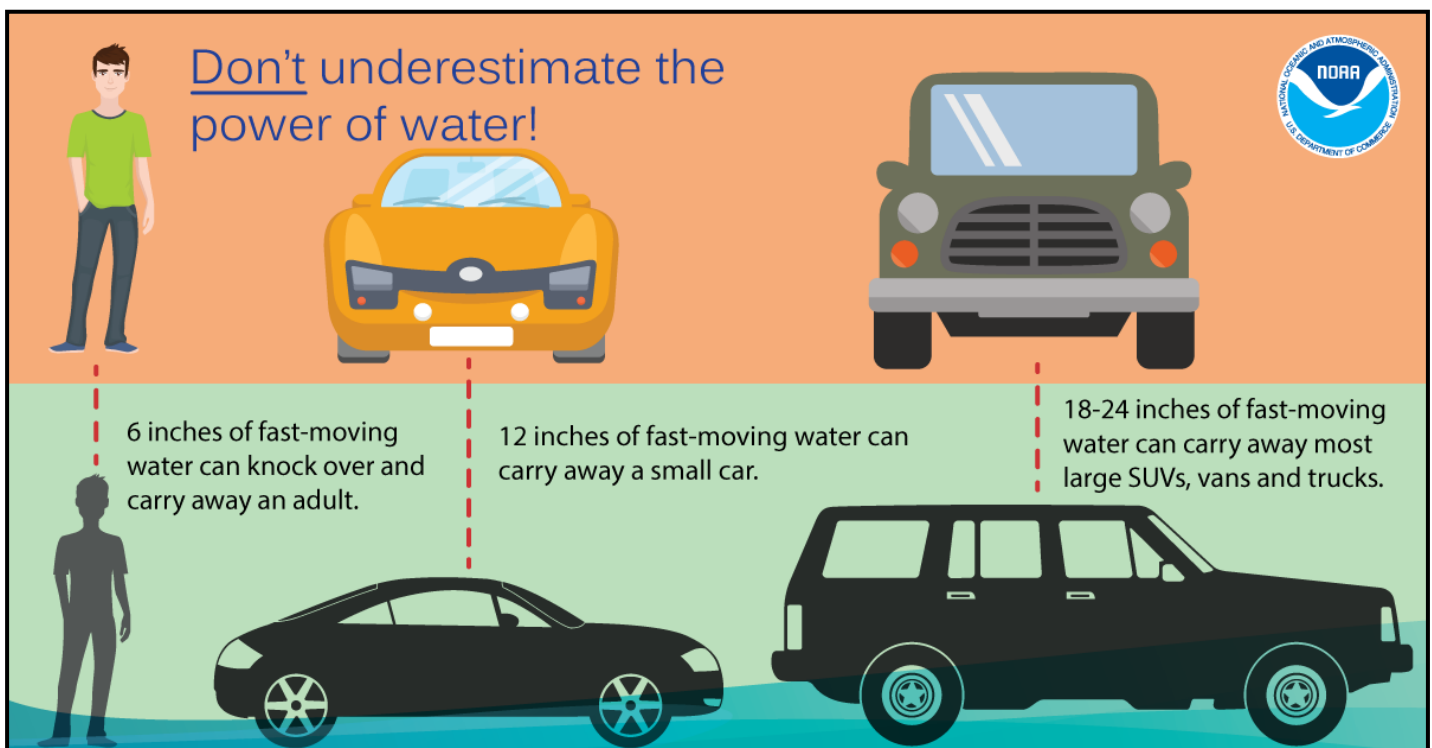
Flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States. Failing to evacuate flooded areas or entering flood waters can lead to injury or death.

Know what to do. Practice protective measures

- Flash flooding can develop in just minutes. If a flash flood warning is issued, it means a flash flood is imminent or occurring and you should take action. If you are in a flood prone area move immediately to high ground.

Turn Around Don't Drown:

- Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that over half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water. The next highest percentage of flood related deaths is due to walking into or near flood waters.



Flood Preparedness

Know you're protected.

- ♦ Talk to your insurance agent.
- ♦ Purchase Flood Insurance: A flood insurance policy through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is your best protection against flood-related loss.
- ♦ Floods are the most common and costly natural disasters in the United States. Just one inch of floodwater can cause up to \$25,000 in damage.
- ♦ Most homeowners' insurance does not cover flood damage.
- ♦ Flood insurance is a separate policy that can cover buildings, the contents in a building, or both, so it is important to protect your most important financial assets — your home, your business, your possessions.



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. Shelters provide life sustaining services to disaster survivors. Search for open shelters by texting SHELTER and your ZIP code to 43362. 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.

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.

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



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
Wilderness First Aid	2/11,13/25 2/15-16/25	Martinsburg WV
ICS-300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents	3/3-5/25	Hurricane Fire Department
Radiation Emergency Assistance Center Training Site Course	3/3-4/25	Heritage Valley Beaver Hospital
Radiation Emergency Medicine Course	3/3-4/25	Beaver, PA
ICS-400 Advanced ICS for Complex Incidents	3/10-11/25	Hurricane Fire Department
Lake CISM Training	3/11/25	Pendleton County
Spring Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW)	3/21/25	Berkley Springs
Vehicle Rescue Technician Course	3/28-20/25	Bedington Volunteer Fire Company
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	2/11/25	JCESA
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

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.

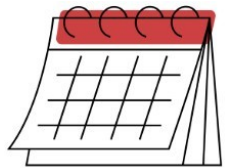
If you have questions, call the JCOHSEM office at (304) 728-3290.



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 February 11 at the JCHSEM EOC at 2:00p.m.
- The LEPC meeting is taking place on February 19 at the Hospice of the Panhandle at 8:15a.m.
- County Offices will be closed February 17 for President's Day.

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

Stephen Rivera, Public Affairs Coordinator

Office: 304-724-8914

Email: srivera@jeffersoncountywv.org

28 Industrial Blvd., Suite 101
Kearneysville, WV 25430



HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY ♥