

April 2025

Monthly Newsletter



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

From the Director's Chair

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

This newsletter contains information about various topics including News in our Office, Attacks in Crowded Spaces, #SafePlaceSelfie Day, this month's READY.GOV topic of National Financial Capability Month, Severe Weather Safety, and Available Training.

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



Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events Training (CRASE)

Is your organization interested in specialized training for responding to active shooter events?

The Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training covers a broad range of topics that will help people survive an active shooter event or other life threatening situation. Some topics include situational awareness and 'Flight, Fight, or Freeze'. This important training is led by Sandy Green, West Virginia Emergency Management Division Liaison.

Building a resilient community is a key focus of West Virginia's Emergency Management Division, and one of the ways we accomplish this is by offering high-quality training for the community.

This training is offered for businesses, church groups, civic groups, industry associates, government agencies, among others, and is **free of charge**.

If you are interested contact Sandy Green for more information: <u>sanford.h.green@wv.gov</u>

The image below shows Sandy Green and Shawn Dunbrack presenting CRASE training to 242 faculty and staff at Barbour County Schools.



NEWS



Hazardous Materials Incident

On 3/10/2025, at the intersection of Route 340 and Marlowe Rd. in Charles Town WV. a diesel fuel delivery truck crashed around 4:50 am resulting in a hazmat response. First responders promptly responded to the incident scene. Those present were Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency, Bakerton Volunteer Fire Department, Citizens Volunteer Fire Company, Independent Volunteer Fire Company, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Charles Town Police Department, Ranson Police Department, Berkeley County Hazardous Materials and the Washington County Hazardous Materials response teams. As the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management we closely monitor hazardous materials incidents and stay ready to assist when needed.





Take steps to prepare and protect yourself and help others in the event of a mass attack.

Prepare BEFORE:

- Stay alert. Always be aware of your environment and any possible dangers.
- If you see something, say something® to local authorities. That includes suspicious packages, people behaving strangely or someone using strange communications.
- **Observe warning signs**. Signs might include unusual or violent communications, substance abuse, expressed anger or intent to cause harm. These warning signs may increase over time.



• Have an exit plan. Identify exits and areas to hide wherever you go, including work, school and special events.

Survive DURING: Run, Hide, Fight

Run to Safety

- Seek safety. Getting away from the attacker is the top priority.
- Leave your belongings behind and get away.
- Call 9-1-1 when you are safe and describe the attacker, location and weapons.

Cover and Hide

- Cover and hide if you can't evacuate. Find a place to hide out of view of the attacker and put a solid barrier between yourself and the threat if possible.
- Lock and block doors, close blinds and turn off lights.
- Keep silent.

Defend, Disrupt, Fight

- Fight only as a last resort. When you can't run or cover, attempt to disrupt the attack or disable the attacker.
- Recruit others to ambush the attacker with makeshift weapons such as chairs, fire extinguishers, scissors, books, etc.

#SafePlaceSelfie



If there was one extreme weather preparedness action you want your loved ones to take, what would it be? For many, that one action is to know ahead of time where their safe place is located. Thank you in advance if you join the National Weather Service and its Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors and take a "selfie" and post it with the hashtag **#SafePlaceSelfie**.



One of the most essential preparedness actions anyone can do is to identify their safe locations from various extreme weather threats. Knowing where to go ahead of time can minimize hesitation and ensure your decisions are good ones even under great duress.

To encourage everyone to take some time and identify their safe places, we ask that you post a "selfie" photo using the hashtag #SafePlaceSelfie and challenge others to do the same by tagging them in your post -- other family members, friends, colleagues at school or work, or others in your social network. Imagine a "Weather-Ready Nation" where everyone knows where to go or where not to go, and when extreme weather is forecast, makes decisions to ensure their safety.

What is a SafePlaceSelfie?

A SafePlaceSelfie is a photo capture of your safe location when a specific hazard threatens your area. It does not have to be an actual "selfie" of yourself, but could be a pet, an image of just the location, or some other creative way to illustrate the point that being "Weather-Ready" involves knowing where to go to stay safe.

FINANCIAL PREPAREDNESS TIPS

Americans at all income levels have experienced the challenges of rebuilding their lives after a disaster or other emergency. In these stressful times, having access to personal financial, insurance, medical and other records is crucial for starting the recovery process quickly and efficiently.

- 1. Gather financial and critical personal, household and medical information.
- 2. Consider saving money in an emergency savings account that could be used in any crisis. Keep a small amount of cash at home in a safe place. It is important to have small bills on hand because ATMs and credit cards may not work during a disaster when you need to purchase necessary supplies, fuel or food.
- 3. Obtain property (homeowners or renters), health and life insurance if you do not have them. Not all insurance policies are the same. Review your policy to make sure the amount and types of coverage you have meets the requirements for <u>all possible hazards</u>. Homeowners insurance does not typically cover flooding, so you may need to purchase flood insurance from the <u>National Flood Insurance Program</u>.











FINANCIAL PREPAREDNESS TIPS

- Be cautious about sharing personal financial information, such as your bank account number, social security number, or credit card number.
- Do not click on links in texts or emails from people you don't know. Scammers can create fake links to websites.
 - Remember that the government will not call or text you about owing money or receiving economic impact payments.
 - Be aware that scammers may try to contact you via social media. The government will not contact you through social media about owing money or receiving payments.
- Keep in mind that scammers may try to take advantages of financial fears by calling with work-from-opportunities, debt consolidation offers, and student loan repayment plans.
- Contact the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at <u>ftc.gov/complaint</u> if you receive messages from anyone claiming to be a government agent.

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL FIRST AID KIT

The <u>Emergency Financial First Aid Kit</u> (EFFAK), a joint publication from <u>Operation</u> <u>HOPE</u> and FEMA, can help you prepare financially and provides tips to reduce the financial impact of disasters on you and your family.

For Organizations

Encourage people throughout your organization or workplace to prepare financially. Here are some ideas to promote financial preparedness in your organization:

- Hold a brown bag meeting.
- Make a presentation at an existing staff meeting using <u>Safeguard Critical Documents and</u> <u>Valuables</u> to support your discussion.
- Include financial preparedness information in the staff monthly newsletter.

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL FIRST AID KIT

At Home

Store important documents either in a safety deposit box, an external drive or on the cloud to make it easy to access during a disaster.

Take time now to <u>safeguard these critical documents</u>. Be cautious about sharing personal financial information, such as your bank account number, social security number, or credit card number.

Household Identification

- Photo ID (to prove identity of household members)
- Birth certificate (to maintain or re-establish contact with family members)
- Social Security card (to apply for FEMA disaster assistance)
- Military service
- Pet ID tags

Financial and Legal Documentation

- Housing payments (to identify financial records and obligations)
 - Some individuals and households may experience financial difficulty because of the pandemic. If you do not think you can pay your loan payments on time, immediately contact your bank and discuss your options before skipping any payments or taking any other actions contrary to the terms of your loans.
- Insurance policies (to re-establish financial accounts)
- Sources of income (to maintain payments and credit)
- Tax statements (to provide contact information for financial and legal providers and to apply for FEMA disaster assistance)







EMERGENCY FINANCIAL FIRST AID KIT

Medical Information

- Physician information (in case medical care is needed)
- Copies of health insurance information (to make sure existing care continues uninterrupted)
- Immunization records
- Medications

Insurance Information

Having insurance for your home or business property is the best way to make sure you will have the necessary financial resources to help you repair, rebuild or replace whatever is damaged. Document and insure your property now.

Household Contact Information

- Banking institutions
- Insurance agents
- Health professionals
- Service providers
- Place of worship

Get Your Benefits Electronically



A disaster can disrupt mail service for days or weeks. If you depend on Social Security or other regular benefits, switching to electronic payments is a simple, significant way to protect yourself financially before disaster strikes. It also eliminates the risk of stolen checks. The U.S. Department of the Treasury recommends two safer ways to get federal benefits:

- Direct deposit to a checking or savings account. If you get federal benefits you can sign up by calling 800-333-1795 or <u>sign up online</u>.
- The **Direct Express**® prepaid debit card is designed as a safe and easy alternative to paper.

Apply for government-funded unemployment, healthcare, and food and nutrition benefits to supplement your income or savings.

Consider using online and mobile banking services, if you are able. These services enable you to practice social distancing and conduct banking transactions at the same time.



ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Worksheet (PDF)

Financial Emergency Information Sheet (PDF)

Financial Preparedness Toolkit

Be Prepared for a Financial Emergency (PDF)

Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK) (PDF)

Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK) checklists and forms (PDF)

Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK) Large Print (PDF)

Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK) in Various Languages (PDF)

Safeguard Critical Documents and Valuables (PDF)

Operation HOPE

Download the FEMA mobile app

National Flood Insurance Program

DisasterAssistance.gov

Financial Literacy Education Commission

MyMoney.gov

ConsumerFinance.gov

Get Tech Ready



Severe weather can happen anytime, in any part of the country. Severe weather can include hazardous conditions produced by thunderstorms, including damaging winds, tornadoes, large hail, flooding and flash flooding, and winter storms associated with freezing rain, sleet, snow and strong winds.

Know your Risk: Understand the type of hazardous weather that affects you and your family where you live:

Thunderstorms and Lighting

During Thunderstorms and Lighting:

- When thunder roars, go indoors. A sturdy building is the safest place to be during a thunderstorm
- Pay attention to weather reports and warnings of thunderstorms. Be ready to change plans, if necessary, to be near shelter.
- If indoors, avoid running water or using landline phones. Electricity can travel through plumbing and phone lines.



• If necessary, take shelter in a car with a metal top and sides. Do not touch anything metal



Prepare Now:

- Consider buying surge protectors, lightning rods, or a lightning protection system to protect your home, appliances, and electronic devices.
- Cut down or trim trees that may be in danger of falling on your home
- Identify sturdy buildings close to where you live, work, study, and play.
- Secure outside furniture.



Severe Weather



Tornado

Preparing for a Tornado

- Know the signs of a tornado, including a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud, an approaching cloud of debris, or a loud roar like a freight train.
- Pay attention to weather reports. Meteorologists can predict when conditions might be right for a torna-do.
- Identify and practice going to a safe shelter such as a safe room built using FEMA criteria or a storm shelter built to ICC 500 standards. The next best protection is a small, interior, windowless room or basement on the lowest level of a sturdy building.



• Prepare for long-term stay at home or sheltering in place by gathering emergency supplies, cleaning supplies, non-perishable foods, water, medical supplies and medication.



Staying Safe During a Tornado

- Immediately go to a safe location that you identified.
- Take additional cover by shielding your head and neck with your arms and putting materials such as furniture and blankets around you.
- Listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio, or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions.
- Do not try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle.
- If you are in a car or outdoors and cannot get to a building, cover your head and neck with your arms and cover your body with a coat or blanket, if possible.

After a Tornado

- If you are trapped, cover your mouth with a cloth or mask to avoid breathing dust. Try to send a text, bang on a pipe or wall, or use a whistle instead of shouting.
- Stay clear of fallen power lines or broken utility lines.



Winter Storm

Preparing for a Winter Storm

- 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. Do not forget the needs of pets. Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights.



• Create an emergency supply kit for your car. Include jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water, and non-perishable snacks. Keep the gas tank full.





During a Winter Storm

- Stay off roads if at all possible. If trapped in your car, stay inside
- Limit your time outside. If you need to go outside, wear layers of warm clothing. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
- Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Only use generators and grills outdoors and away from windows. Never heat your home with a gas stovetop or oven.
- Reduce the risk of a heart attack. Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow.
- Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia and begin treatment right away.
- Check on neighbors. Older adults and young children are more at risk in extreme cold.

Severe Weather



Flooding

Preparing for Flooding

- Purchase flood insurance. Standard insurance policies do not cover flooding. Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Have a communication plan to stay connected with family, friends and neighbors during and after a flood. Plan to text or message because you may not be able to make or receive phone calls.
- Develop an evacuation plan. Consider where you will go and how you will get there. Practice your evacuation route.



- Gather enough food, water and emergency supplies to last you several days. Consider everyone's specific needs, including medication. Have extra batteries and chargers for mobile devices.
- Keep important documents in a dry, safe place such as a fireproof, waterproof container, and create password-protected digital copies.



Staying Safe During Flooding

- Evacuate immediately when ordered to. Do not underestimate the threat of flooding by failing to evacuate when it is safe to do so. Take critical supplies and documents with you when you evacuate.
- Move to higher ground or the highest level of a building to avoid becoming trapped by rising floodwater but do not climb into a closed attic.
- Do not attempt to cross floodwaters. Floodwater can pose a drowning risk for everyone regardless of their ability to swim.
- Do not drive through floodwaters. The depth of the water is not always obvious and just a foot of moving water can sweep a vehicle even a sports utility vehicle off the road.
- Do not drive into underground roads or through tunnels during a flood

Online FEMA Training

FEMA offers a number of online courses at <u>https://training.fema.gov/is/</u> 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.

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

FEMA Independent Study Courses:







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 Training



National Emergency Management Basic Academy (NEMBA) FEMA Region 3 – Bridgeport, WV

Program Description: The National Emergency Management Basic Academy is designed for individuals pursuing a career in emergency management and provides a foundational education in emergency management knowledge, skills, and abilities. The goal of the Basic Academy is to support the careers of emergency managers through a training experience combining knowledge of all fundamental systems, concepts, and practices of contemporary emergency management. The Basic Academy provides adult learners, facilitated by skilled faculty members, a solid foundation upon which to build a career in the emergency management profession. For more information, visit our website at: <u>EMI | EMPP | National Emergency Management Basic Academy (fema.gov)</u> (https://training.fema.gov/programs/empp/basic/)

Target Audience: The National Emergency Management Basic Academy is designed for emergency management professionals, including members of state, local, tribal, and territorial homeland security, or emergency services programs; nongovernmental organizations, voluntary agencies, or professional organizations; private sector emergency management offices; college or university emergency management staff; and FEMA, Federal partners, military, and emergency managers at other departments or agencies.



National Emergency Management Basic Academy (NEMBA) FEMA Region 3 – Bridgeport, WV

Course	Date	Deadline
L0101, Foundations of Emergency Management	4/14-18/2025	3/28/2025
L0102, Science of Disaster	6/9-11/2025	5/30/2025
L0103, Planning: Emergency Operations	6/12-13/2025	5/30/2025
L0116 Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP), Public Information Basic	8/18-19/2025	8/1/2025
L0105, Public Information Basics	8/20-22/2025	8/1/2025

Location: Bridgeport Conference Center 300 Conference Center Way Bridgeport, WV 26330

- <u>Cost/Reimbursement Information: EMI does not provide stipend reimbursement for off-campus</u> <u>course deliveries.</u> There are no fees associated with these courses. Food, lodging, and transportation costs are the responsibility of the participant.
- How to Register for the Course: Email Kyle Pajarito at <u>kyle.c.pajarito@wv.gov</u> if interested in attending any or all of these courses and you will be sent the registration code and instructions to register online.
- EMI Point of Contact: For additional information, contact the Course Manager, Jeff Januchowski, at (301) 447-1383 or by email at <u>Jeffrey.Januchowski@fema.dhs.gov</u> or Richard Bashioum at (301) 447-1629 or by email at <u>Richard.Bashioum@fema.dhs.gov</u>



National Emergency Management Basic Academy (NEMBA) FEMA Region 3 – Bridgeport, WV

Prerequisites:

Twelve online Independent Study courses are required as prerequisites to the resident or virtual classroom courses. All 12 prerequisite courses must be completed before applying for E/L/ K0101:

> IS-29: Public Information Officer Awareness IS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS-100 IS-120: An Introduction to Exercises

IS-200: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, ICS-200

IS-230: Fundamentals of Emergency Management

IS-235: Emergency Planning

IS-240: Leadership and Influence

IS-241: Decision Making and Problem Solving

IS-242: Effective Communication

IS-244: Developing and Managing Volunteers

IS-700: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System

IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction



National Emergency Management Basic Academy (NEMBA) FEMA Region 3 – Bridgeport, WV

Classroom Requirements:

The Basic Academy consists of the following classroom courses. Attendance at each course is required. It is recommended that the E/L0101, Foundations of Emergency Management, be taken first but it is not required to do so.

- <u>E/K/L0101</u>, Foundations of Emergency Management (https://training.fema.gov/empp/ e101.aspx) (40 hours) 5 days
- <u>E/K/L0102</u>, Science of Disaster (https://training.fema.gov/empp/e102.aspx) (approximately 24 hours) 3 days
- <u>E/K/L0103</u>, Planning: Emergency Operations (https://training.fema.gov/empp/e103.aspx) (16 hours) 2 days
- <u>E/K/L0146</u>, Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) (16 hours) 2 days (https:// training.fema.gov/empp/ e146.aspx)
 - (Only an EMI class certificate dated after March 2013 will be accepted for the HSEEP requirement toward graduation)
- <u>E/K/L0105</u>, Public Information Basic (https://training.fema.gov/empp/e105.aspx) (24 hours) 3 days
- Total course hours: 120 hours

Request for Accommodation:

If you require a reasonable accommodation (sign language interpreters, Braille, CART, etc.), please make request NLT 15 days prior to the course offering. When making any requests, please provide details on the accommodation; however, DO NOT include medical or other personal information that is protected under the Privacy Act of 1974 or the Health Information Privacy Protection Act (45 CFR Part 160 Subparts A and E of Part 164). Last-minute requests will be accepted; however, they may not be possible to fulfill. Please send these requests to the course host, WV EMD Training Division, via email at <u>kyle.c.pajarito@wv.gov</u> or call (681) 910-3169, along with a cc: copy to DHS/FEMA/EMI/National/Emergency Management Professional Program/National Emergency Management Basic Academy: <u>FEMA-EMPP-Basic-Academy@fema.dhs.gov</u>.

Upcoming Local Training

Course	Date	Location
Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	4/08/25	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
Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	7/08/25	JCESA
Child and Babysitting Safety (CABS)	7/10/25	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 Tues-day of the month at the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

If you are interested in joining any of our committees, contact Stephen Allen at <u>sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org</u>

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 April 8 at the JCHSEM EOC at 2:00p.m.
- The LEPC meeting is taking place on April 16 at the Hospice of the Panhandle at 8:15a.m.

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

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

