

# **Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security**

## **2006 Edition of Electronic News**

P.O. Box 250, Charles Town, WV 25414 Phone 304-728-3329 Fax 304-725-7916

[bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org)

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*Jefferson County Commission's Office of Homeland Security operates Citizen Corps, Project Impact, CERT, the Community Rating System of the National Flood Insurance Program and has Committees on Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning, People with Special Needs, Animals in Disaster, Counter Terrorism Planning, Public Awareness and Education, and Partnership Development. Our committees are open to all who are interested and willing to serve on them, with the exception of the Counter Terrorism Committee, which is limited to Law Enforcement, Healthcare Providers, and the Emergency Responder Community. Any interested Business, Group, Government Agency, Faith-based, Civic Organization or Individual can become a JCOHS Partner. Membership is Free.*

### **Sky Warn Winter Storm Spotter Class on November 28 in Shepherdstown**

James Brotherton of the Baltimore-Washington National Weather Service Office in Sterling will be teaching a Winter Storm Skywarn Class on Tuesday, November 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the Shepherdstown Fire Company in Shepherdstown. Pre-registration is necessary. To do so, call 728-3329 or email to [bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org) If you email, please write "Stormspotter Class" in the RE: line.

### **Red Cross WMD/T Class for CERT Members**

Jeff Levesque, who is a Red Cross Instructor, and CERT member and instructor, will be teaching the Red Cross Weapons of Mass Destruction class for members of CERT on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 6-9:30 p.m. at a place to be announced. This course provides basic information about the issues and safety concerns in performing disaster relief services in an environment involving a WMD/T incident. Participants will learn about the skills, abilities and knowledge needed by disaster workers performing duties in this environment. This course is required if you wish to become a Level 2 CERT member. There is no charge for attending this course. You must pre-register for the class by calling 728-3329 or email to [bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org) If you email, please write "WMD/T Class" in the RE: line.

### **CERT Medical Ops Recertification Class**

Members of CERT need to be recertified in Disaster Medical Operations at least yearly. Your opportunity to attend a refresher course will be on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at a place to be announced. This class is being taught by Gene Rice. Back by popular demand, this will also be a "CERT DESSERT NIGHT". If you are so inclined, you may bring a dessert, veggie tray or other item to share with your classmates. In addition to the

recertification, CERTS will view an 18 minute video about how to properly fit your N-95 or N-99 mask and there will be proper fitting equipment at the class, courtesy of the Jefferson County Department of Health. Please bring in the mask from your CERT bag. This would be a good time to replace your mask or buy extras if you need them! You must pre-register for this class by calling 728-3329 or emailing to Barb Miller. If you email, please write "CERT MEDICAL OPS" in the RE: line.

## **Red Cross Offering "Serving People with Disabilities Following a Disaster" Training**

The Jefferson-Morgan Chapter of the American Red Cross is offering a class on Serving People with Disabilities on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 p.m. in the Red Cross Meeting Room at Bardane. This is a blended learning course consisting of two components, online and instructor-led, which outlines American Red Cross policies and practices as they pertain to providing services to people with disabilities following a disaster. A 45-minute online component provides general information for any American Red Cross employee or volunteer who serves the public following a disaster. Additional classroom instruction, including a tabletop exercise, provides detailed training for disaster workers who are in direct and constant contact with people with disabilities. This instructor-led portion allows learners to practice skills obtained from the online portion of the course. Learning Objectives: After completing this course, participants will be able to —

- Recognize American Red Cross policies for engaging and serving people with disabilities.
- Assess the needs of people with disabilities.
- Identify appropriate assistance for people with disabilities.
- Communicate effectively with people with disabilities.
- Apply American Red Cross policies and practices for engaging and serving people with disabilities.
- Coach others at a site about fully involving people with disabilities.
- Coach others in properly serving people with disabilities.

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- Apply American Red Cross policies and practices for engaging and serving people with disabilities.
- Coach others at a site about fully involving people with disabilities.
- Coach others in properly serving people with disabilities.

For more information or to pre-register for this class, contact the Red Cross at 725-5015.

## **2007 NIMS Compliance Standards**

Standards for 2007 National Incident Management System compliance, required for federal preparedness funds, are now available. For FY07, the Department of Homeland Security has changed the certification process. Unlike the process used for FY05 and FY06, which required states to self-certify that they were taking good faith efforts to come into compliance, the FY07 process will use performance-based matrix that will be monitored by DHS. The matrix is divided into activities that must be implemented by the end of FY07 and those that should be started in FY07 because they will be required for FY08 compliance. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has also designated regional points of contact who can provide technical assistance for NIMS compliance.

The matrix and FEMA points of contact are available online at

[www.fema.gov/emergency/nims](http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims) New requirements ask local governments to:

Designate a single point of contact within the local/tribal jurisdiction to serve as the principal coordinator for NIMS implementation.

Ensure that the Public Information System can gather, verify, coordinate and disseminate information during an incident.

Validate that the inventory of response assets conforms to homeland security resource typing standards and provide to the state/territory as required.

Utilize the state/territory response asset inventory for Intra-State Mutual Aid requests, exercises and actual events.

Complete ICS 300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents and ICS 400: Advanced ICS.

Develop systems, tools and processes to present consistent and accurate information to incident managers at all levels (e.g., common operating picture).

In addition, the NIMS Integration Center is upgrading the online NIMS Capability Assessment and Support Tool, or NIMCAST. The upgrade, expected early next year, will reflect FY07 requirements and offer specific instructions on NIMS compliance.

## **Thank You! Readers for our Young People during Fire Prevention Week.**

A very special thank you to all who helped with the 2006 Fire Prevention Week Program: Patsy Morgan, Victor Anderson, Debra Palmer, John Sherwood, Sandy McDonald, Laura Kuhn, Tina Dillow and Kelly Parsons.

## Urban-Rural Evacuation Briefing at Cacapon

The Eastern Panhandle...the first in a series of regional meetings being held throughout the state by WVDMAPS (WV Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety) and the Planning and Development Councils of West Virginia. Approximately 175 participants attended the by-invitation-only briefing, that was a virtual who's who in emergency management, planning and leadership from the Eastern Panhandle and WV Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. It was held on October 25-26, 2006 at Cacapon State Park near Berkeley Springs.

Items of interest that were covered were:

- The state is participating in two multi-state task forces that are working on the issues of urban to rural evacuations.
- Congress ordered that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will plan for a mass evacuation of the National Capital Region and that they will include West Virginia and Pennsylvania in the regional planning process for such an evacuation. DHS has until January 23, 2007 to report back to Congress as to how these states are being included in the planning. They will have to continue to report quarterly.
- WVDMAPS has formed a partnership with the Planning and Development Councils throughout West Virginia to facilitate regional planning for an urban to rural evacuation and the P&DCs will act as a conduit for all WV Homeland Security funding to come through. The contacts for our region are: Carol Crabtree from Region 9 P&DC and Kenneth Dyche from Region 8 P&DC
- West Virginia University conducted an Urban-Rural Survey for WVDMAPS about how people in the Eastern Panhandle counties of Morgan, Berkeley and Jefferson, Frederick, Carroll, Baltimore, Howard and Montgomery Counties in Maryland, and Loudoun, Fairfax, and Prince William Counties in Virginia would act in an evacuation of the DC area. The project team was: Dr. Brian Gerber; Dr. Joseph Scotti, Dr. Alan Ducatyman, Dr. Ronald Althouse, and Dr. Mark Fischer. The project's focus was on a spontaneous mass evacuation. Although the full results of this study have not yet be made public, it can be concluded that there is a need for regional planning for a large scale, chaotic evacuation into rural areas and states proximate to the DC Metro area.
- Communications remains very high on the priority list of the State. The P25 Digital UHF Trunk Radio System is moving along and remains a high priority for WVDMAPS.
- There will be a joint exercise in May and June in the Eastern Panhandle that will involve the military, federal, state and local resources.
- Cabinet Secretary, James Spears, was named Vice Chair for the National Governor's Association's Catastrophic Planning Committee
- West Virginia was nominated by two states and was named by the All Hazards Consortium as the winner of the 2006 Regional Recovery Award.

Those attending from Jefferson County were: Jim Surkamp, Jefferson County Commissioner; Barb Miller, Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security; Ed Boober,

Jefferson County Sheriff; Dave Colbert, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department; Mickey Johnson, Red Cross; Billy Roper, Ranson Police Department; Joe Walter, Jefferson County Schools; Lance Dom, Mayor of Shepherdstown; Mike Athey, Shepherdstown Fire Company; Amy Boyd, Shepherdstown Clerk; Stacey Dodson, City of Ranson; Elise Venusti and Craig Horn from WV Hospitals-East; Joe Castaldo, Jefferson County Public Service District; Donny Dillow, WV Department of Highways; Jeff Pippel, Jefferson Utilities; Judi Rice, Jefferson County Health Department; Pamela Holstein-Wallace and Lisa Lambert. WV State Police

The next meeting, which will once again be hosted by the Regional Planning and Development Council will probably be held in January, 2007.

## **Hoge Shares Stories of Recovery with Hurricane Katrina Displaced Americans that were Flown to WV at Quarterly Partnership Meeting**

The Quarterly Partnership Meeting of the Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security/Citizen Corps/CERT was held at The Anvil in Harpers Ferry on November 1, 2006. The speaker was David Hoge, Chairman of WV VOAD (West Virginia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster). Mr. Hoge was active working with the evacuation of displaced Americans from the Hurricane Katrina disaster to Camp Dawson in Preston County, WV in 2005. He shared several stories and lessons learned from that evacuation incident.

Additionally, there was information about the Urban-Rural Evacuation Briefing that was held at Cacapon State Park in October; information about Jefferson County being named as a CRS (Community Rating System of the National Flood Insurance Program) Community, an announcement about the upcoming Stormspotter Winter Storm Class, and reports about Fire Safety Month and the 100 Kits in 100 Days Projects. The doorprize, which was donated by The Yellow Brick Bank in Shepherdstown, was won by WV Senator, John Unger.

Those attending the luncheon were: Dr. John Adams and Sharon Stanley-Alden, Shepherd University; Laura Affleck and Michael Conner, Charles Town Races & Slots; Judy Birdlebough, CERT member; Beverly Bolger and Noelle Dixon, Biztech; James Brotherton, National Weather Service, Sterling; Karin Christensen, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NCTC and CERT Member; Curt Bury, Jefferson County LEPC; Randall DeHaven, Jefferson County Department of Health; Stacey Dodson, City of Ranson; Katherine Dunbar, CERT Member; Shirley Evans, CERT member; MGS. Stacey Friend, 167<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Unit; Roger Goodwin, Jefferson County Dept. of Planning, Zoning and Engineering; Nancy Hockensmith, Good Shepherd Inter-Faith Caregivers; Dr. Sheri Hoff and Joe Walter, Jefferson County Schools and CERT Members; David Hoge, WV VOAD; Erik Janus, resident of Shannondale; Janet Jeffries and Jean Roberts from

Jefferson County NAACP; Jeff Levesque, CERT Instructor and Red Cross; Terri Mehling, CERT Instructor, Red Cross and Jefferson County 9-1-1 Addressing Office; Gilbert Mehling, CERT Member; Debi Palmer, Palmer & Associates and CERT Member; Christine Perun, Harpers Ferry Women's Club; Tessa Reed, Jefferson County Commission Administrative Assistant; John Sherwood, Jefferson-Morgan Chapter, American Red Cross; Sarah and Fred Soltow, Community Lutheran Partners; Jane Tabb, Jefferson County Commissioner; Charlotte Tachoir, CERT member; John Unger, WV State Senator; Diane Viands, CERT Member, Tom Hansen, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department; Donita Scott, Jefferson County 9-1-1 Addressing Office and CERT Member; and Barb Miller, JCOHS Coordinator.

## **Thank You!**

Special Thanks to The Yellow Brick Bank Restaurant on German Street in Shepherdstown for donating Dinner for Two that was used as a door prize at the Quarterly Partnership Meeting.

## **Chamber-Sponsored Public Service Recognition Banquet**

The Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce sponsored the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Service Recognition Banquet on October 17 at Charles Town Races & Slots. This banquet honored our County's finest—the emergency medical services providers, fire fighters, and policemen who are available in emergency situations and put their own lives on the line to keep our community safe. We add our congratulations to all who were honored:

Career Emergency Medical Service Providers  
Jefferson County Ambulance Authority—Edward M. Hannon

Volunteer Emergency Medical Services Providers:  
Friendship Fire Company-Donald L. Dunn, Jr.  
Independent Fire Company-Tara L. Hough  
Shepherdstown Fire Company-Douglas M. Pittinger

Fire Services Providers  
Bakerton Fire Department-Michael Pond  
Citizens Fire Company-Douglas W. Snowden  
Friendship Fire Company-Stephen D. Hough  
Independent Fire Company-Michael A. Schweitzer  
Shepherdstown Fire Company-Stephen J. Gorman

Law Enforcement Officers  
Charles Town Police Department-Jonathan B. Quinam  
Harpers Ferry Police Department-Brian J. Dolan  
Ranson Police Department-Perry M. Ballenger  
Jefferson County Sheriff's Department-Tracey L. Edwards  
WV State Police, Charles Town Detachment-Benjamin M. Wilfong

Jefferson County Emergency Communications  
Kimberly D. Burke

All honorees were selected by their respective departments.

## **Do You Know The Proper Way to Sneeze?**

Most people sneeze into their hands to stop germs from getting into the air, but unfortunately the germs on their hands spread to doorknobs, telephones, and other surfaces. Did you know there is a better way to sneeze? A humorous new video that you can view on the internet teaches us all the “better way”. With concerns about pandemic flu, keeping germs to ourselves can only help. Check out the new video at [www.coughsafe.com](http://www.coughsafe.com). (Special thanks to our friends at the Central Shenandoah Valley Planning and Development Council for sharing this information!)

## **100 Kits in 100 Days Project EXCEEDS Goal! Thank You to All Who Helped to Deliver the Kits!**

Thanks to all who volunteered to deliver the basic disaster kits to the Meals on Wheels Clients in October for our Make a Difference Day activity: John Sherwood, Lynne Wiseman, Katrina Fritts, Lucas Pierce, Terri Mehling, Debra Palmer, Jeff Levesque and Pasty Morgan

*“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just but a drop in the ocean...but the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.”.....Mother Teresa*

## **Schools Receive NOAA Weather Radios**

Charleston, WV—Public schools throughout West Virginia have received weather radios in an effort to protect children during weather emergencies. The radios were provided through a joint project between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and national Departments of Education and Homeland Security. Public schools across America will receive NOAA Public Alert Radios this year and private schools will receive them next year.

School principals received the radios and the National Weather Service and Citizen Corps Councils were asked to provide any needed assistance in programming the radios.

“This is just another example of local, state and federal agencies working across invisible lines in the name of public safety,” said Jimmy Gianato, Director, WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. “Weather can often turn deadly before

we realize the severity of the situation. These radios are just another means to ensure the necessary information can be shared accordingly.”

In West Virginia, the National Weather Service, the WV Department of Education and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management have been working together to notify counties of the weather radios.

**“Our key concern is always providing a safe and healthy environment for students, said** Bill Elswick, executive director, WV Department of Education, Office of School Facilities. “The weather radios will help minimize the risk to children during any situation.”

The weather radios are connected to a nationwide network of radios that broadcast important weather information 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The NWS broadcasts warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information via the radio network, Federal, State and local emergency officials can use the network to send out messages to the public about natural disasters, man-made disasters and even AMBER alerts.

## **NOAAWATCH-New All Hazards Monitor**

NOAAWatch, a Website from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is a Website offering information about on-going environmental events and explains NOAA’s role in prediction, monitoring, and recovery. It integrates NOAA data, products, observations, satellite images, and more to provide public access to current information on a number of environmental threats, such as oil spills, hurricanes, tsunamis, and space weather, all on one site. Permanent features include the present weather outlook and warnings, satellite image of the day, and educational pages. NOAAWatch went live in June. Visit the site at [www.noaawatch.gov/](http://www.noaawatch.gov/)

## **Independent Fire Company/Home Depot Partner on Smoke Alarm Project**

Independent Fire Company has partnered with the local Home Depot to provide smoke alarms to needy citizens of Jefferson County. At a recent Children’s Day event held at the Home Depot, members of the fire company demonstrated skills needed for the “Junior Firefighters” including the “Stop, Drop and Roll” procedure and calling 911 for help.

At the event, 35 smoke alarms were donated to the fire company to be distributed to those who need them in the county.

Ed Smith, fire department chief, provided national statistics to back up the need for smoke alarms. In 2003, fire departments responded to 388,500 home structure fires in the United States that claimed the lives of an estimated 3,145 people. Working smoke alarms greatly reduce the likelihood of a residential fire-related fatal injury by providing occupants with early warning and giving them additional time to escape.

Smoke alarms, Smith said, are the single most important means of preventing house and apartment fire fatalities by providing the early warning signal to allow residents to escape the home. "Smoke alarms are one of the best safety features you can buy and install to protect yourself, your family and your home," Smith said.

In West Virginia in 2006, Smith indicated that there have been 2,778 residential fires. Of those, 886 or one-third, did not have smoke alarms.

Those who may be in need of a smoke detector may contact Smith at Independent Fire Company at 725-2514. The fire department members will provide smoke alarms and help install them for needy families until their supply of alarms is exhausted.

## **Coming Events & Meetings**

### **November, 2006**

- 4 Red Cross Bloodmobile at Citizens Fire Company, Charles Town. 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- 6 Red Cross Bloodmobile at the Charles Town/Ranson Lions Center. 2 – 7 p.m.
- 7 Election Day-Office is Closed
- 8 Public Awareness, Education & Training Committee Meeting at Bardane in the Kathryn Rudolph Room at 9:00 a.m.
- 10 Veterans Day Holiday-Office is Closed
- 14 Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting at 2:00 p.m. in the Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management.
- 20 Emergency Planning for People with Special Needs Committee at 9:30 a.m. in the Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management.
- 22 Red Cross Bloodmobile at the Bardane Community Room 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- 23 Thanksgiving Holiday-Office is Closed

28 Participation in the IRS Security Awareness Day

28 Winter Storm Stormspotter Class at 6:30 p.m. at the Shepherdstown Fire Company, Martinsburg Pike, Shepherdstown, WV Reservations for this class can be made by calling 728-3329 or email [bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org)

30 Red Cross Bloodmobile at Shepherd University 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### **December, 2006**

5 Steering Committee Meeting at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Services Facility at Bardane in the Kathryn Rudolph Room.

5 CERT Disaster Medical Operations Recertification Class and Dessert Night at a place to be announced 6:30-9:30 p.m. To pre-register, call 728-3329 or email to [bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org)

6 Red Cross Serving People with Disabilities following a Disaster Class, 6-9 p.m. at Bardane. To pre-register, call the Red Cross Office at 725-5015.

12 Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting at 2:00 p.m. (place to be announced)

13 Regional Pandemic Flu Tabletop Exercise in Hampshire County. For more information, contact Judi Rice at the Jefferson County Health Department. 728-8415

13 Weapons of Mass Destruction/Terrorism Class for CERTS at a place to be announced from 6 – 9 p.m. To pre-register, call 728-3329 or email to [bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org)

18 Animals in Disaster Committee Meeting at 9:30 a.m. at Briggs Animal Adoption Center, Route 9 towards Berryville.

25 Christmas Day-Office is Closed

\* Other Activities may be added. Watch your email for updates!!

\*\* Classes may need to be rescheduled in times of inclement weather or Emergency Operations Center activation. If you have questions about JCOHS activities, call 728-3329.

\*\* If you have activities that you would like to have added to the Calendar of Events, please get the information to the JCOHS Office prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

