



July 2025

# Monthly Newsletter



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

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*Our mission is to reduce the loss of lives and property and protection of the environment from all types of hazards through a comprehensive emergency management program consisting of prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery.*

## From the Director's Chair

Hello and welcome to our July 2025 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 Ready.gov topics of Fireworks Safety, #SummerReady, and Flood Preparedness Tips.

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



## Jefferson County Emergency Alert Sign Up

The Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is encouraging Jefferson County residents to sign up for Everbridge, the county's local emergency alerting system.

Everbridge provides critical information to residents on a variety of events, including severe weather, fires, floods, and other emergencies, as well as routine updates like road closures and utility maintenance. Alerts are delivered through your preferred contact method—whether by cell phone, text message, home phone, or email.

When registering, users can customize notification preferences to receive only the types of alerts most relevant to them. Signing up for Everbridge is free and easy—register online or through the mobile app.

To register online, [Click Here](#) or follow the instructions below:

- 1) Visit [jeffersoncountywv.org](http://jeffersoncountywv.org)
- 2) Click “Emergency Info / Weather & Emergency Alert Sign Up”.
- 3) Select “Visit Everbridge Here”.
- 4) Complete the online registration form.

To register through the mobile app:

- 1) Download the “Everbridge” app from your device's app store.
- 2) Open the app and select “Find an organization or subscription”.
- 3) Type “Jefferson County WV” in the search bar.
- 4) Select “Jefferson County WV HSEM”.
- 5) Complete the online registration form.

For questions about the Everbridge system or assistance with registration, contact the Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management by phone at 304-724-8914 or email at [jchsem@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:jchsem@jeffersoncountywv.org).



## See Something, Send Something: Help Keep West Virginia Safe

West Virginia has partnered with My Mobile Witness to implement a “See Something, Send Something” reporting system so that anyone can report a school threat or suspicious activity quickly. All West Virginians are encouraged to download the free See Send application.

As summer holidays bring parades, fireworks, festivals, and other large community events, it is important to remain aware of your surroundings. If you notice suspicious behavior, report it through the See Send app. Your vigilance in reporting suspicious activity can help keep your community safe.

Simply scan the QR code below to install the app on your mobile device.



## Public Affairs Coordinator Completes PIO Training

Stephen Rivera, Public Affairs Coordinator for the Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, attended the Basic Public Information Officer (PIO) course held in Charleston, WV from June 25–27. Led by instructors Lauri-Ellen Smith, Owner of CAT 5 Communications Inc., and Dr. Joseph Trahan, President & CEO at Trahan & Associates, the training focused on effective communication during emergency events, media relations, and practical public information strategies.

Stephen Rivera stated, “This training provided wonderful insight into how to better serve the community during emergency events.” He added that the hands-on media exercises and real-world scenarios helped strengthen his ability to deliver clear, timely, and accurate information in high-pressure situations. The Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management remains committed to ongoing professional development to ensure effective communication before, during, and after emergencies.



# Fireworks Safety



It's that time of year when Americans everywhere will be celebrating the Fourth of July holiday with family, friends and fireworks. A [report](#) from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) highlights the hazards posed by consumer use of fireworks. CPSC is raising awareness and sharing safety tips to prevent these types of injuries and deaths over the holiday.

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## Tips to Celebrate Safely

- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
  - Be cautious with sparklers . They burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit—hot enough to melt some metals.
  - Make sure fireworks are legal in your area, and only purchase and set off fireworks that are labeled for consumer (not professional) use.
  - Never use fireworks while impaired by alcohol or drugs.
  - Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy, in case of fire or other mishap.
  - Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
  - Never try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them with water and throw them away.
  - Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Move to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
  - Never point or throw fireworks (including sparklers) at anyone.
  - After fireworks complete their burning, to prevent a trash fire, douse the spent device with
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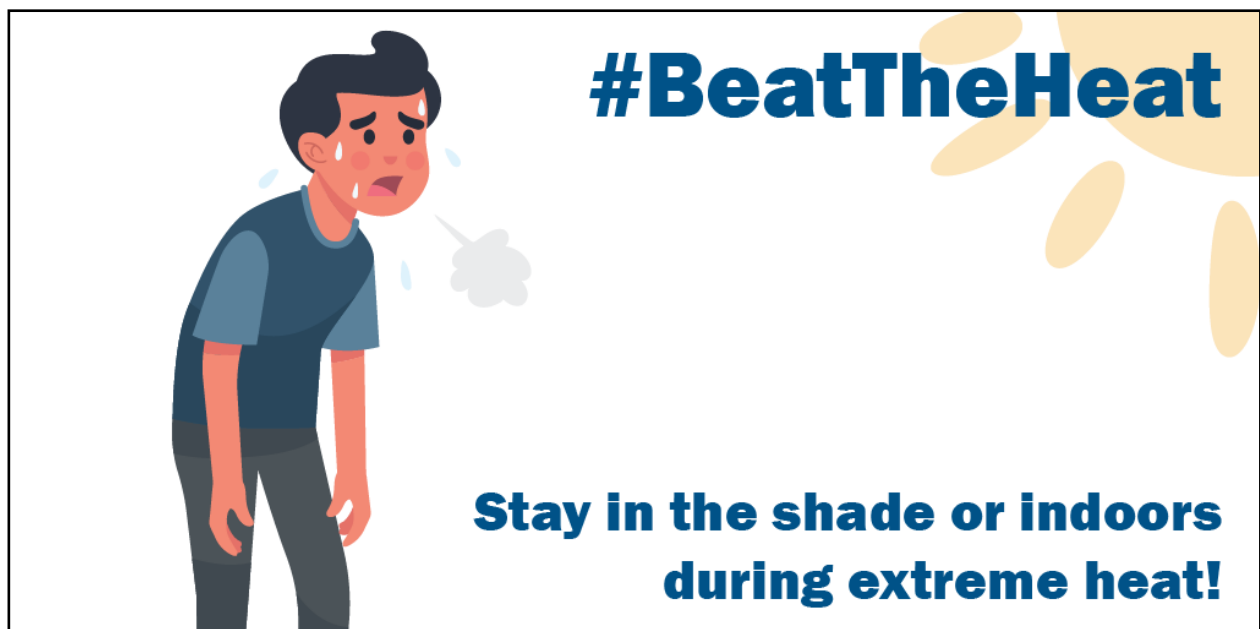
The **#SummerReady** campaign aims to reach vulnerable populations and raise awareness of the impacts of extreme heat and the simple steps to stay prepared. Extreme heat can be especially dangerous to groups of people across communities, including: infants and children, older adults, laborers, individuals with medical conditions, and athletes.

Stay safe this summer with these simple practical steps!



## BE SAFE DURING EXTREME HEAT

- ⇒ Never leave a child, adult, or animal alone inside a vehicle on a warm day.
- ⇒ Find places with air conditioning. Libraries, shopping malls, and community centers can provide a cool place to take a break from the heat.
- ⇒ If you're outside, find shade. Wear a hat wide enough to protect your face.
- ⇒ Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- ⇒ Drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated. If you or someone you care for is on a special diet, ask a doctor what would be best to stay healthy and hydrated over the summer months.
- ⇒ Do not use electric fans when the temperature outside is more than 95 degrees. You could increase the risk of heat-related illness. Fans create air flow and a false sense of comfort, but do not reduce body temperature.



## POOL AND WATER SAFETY FOR CHILDREN

Being around water can be especially dangerous for young children. **Children can drown in as little as 2 inches of water.** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more children ages 1 to 4 die from drowning than from any other cause of death. This summer, make safety a priority whenever swimming or spending time near water. Follow the tips below:

- Always watch children in or near water. Never leave them unattended, not even for short periods of time.
- Install safety devices like barriers, covers and alarms around your pool or spa.
- Learn to swim and teach children how to swim.
- Ensure all pools and spas have compliant drain covers and teach children to stay away from them.



## WATER SAFETY FOR EVERYONE:

- **Swim with a friend.** Even strong swimmers should make sure they are in the water with someone else who can swim.
- **Know how to perform CPR** on children and adults.
- **At the beach or in a lake, only swim in areas with a lifeguard on duty.** Follow all signs and warnings.
- **Stay alert to rip currents.** Check water conditions before going in by looking at the [local beach forecast](#) before you leave. Visit the National Weather Service [Before You Go in the Water page](#) to learn more about what to do if you are caught in a rip current.
- **Keep an eye on the weather forecast.** If a thunderstorm approaches when you are swimming or near water, get out of the water and seek shelter in a house, large building or car (with the windows closed).
- **Know how deep the water is.** Do not dive into the water if you don't know how deep it is. Diving into shallow water can cause serious injury or death.

## PREPARE FOR EXTREME HEAT

As the summer heat approaches, preparing your home to stay cool is a great way to enhance comfort and safety. Here are practical tips to help keep your home cooler and more energy-efficient throughout the hottest days of the year.

- Cover windows with drapes or shades.
- Weather-strip doors and windows.
- Use window reflectors specifically designed to reflect heat back outside.
- Add insulation to keep the heat out.
- Use a powered attic ventilator, or attic fan, to regulate the heat level of a building's attic by clearing out hot air.
- Install window air conditioners and insulate around them.
- If you are unable to afford your cooling costs, weatherization or energy-related home repairs, contact the [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#) for help.

## SUMMER BREAK

Summer break is a great opportunity to get the whole family involved in emergency preparedness. Teaching children important safety skills and practicing plans together helps ensure everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency. Here are some steps to get the whole family prepared.

- Make a family communication plan and include the whole family.
- Practice evacuation plans and other emergency procedures with children on a regular basis.
- Teach kids when and how to call important phone numbers like 9-1-1.
- Make sure the kids have an emergency contact person and know how to reach them.
- Decide on a family meeting place you can go if separated.





## GRILLING SAFETY

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), July is the peak month for grill-related fires. Taking simple precautions can help ensure a safe and enjoyable time for all. Below are essential grilling safety tips to help prevent accidental fires and injuries.

### Grill Placement:

- Use grills outdoors only – never indoors or in enclosed spaces.
- Maintain a 3-foot safety zone around the grill, keeping it away from the house, deck railings, overhanging branches, kids, and pets.
- Place the grill on a flat, stable surface to reduce the risk of tipping.

### Before Grilling:

- Inspect the grill and any gas hoses for cracks, holes, brittleness, and/or leaks.
- Clean the grill thoroughly, removing grease or fat buildup to prevent hazardous flare-ups.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

### During Grilling:

- Never leave a grill unattended while in use.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- Use long-handled grilling utensils to avoid burns.

### After Grilling:

- For charcoal grills, after cooking your food place the coals and ash in a metal can with a lid once they have cooled.
- Clean your grill after each use.

As you enjoy the summer months, remember these safety tips to keep yourself, family, and friends safe during outdoor celebrations.



# Flood Preparedness



Flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. Floods are the most common 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. Flash floods can come with no warning. Cause outages, disrupt transportation, damage buildings and create landslides.

## PREPARING FOR A FLOOD

- 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.



## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies. Protect your property by moving valuable items to higher ground. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.



# Flood Preparedness



## STAYING SAFE AFTER A FLOOD

After a flood, safety remains a top priority. Take precautions when returning home and during cleanup to protect yourself and others from potential hazards:

- 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.
- 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.



# 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	<a href="#">Online</a>
IS-800.D National Response Framework, An introduction	N/A	<a href="#">Online</a>
IS-100.C Introduction to the Incident Command System	N/A	<a href="#">Online</a>
IS-200.C Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response	N/A	<a href="#">Online</a>
IS-907 Active Shooter: What Can You Do	N/A	<a href="#">Online</a>
IS-908 Emergency Management for Senior Officials	N/A	<a href="#">Online</a>



# State and Local Training

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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 flood-plain 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.

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## 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: [EMI | EMPP | National Emergency Management Basic Academy \(fema.gov\)](https://training.fema.gov/programs/empp/basic/) (<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
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

- **Cost/Reimbursement Information:** **EMI does not provide stipend reimbursement for off-campus course deliveries.** 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 [kyle.c.pajarito@wv.gov](mailto:kyle.c.pajarito@wv.gov) 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 [Jeffrey.Januchowski@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Januchowski@fema.dhs.gov) or Richard Bashioum at (301) 447-1629 or by email at [Richard.Bashioum@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Richard.Bashioum@fema.dhs.gov)





**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.

- [E/K/L0101](https://training.fema.gov/empp/e101.aspx), Foundations of Emergency Management (<https://training.fema.gov/empp/e101.aspx>) (40 hours) 5 days
- [E/K/L0102](https://training.fema.gov/empp/e102.aspx), Science of Disaster (<https://training.fema.gov/empp/e102.aspx>) (approximately 24 hours) 3 days
- [E/K/L0103](https://training.fema.gov/empp/e103.aspx), Planning: Emergency Operations (<https://training.fema.gov/empp/e103.aspx>) (16 hours) 2 days
- [E/K/L0146](https://training.fema.gov/empp/e146.aspx), 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)
- [E/K/L0105](https://training.fema.gov/empp/e105.aspx), 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 [kyle.c.pajarito@wv.gov](mailto:kyle.c.pajarito@wv.gov) or call (681) 910-3169, along with a cc: copy to DHS/FEMA/EMI/National/Emergency Management Professional Program/National Emergency Management Basic Academy: [FEMA-EMPP-Basic-Academy@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-EMPP-Basic-Academy@fema.dhs.gov).

# WV Public Service Training



Course	Date	Location
Water Rescue Series (66 hours)	7/11/25	Bedington VFD
Water Rescue Series	7/11-13, 19-20/25	Bedington VFD
	8/8-10,16-17/25	
Emergency Services Instructor 1 & 2 (50 hours)	8/1-10/25	Hampshire County, WV
Driver Operator—Aerial	8/2-3,8-9,17/25	Hedgesville, VFD
Firefighter 1	8/5/25	Bedington VFD
Rope Rescue Awareness/Operations	8/22-24/25	Springfield Valley VFD
Rope Rescue Technician	8/30-31/25	Springfield Valley VFD

For more information contact:

Jamie Weller at (304) 596-2653 or Steven Harris at (304) 596-2652

## Local Training

Course	Date	Location
Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	7/08/25	JCESA
Child and Babysitting Safety (CABS)	7/10/25	JCESA
Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	8/12/25	JCESA
Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	9/09/25	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.

# State Training



Course	Date	Location
Drone FAA Part 107 Exam Prep	7/21-24/25	Martinsburg, WV
Aerial Search and Rescue Procedures	8/6-7/25	Martinsburg, WV

For more information contact:

Eva Godbey at (304) 766-0011 ext. 22 or Jeff Cunningham (304) 414-7682



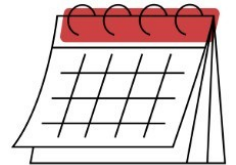


The Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCOHSEM) is responsible for the coordination of preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation of disasters and large emergencies in Jefferson County, West Virginia. Volunteer and community participation is encouraged and welcome. We currently have committees on All Hazards Mitigation Planning; Public Awareness, Education and Training; Counter Terrorism; and an Emergency Services Council that acts as an advisory group.

We are responsible for the Citizen Corps/CERT, StormReady, and Community Rating System. JCOHSEM is also responsible for the Jefferson County R.A.C.E.S. group.

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## JULY MEETINGS & EVENTS



- Sterling National Weather Service call every Monday and Friday at 10:30a.m.
- WV State weather calls on Mondays and Fridays at 10a.m.
- The Counter-Terrorism Committee meeting on July 8 at the JCHSEM EOC at 2:00p.m.
- County Offices will be closed July 4 for Independence Day.

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### STAFF:

- **Stephen Allen, Director**
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- **Dick Myers, Deputy Director/ Planner/ Program Manager**
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- **Stephen Rivera, Public Affairs Coordinator**
  - ⇒ Office: 304-724-8914
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