



August, 2012

2013 Mitigation Planning Process to Kick Off in Late August

Jefferson County Commissioners:

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Dale Manuel, V. President

Frances Morgan

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Lyn Widmyer

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Steering Committee:

John Sherwood, Chair

**Amy Jones, Vice Chair-
Jefferson County Dept. of Health**

Katherine Dunbar, Good Shepherd Inter-Faith Caregivers

Mason Carter, Jefferson County Department of Engineering

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Dale Manuel, County Commission Representative

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Lane Donley, Jefferson County Development Authority

Sanford H. "Sandy" Green, Region 3 Homeland Security Area Liaison

Holly Morgan-Frye, Shepherd University Service Learning Program

Lorraine Kelly, American Red Cross

Staff:

Barbara Miller, CEM, CFM Director

**Terri Mehling, Planner/
Program Manager/Deputy Director**

**Administrative Assistant,
Public Information Officer and
Volunteer Coordinator**

Jefferson County developed their first Multi-Jurisdictional, All Hazards Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan in 2003. That plan was the first such plan approved in FEMA Region 3. In addition to assessing risk, there were several GIS mapping layers created with the plan, and projects were identified that the County, Municipalities, and other agencies needed to work on to become a more disaster resistant community. The plan was structured in compliance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. That plan identified stakeholders throughout the community, such as planning, zoning and engineering, public water suppliers, the Red Cross, local emergency responder agencies, city and county officials, local floodplain managers, non-governmental agencies, and others.

Five years later, in 2008, the plan was updated by the stakeholder committee, new projects were identified, and additional hazard profiles were added, per then-new regulations. A new GIS Department had been added to County Government since the first plan had been developed, and mapping got much easier, more readily accessible, and more accurate.

The Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning Committee has continued to meet once a year to re-visit the identified projects and to assess the progress on completing them. They just finalized that information from the 2008 plan in July.

J.H. Consulting, LLC is the contractor that was chosen by JCHSEM and approved by the Jefferson County Commission to work with staff and the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Committee for the 2013 update. Again, there are new rules and regulations and many changes that have occurred in Jefferson County over the past five years that will need to be considered in the new plan. We are inviting new members to join the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Committee at this time. If you are interested in attending a Public Kick Off meeting that is being scheduled for the last week in August, or if you would like to be added to the notification list for meetings, please contact Terri Mehling, JCHSEM Deputy Director at 304-728-3329 or email her at tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org

Watch for additional details about the kickoff meeting and about the development of the plan. Once completed, it will require the approval of Jefferson County Commission, all of the Municipalities in Jefferson County, the WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.



Flat Stanley and Flat Stella have been asked to serve as ambassadors to promote preparedness. How great is that?!

Children and their parents can build their own FEMA Flat Stanley or Flat Stella, and then share with other children and classrooms the steps they have taken to support preparedness throughout their homes, schools and communities. Here are different ways young people can customize and share their 'Flats' and what they have learned:

Flat Stanley app (available on iTunes)

Flat Stanley website

On Twitter using the hashtag #FlatStanley and of course, we feel free to post content on other social media channels, too. We're excited about this is a collaboration between the Ready Campaign and Flatter World and the Flat Stanley Project to help educate school-aged children on the need to be prepared for emergencies and disasters, as well as what they can do to help their families and loved ones to build more resilient households.

According to Flatter World, 15 percent of all schools in the U.S. use Flat Stanley, and integrate their adventures into classroom lesson plans, so we look forward to hearing from teachers.

<http://www.ready.gov/flatstanley>

Visit our Booth at the Jefferson County Fair!

It's time again for the Jefferson County Fair on August 19-25!

“The fair is a chance for our staff and volunteers to talk to community members about the importance of being prepared and to having a family disaster plan,” said Barbara Miller, Director of Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management. “This year we will have a survey that will ask local residents about their perception of risks in our community and about their own preparedness activities. We have information about simple mitigation measures that can be taken around your home, and brochures on ways to prepare your pets as a part of your family disaster planning. We also have some books, written for Senior Citizens by Senior Citizens and ideas for emergency planning for vulnerable populations. Some of the materials are also available in Spanish.”

This year, for the first time, FEMA's Flat Stanley and Flat Stella will be making an appearance in our booth. Stop by to say hello and to pick up some of the many informational brochures that we will have available.



Public Information Officer Training

The recommended Online Training for the Month of August is the FEMA IS-29, Public Information Officer Awareness Training. This course covers basic information about the role of a State or local Public Information Officer. The goal of this awareness course is to provide an orientation to the public information function and the role of the Public Information Officer (PIO) in the public safety/emergency management environment.

The Course is free and can be found at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is29.asp>

All agencies in Jefferson County who have public information officers should encourage them to take this course. This includes, but is not limited to: Fire Departments, Law Enforcement Agencies, the Red Cross, Health Department, Hospitals, Schools, Universities, Emergency Management, local governments, and others.

FEMA provides a host of free online training courses at <http://training.fema.gov>

SBA Disaster Assistance Available to Private Non-Profit Organizations in West Virginia

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced today that certain Private Non-Profit Organizations (PNPs) in West Virginia that do not provide critical services of a governmental nature may be eligible to apply for low interest rate disaster loans. These loans are available as a result of a Presidential disaster declaration for Public Assistance resulting from damages caused by severe storms and wind that occurred on June 29 through July 1, 2012.

PNPs located in the following counties that provide non-critical services are eligible to apply: Barbour, Boone, Braxton, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood and Wyoming in West Virginia. Examples of eligible non-critical PNP organizations include, but are not limited to, food kitchens, homeless shelters, museums, libraries, community centers, schools and colleges.

“PNP organizations are urged to contact the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management at www.dhsem.wv.gov to obtain information about local briefings. At the meeting, PNP representatives will need to provide information about their organization,” said Frank Skaggs, director of SBA Field Operations Center East in Atlanta. The information will be used to submit a Request for Public Assistance which FEMA uses to determine if the PNP provides an essential governmental service and meets the definition of a “critical facility.” Based upon that conclusion, FEMA may provide the PNP with a Public Assistance reimbursement grant for their eligible costs or refer the PNP to SBA for disaster loan assistance.

PNP organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets. The SBA may increase a loan up to 20 percent of the total amount of disaster damage to real estate and/or leasehold improvements, as verified by SBA, to make improvements that lessen the risk of property damage by future disasters of the same kind.

The SBA also offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to PNP organizations of all sizes to help meet working capital needs, such as ongoing operating expenses. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the organization suffered any physical property damage.

Interest rates are as low as 3 percent with terms up to 30 years. The SBA sets the loan amounts and terms based on each applicant’s financial condition.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA’s secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

Disaster loan information and application forms may also be obtained by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or by sending an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Loan applications can be downloaded from www.sba.gov. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is September 21, 2012. The deadline to return economic injury applications is April 23, 2013.

For more information about the SBA’s Disaster Loan Program, visit our website at www.sba.gov.

Resilient Neighbor Network

Jefferson County was chosen as one of the pilot communities for a new National Program-Resilient Neighbor Network because of the planning, mitigation, partnership-building, and other preparedness efforts that our community has been doing for many years. After a few conference calls to let the community representatives get to know a little about the other communities, representatives of the seven pilot communities met in Broomfield, Colorado in July to discuss new program and to begin to blaze the trail forward.

The group set short and long-term goals and will have another conference call on August 17th. Shown below are Charter RNN Representatives: Sheryl Siddiqui, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Chuck Wallace, Grays Harbor, Washington; Marcy Leach, Rockford, Illinois; Tom Bennett, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Daya Dayanando, Pasadena, Texas; and Mike Kline, State of Vermont. Not pictured is Gene Henry from Tampa, Florida.



Some of the representatives met with Matt Campbell, Branch Chief, FEMA Recovery Programs. Matt is a resident of Jefferson County, WV. L to R: Tim Lovell, Tulsa; Matt Campbell, FEMA; Barbara Miller, Jefferson County; Ann Patton, Tulsa; and Michael Kline, state of Vermont.

Since the July meeting, other communities that were added include: Terri Turner, Augusta, Georgia; Tim Troutman, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC; and Central Shenandoah Valley, Virginia.

Thanks to FEMA and the Natural Hazards Mitigation Association for the grant to bring the group together for their initial meeting! Also, a huge thanks to Ann Patton, Tim Lovell and Alessandra Jerolleman, for their commitment and dedication to this project.

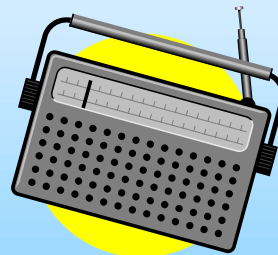
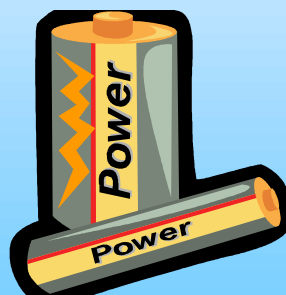
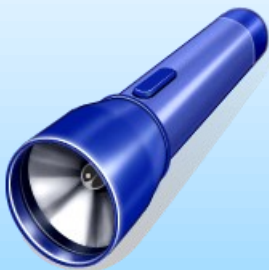


What can you do to prepare for a power outage?

- Keep a battery-operated radio, for news and weather reports, and flashlights handy. Don't forget a fresh supply of batteries.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer full, either with food or containers of water. This will help preserve food for a longer period of time.
 - Keep a storage of bottled water or tap water for use if the water supply is interrupted. This can be stored in your refrigerator or freezer to help keep them full.
 - Back up any work you are doing on the computer frequently.
- Be aware that gas equipment with electronic ignition, such as water heaters and ovens, will not work in the event of a power outage.
- If you are concerned about loss of your security system, make sure you have a functioning battery back-up.
- If you or someone you know depends on electrically operated medical equipment, coordinate an emergency plan with friends and relatives.
- If you are sensitive to heat, or you are taking medication that makes you heat sensitive, contact your physician and your hospital for information. Develop an emergency plan with friends and relatives.

What can you do if the power does go out?

- Unplug sensitive equipment like televisions and computers. After the electricity is restored, plug them back in one at a time.
 - Prevent refrigerated food from spoiling by keeping refrigerator and freezer doors closed.
 - Listen to local radio stations for public service announcements regarding power restoration.
 - If you have an air conditioner, you can keep cool air inside your home by keeping doors and windows closed. Keeping shades and curtains closed will also prevent heat gain.
 - Stay out of your basement if it becomes flooded. Water is an excellent conductor of electricity, so it can be dangerous to be in a flooded basement if the power comes back on. Before entering the basement after the power is restored, have a qualified electrician check appliances and outlets that may have been damaged by water.
 - Do not cook with a charcoal grill inside. Always grill outdoors.
 - When power is restored, use water sparingly if on a municipal or city well. The wells and/or boosters that serve your home may still be out of service.
- ⇒ Contact your friends and neighbors, especially the elderly and those dependent on electrically operated medical equipment to see if they need assistance.



UPCOMING EXERCISES

There are many opportunities this year for agencies and departments to participate in exercises. Below is a list that our County will be involved with during 2012. If your agency or group is interested in participating in any of the exercises below, please contact JCHSEM as soon as possible. Those agencies and volunteers that serve in the EOC will be contacted to serve in the full scale exercises that involve their emergency function. Exercises are designed to test plans, procedures, and resources in a safe learning environment.

January

Regions 8 & 9-WV Hospital Association Exercise—COMPLETE

WV Department of Agriculture Workshop/Seminar-Avian Flu Scenario-COMPLETE

February

167th Air Guard TTX-Active Shooter Scenario-COMPLETE

County Government Continuity of Operations-Workshop/Seminar-COMPLETE

County Government Continuity of Operations-TTX-COMPLETE

EPA/Corp of Engineers-Jennings Randolph Lake Dam REGIONAL-Workshop/Seminar-COMPLETE

March

28-National Capitol Region-Mass Dispensing Full Scale Exercise-COMPLETE

April

30-Jefferson County LEPC Table Top Exercise. Hazardous Materials/Commodity Flow scenario-COMPLETE

June

7 in Mineral County, WV. EPA/Corp of Engineers-Jennings Randolph Lake Dam REGIONAL Table Top Exercise. This will include the counties of: Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Hampshire, Hardy, Grant, and Mineral. –COMPLETE

14 Director was an evaluator for the Bluestone Dam Functional Exercise in Preston County-COMPLETE

July 30 at The Augusta Church of Christ in Augusta, Hampshire County. Jennings Randolph Lake Regional Functional Exercise. COMPLETE

Saturday, September 8

EPA/Corp of Engineers-Jennings Randolph Lake Dam REGIONAL Full Scale Exercise. This will include the counties of Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Hampshire, Hardy, Grant, and Mineral. This exercise involves a breach of the DAM that will bring heavy flooding to the communities along the Potomac River. Please contact your local emergency manager in your county if you are interested in participating. Planning for this regional exercise is being developed by the EPA-Don McLaughlin and Chris Behr. HSEEP-compliant After Action Reports/Improvement Plans will be developed by EPA for the Jennings Randolph Lake Exercises.

*Other exercises will be considered as they are presented.

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management-Committees

Steering Committee, John Sherwood, Chair

The Steering Committee works with the JCHSEM Director to guide the activities of JCHSEM. A fourteen-member Steering Committee is made up of public and private representation. JCHSEM 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 on the 4th Tuesday of February, March, May, June, August, September and holds a Nov/Dec meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the JCHSEM EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced. The Quarterly Partnership meetings held in January, April, July, and October also serve as the Steering Committee meetings for those months.

Animals in Disaster Committee, Kelly Parsons, Chair

Any interested person can serve on this committee. The Animals in Disaster Committee is responsible for developing and updating the Animals in Disaster Plan and to work with the JCHSEM to make recommendations regarding the Animals Annex of the Emergency Operations Plan. They will also identify potential resources for animals before, during and after a disaster. The committee meets on the 3rd Monday of the months of January, April, July, October at 9:30 a.m. in the JCHSEM EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

Emergency Planning for People with Special Needs Committee-Amy Jones, Chair

Any interested person can serve on this committee. The Emergency Planning for People with Special Needs Committee is responsible for training and planning for issues of people who have mobility problems, people who have sight or hearing problems, people who speak a language other than English as their first language, the elderly and the very young, people who use oxygen or other medical devices and anyone who may need special assistance during times of disasters and/or evacuations. This committee will work with the JCHSEM to update the portion of the Emergency Operations Plan that deals with these special needs. This committee meets on the 3rd Monday of the months of March, June, September, and December at 9:30 a.m. in the JCHSEM EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced. This room IS handicapped accessible.

Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee, Katherine Dunbar, 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 JCHSEM's programs. They work with the Director and other staff to keep the entire community focused on the objectives of JCHSEM, 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. Additionally, they are responsible to assist the program manager in setting up speaking engagements and public awareness events. This committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month except December at 8:30 a.m. in the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville unless otherwise announced.

Partnership and Volunteer Development Committee, Holly Morgan-Frye, Chair

Any interested person can serve on this committee. The Partnership Development committee assists the staff in identification and recruitment of potential partners and what they have to offer in community preparedness. This committee will be responsible for activities to promote partnership or membership development and recruitment of volunteers. This committee meets quarterly in the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced. at 8:30 a.m. on the last Monday of January, April, July and October.

Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning Committee, Mason Carter, Chair

Any interested person may serve on this committee. The Risk Assessment/Mitigation Planning Committee will examine the community's risks and vulnerability to all hazards and assess the community's vulnerability to those risks. Additionally, they will look at specific buildings, infrastructure, etc. to determine which are most susceptible to risks. A Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan was completed and adopted by the Jefferson County Commission, all Jefferson County municipalities, WVOHSEM, and Federal Emergency Management Agency in July, 2003; updated the original document in 2008. Next update in 2013. This committee meets on an "as needed basis". Please call the office at 728-3329 for exact dates and times.

Counter Terrorism Committee, Barbara Miller, Director, 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 counter terrorism or human-caused disasters. Meetings are held on the 2nd 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 either bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org or tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org

Times, dates, places may need to be changed due to inclement weather, scheduling conflicts or EOC activation. If you have questions, call the JCHSEM office.

**Jefferson County Homeland
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Management**

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PUBLIC SAFETY; PUBLIC TRUST

The Jefferson County Commission's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department is responsible for the coordination of preparedness, planning, 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 Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning; Emergency Planning for Special Populations; Public Awareness, Education and Training; Counter Terrorism; Partnership Development and Retention; Animals in Disaster, and a Steering Committee that acts as an advisory group. We are responsible for the Citizen Corps/CERT, Storm-Ready, Community Rating System, and Project Impact programs. JCHSEM is also responsible for the Jefferson County R.A.C.E.S group.



Meetings & Events

August , 2012

- 1 Public Assistance State Kick Off Meeting at the Jefferson County EOC at 1400 hours
- 6 Public Assistance FEMA Kick Off Meeting at the Jefferson County EOC at 1400 hours
- 8 Jefferson County Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting at Billie's in Ranson at 0730 hours
- 9 Public Awareness Committee at Jefferson County EOC at 8:30 a.m.
- 14 Counter Terrorism Committee at 1400 hours at the Jefferson County EOC
- 17 Set up for the Jefferson County Fair at the Fairgrounds
- 19-25 Jefferson County Fair Booth, Building #2 at The Jefferson County Fairgrounds
- 22 Senior Citizens Day at the Jefferson County Fair
- 28 JCHSEM Steering Committee Meeting at 0900 at the Jefferson County EOC