



Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Newsletter

September, 2007

September is National Preparedness Month—Are YOU Ready?

Volume 1, Issue 1

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SBA Disaster Loans Available in WV Following Secretary of Agriculture Disaster Declaration

The U.S. Small Business Association announces that federal disaster loans are available to small businesses located in the counties of Berkeley, Hampshire, Jefferson, Mineral and Morgan in the State of WV.

“These counties are eligible because they are contiguous to one or more primary counties in the State of Maryland. SBA recognizes that disasters do not usually stop at the county or state lines. For that reason, counties adjacent to primary counties named in the declaration are included,” according to Frank Skaggs, Director of SBA Field Operations Center, East. SBA’s disaster declaration was issued as a result of a similar action taken by the Secretary of Agriculture to help farmers recover from damages and losses to crops caused by drought and excessive heat occurring June 1, 2007 and

continuing.

Under this declaration, SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program is available to farm-related and nonfarm-related small business concerns and small agricultural cooperatives that suffered economic injury as a direct result of this disaster. Farmers and ranchers are not eligible to apply to SBA but nurseries are eligible to apply for economic injury disaster loans for losses caused by drought conditions.

Eligible small businesses may qualify for loans up to \$1.5 million. These loans are available at a 4 percent interest rate with loan terms up to 30 years. SBA determines eligibility for the program based on the size and type of business and its financial resources. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based

upon each applicant’s financial condition. Under this disaster declaration, SBA cannot provide loans to agricultural producers.

Interested business owners should contact SBA’s Customer Service Center by calling 1-800-659-2955, Monday through Friday 8 a.m.—9 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m.—5:30 p.m. EDT. Business loan applications can also be downloaded from the SBA’s website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155. Completed loan applications must be returned to SBA no later than April 21, 2008.

EVERY BUSINESS NEEDS A PLAN—READY BUSINESS!

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, September 12 from 7-9 p.m. to learn why every business needs to have a written disaster/emergency plan and how to develop one. Barbara Miller, Director of Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Neal Nilsen, President of AskNeal.com will team up to bring you this very worthwhile information. There will be handouts and numerous ideas to take back to make your business safer

from the next disaster or large emergency. Barbara will cover the disaster basics and Neal will cover the IT information about how to protect your hardware, software and the data that is your business! This presentation is FREE and you are encouraged to attend. It will be held in the Jefferson County Public Meeting Room, which is located in the basement of the Charles Town Library on the corners of N. Samuel and E. Washington Streets. Please use the Samuel Street En-

trance. To pre-register, send the name of your business, your name, address, phone and email to bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org or call 728-3290 or 728-3329. This program is a part of Jefferson County’s National Preparedness Month activities. I sincerely hope that you will join us as Jefferson Prepares!

Severe Thunderstorm caused havoc at the Jefferson County Fair



**“Too many individuals remain in a state of denial when it comes to personal preparedness.”
Homeland Security Secretary, Michael Chertoff
Aug. 31, 2007**



Kelly Parsons, Lucas Pierce, Mike Kanchl and Shirley Evans working the booth at the Jefferson County Fair.

Training Opportunities

Sept. 12-READY BUSINESS-Every Business Needs A Plan! Jefferson County Public Meeting Room, in the basement of the Charles Town Library at the corners of E. Washington and N. Samuel Streets. 7-9 p.m. pre-register to bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org

Sept. 19-First Steps in Disaster Readiness Planning for People with Disabilities and Interactive Seminar in Disaster Readiness Planning for People with Disabilities. Free. Pre-register to bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org. 8:30a.m.—4:30 p.m.

October-CERT-Community Emergency Response Team Training. Tuesdays and Thursdays 6 p.m. – 9p.m. Pre-registration is required to bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org

October 4-5 NIMS 400 Incident Management Training 8:00 a.m.—4 p.m. daily at the U.S. Customs & Border Protection Training Facility, 400 Koonce Road, Harpers Ferry. Instructor: Mike Athey, RESA. Pre-registration is required to bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org

NIMS Resource Management Independent Study Course-IS-703 Free and online at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>

NIMS Intrastate Mutual Aid Independent Study Course IS-706. Free and online at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>

Getting to Know Our Volunteers.....RACES

The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a public service provided by a reserve (volunteer) communications group within government agencies in times of extraordinary need. During periods of RACES activation, certified unpaid personnel are called upon to perform many tasks for the government organization that they serve. Although the exact nature of each activation will be

different, the common thread is communications. FEMA provides planning guidance and technical assistance for establishing RACES and a comprehensive RACES manual is available on the FEMA Web site at <http://www.fema.gov/library/civilpg.shtm>

Locally, some members of the Jefferson County Amateur Radio Club serve as RACES when

called upon by the JC Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. In August, the Board of Directors of JCARC held their meeting at the JCOHS&EM office.



Director's Corner

I just returned from a week at our booth at the Jefferson County Fair. While most of our residents were interested in learning how to prepare their families for disasters, many still were squeamish and made remarks such as, "I don't want to think about that!" "If it happens, someone will take care of it." and "Nothing's going to happen here, we're outside of "the kill zone". ARRRRGH!!!

So...I'm going to say it again....**Have a kit** with enough supplies to last you, your family and your pets for up to 2 weeks. Have a modified version of that kit in each vehicle you own and have supplies where you work in case you cannot leave there for any reason. **Have a plan** of where you will go if you have to evacuate for a couple of hours...or a few weeks...or forever. (All three of

those.) Include your pets in your plan. Include how you will communicate in your plan. What will you do if your cell phone doesn't work? **Know where you will volunteer** and get the needed training. You are either a part of the problem or a part of the solution. If you are able-bodied, be a part of the solution. September is National Preparedness Month. Are YOU Prepared?

First Steps in Disaster Readiness for People with Disabilities and Interactive Seminar in Disaster Planning for People with Special Needs

A one-day training is being offered on September 19 from 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Training Facility near Harpers Ferry, through a grant from the WV Commission on National and Community Service, on Readiness for People with Disabilities and Special Needs for agencies that provide care to these individuals.

First Steps is a presentation designed to explain disaster readiness planning that includes people with disabilities, and discuss how organizations can include individuals with disabilities in readiness plan-

ning. Participants will evaluate their personal or organizational readiness for disasters, and explore what resources are available to make their readiness more inclusive and effective. All participants will receive a readiness guide and supporting materials to assist in the development of an inclusive personal or organizational plan.

The interactive seminar includes the materials presented in First Steps, and continues the inclusive readiness planning process, including how to establish improved communication and coordination between disability organizations and

emergency management organizations. As a group, participants will identify and discuss their primary concerns about emergencies and disasters, and then use the Readiness Guide to map out the most important initiatives they can take to improve their readiness quickly.

To register, contact bmiller@jeffersoncountywv.org or call 728-3329.



Governor Manchin presented Community Rating System Award to Jefferson County Commission and Staff in August. Jefferson is the first County in West Virginia to obtain CRS Status.

NIMS 300 & 400 Training Offered Locally

NIMS 300 training will be taught on September 10-11 from 8 a.m.—5 p.m. at the WVU Building on the City Hospital Campus. To register for this class, call 267-3595, Ext. 116 or 112.

The NIMS 400 Course will be taught on October 4 & 5 at the U.S. Customs & Border Protection Facility near Harpers Ferry from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. RESA

VIII Public Service Training will be offering both classes and there is no cost to attend.

NIMS, National Incident Management System classes are required for all Federal, state, local and tribal governments, as well as, non-governmental personnel with a direct role in emergency management response operations.



Sheriff Ed Boober and Jeff Polczynski, Communications Director discuss how to communicate with Virginia in the cross border exercise on August 15th.

Remembering 9/11

9/11/2001 has been eternally frozen in our minds. Where we were, what we saw, what we thought and heard will stay with us forever. That one day was different from every day before it and every day since.

We salute the firefighters and other emergency responders that went to work that day, like every other day, but didn't

come home. We salute the people from all walks of life that boarded the flights that day, like any other day, but died tragically. We salute the hospital workers who geared up for thousands of patients that never arrived. And we salute all of the volunteers that wanted to help. We remember with deepest regret the survivors of the event who may still live with

untold misery. And we remember our troops that have been serving ever since.

We must never forget, because given the chance, terrorists will do it again.

At 9:50 a.m. the North Tower fell. Wherever you are, whatever you are doing at 9:50 a.m. on 9/11, please stop for one minute and remember.

“The streets are near gridlock, and very worried looking people are rushing out of government and other buildings.”
Peter Maer, CBS Radio News on 9/11/01 in Washington, DC

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PUBLIC SAFETY; PUBLIC TRUST



The Jefferson County Commission's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is responsible for the coordination of preparedness, planning, response, recovery and mitigation of disasters and large emergencies in Jefferson County, West Virginia. Volunteers 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. JCOHS is also responsible for the Jefferson County RACES group, Forestry 19 and Tanker 19.

Calendar of Events

September-National Preparedness Month

- 3-Closed for Labor Day Holiday
- 4 Counter Terrorism Committee, 2 p.m. CBP, Room 136
- 5 Public Awareness Committee, 9 a.m. Red Cross Meeting Room, Bardane
- 10 & 11 NIMS 300 Training at WVU Building on City Hospital Campus
- 11 September 11 Remembrance at Independent Fire Company, Arrive by 9:30 a.m.
- 11 Day of Caring Activities-Disaster Preparedness Booths at Charles Town Wal-Mart
- 12 Ready Business-Every Business Needs a Plan 7-9 p.m. JC Public Meeting Room
- 17 Animals in Disaster Committee Meeting 9:30 a.m. JCOHS&EM
- 19 First Steps and Interactive Seminar at CBP, Harpers Ferry 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
- 24-27 LEPC/SERC Conference in Charleston

October-Fire Prevention Month "Practice Your Escape Plan"

- 4&5 NIMS 400 Training at CBP, Harpers Ferry
- 7-13 Fire Prevention Week



Mason Carter spends some time with Governor Manchin at the CRS presentation