June 2026

Monthly Newsletter

JEFFERSON COUNTY WV
OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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 June 2026 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 topic of National Lightning Safety Awareness Week and #SummerReady. This newsletter also includes information on Child Safety Week and National Safety Month. 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**
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 304-728-3329 or email at jchsem@jeffersoncountywv.org.

everbridge

Happy Retirement to Dr. Terrence Reidy

After years of dedicated service to the health and well-being of Jefferson County residents, Dr. Terrence Reidy has announced his retirement as the Health Officer for the Jefferson County Health Department.

Throughout his tenure Dr. Reidy played a critical role in protecting public health, especially during COVID, strengthening emergency preparedness efforts, and guiding the community through numerous public health challenges.

The Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management would like to thank Dr. Reidy for his years of dedicated service and commitment to protecting the health and safety of our residents. His leadership and close collaboration with our office have played a vital role in ensuring our community remains prepared and ready to respond to public health emergencies. We are grateful for his partnership, professionalism, and lasting impact on Jefferson County.

We wish him well in beginning his new chapter in retirement, and hope for continued success in the years ahead.



Child Safety Week 2026

Child Safety Week is an annual campaign dedicated to promoting child safety and raising awareness about the importance of protecting children from harm. Observed each year from June 2nd to June 8th, the week encourages families, schools, and communities to take proactive steps to create safer environments for children.



How to Keep Children Safe

Children are curious and active, and love to see new things and go outside to play on their new bike, a swing-set at the park, or a new game on their tablet or computer. While exciting and fun for kids, parents need to be aware of their safety while playing outdoors, inside the home, or on the internet. Here are some ways parents, guardians, and caregivers can help keep children safe.

- Educate Yourself: Take the time to educate yourself about the common hazards and risks that children may encounter in their daily lives. Familiarize yourself with safety guidelines and best practices recommended by child safety experts.
- Engage Children: Involve children in age-appropriate discussions about safety. Teach them about potential hazards and how to protect themselves. Use interactive activities, story telling, and role-playing to help them understand the importance of safety measures such as road safety, fire safety, water safety, and online safety.
- Home Safety Check: Conduct a comprehensive home safety check to identify and address potential hazards within your own home. Secure furniture and electronics, install safety gates, outlet covers, and window locks. Ensure that poisonous substances, sharp objects, and chocking hazards are out of reach of children.
- Online Safety: Educate children and parents about online safety. Discuss the importance of safe internet use, protection of personal information, and avoiding contact with strangers online. Promote the use of parental controls, privacy settings, and age appropriate content filters to ensure a safe online environment for children.

Protecting Children Together During Child Safety Week 2026

Child Safety Week provides an opportunity for everyone to come together and make a difference in protecting children from harm. By taking these steps, you contribute to creating a safer world for children to grow, explore, and thrive. Remember, child safety is a shared responsibility that involves individuals, families, communities, and policymakers.

For more information visit: Awareness Days | Child Safety Week 2026

National Lightning Safety Awareness Week

June 21-27, 2026 is National Lighting Safety Awareness Week. During this week we educate the public about the dangers of lightning and promote safety measures to prevent lightning related injuries or death.

History & Information

National Lightning Safety Awareness Week started in 2001 in order to call attention to lightning being an underrated killer. Since then, U.S. lightning fatalities has dropped from about 55 per year to less than 30. This reduction in lightning fatalities is largely due to the greater awareness of lightning danger and people seeking safety when thunderstorms threaten.

Prepare for Thunderstorms & Lightning



- Know your Risk: Know your area's risk for thunderstorms. Storms can happen year-round and at any time of day. Stay informed by signing up for Everbridge local emergency alerts. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) also provide important weather watches, warnings, and emergency notifications for your area.
- Make an Emergency Plan: Create an emergency plan so that you and your family know what to do, where to go, and what you will need to protect yourselves from the effects of a thunderstorm. Identify sturdy buildings close to where you live, work, study, and play.
- Strengthen your Home: Cut down or trim trees that may be in danger of falling on your home. Consider buying surge protectors, lightning rods or a lightning protection system to protect your home, appliances and electronic devices.

Stay Safe During and After Thunderstorms and Lightning

- When thunder roars, go indoors! Move from outdoors into a building or car with a roof.
- Pay attention to alerts and warnings.
- Avoid using electrical devices connected to an electrical outlet.
- Avoid running water.
- Turn Around, Don't Drown! Do not drive through flooded roadways.
- After a storm watch for fallen power lines and trees. Report them immediately.



For more information visit: Ready.gov | Thunderstorms & Lightning

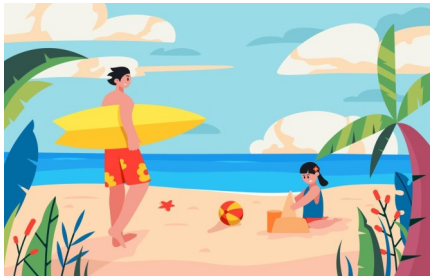
#SummerReady

Get #SummerReady

As summer officially begins on June 21, hot and extreme temperatures will become more frequent across our region. With rising temperatures, it's important for residents to be #SummerReady by understanding the dangers of extreme heat and taking simple steps to stay safe and prepared.

Extreme heat can be especially dangerous to groups of people across the community, including:

- Lower income households
- Rural communities
- Infants and children
- Older adults
- Laborers
- Individuals with medical conditions



Take Simple Steps

Being #SummerReady means understanding your risk of extreme heat and taking steps now to prepare

Tips for Everyone

- Learn the signs of heat-related illnesses and ways to respond from the CDC.
- Fans alone aren't enough in high heat + high humidity. Get inside in air conditioning or go to a public place like the library, museum, or shopping mall to beat the heat.
- Never leave children or pets alone in hot vehicles! Heat can rise in a car, up to 20 degrees in just 10 minutes.
- During extreme heat, check on family, friends, and neighbors who do not have air conditioning and who spend much of their time alone.
- Roughly 40% of unwanted heat buildup in our homes is through windows. Use awnings or curtains to keep that heat out.



National Safety Month

June is National Safety Month

National Safety Month, established by the National Safety Council in 1996, is an annual observance dedicated to raising awareness about safety issues and promoting preventative measures across workplaces, roadways, and homes.

Purpose and Importance

Safety plays a role in every part of daily life. Whether at home, on the road, or at work, being prepared and aware can help prevent accidents before they happen. Common hazards such as distracted driving, extreme heat, severe weather, fires, and falls can have serious consequences, but many are incidents that are preventable through education, planning, and safe practices.

Throughout National Safety Month, it is important for residents to review emergency plans, check smoke alarms, practice safe driving habits, and stay informed about local hazards. Families can also take time to discuss emergency preparedness, create evacuation plans, and ensure emergency supply kits are up to date.

Weekly Safety Topics

Week 1 (June 1-6): Moving Safety Forward

- Advance a culture of safety with forward-thinking strategies and tools.

Week 2 (June 7-13): Staying Safe on the Roads

- Help reduce crashes with practical guidance for drivers, pedestrians and fleets.

Week 3 (June 14-20): Promoting Holistic Worker Health

- Support total worker wellbeing with insights on mental, physical and emotional health.

Week 4 (June 21-30): Preventing Slips, Trips, and Falls

- Reduce common workplace and home hazards with targeted prevention resources.

For more information visit NSC.org | National Safety Month



Flood Flooding

What is Flash Flooding and What Causes it?

Flash flooding is flooding that begins within 6 hours, and often within 3 hours, of the heavy rainfall (or other cause).

Flash Floods can be caused by a number of things, but is most often due to extremely heavy rainfall from thunderstorms. Flash Floods can occur due to a Dam or Levee Breaks, and/or Mudslides (Debris Flow).

What Areas are Prone to Flash Flooding?

Urban areas are especially vulnerable to flooding in a short amount of time. In many cases, heavy rainfall from the same storm can cause flooding in cities and developed areas more quickly, and with greater severity, than in suburban or rural communities.

Can I Prepare for a Flash Flood?



While flash floods can occur suddenly and catch homeowners and business owners off guard, the steps to prepare for a reduce the impacts of a flash flood are similar to general flood preparedness measures.

- **Create a Communications Plan:** It is important to be able to communicate with your family and friends in the event of a disaster. Designate a specific person to be a point of contact for status updates or a safe location to meet up with family members.
- **Assemble an Emergency Kit:** It is good to have enough food, water, and medicine on hand at all times to last you at least 3 days in the case of a emergency. You should have batteries, blankets, flashlights, first aid kit, rubber boots, rubber gloves, and a NOAA Weather Radio or other battery operated radio easily available.
- **Know Your Risk:** Is your home, business, or school in a floodplain? Where is water likely to collect on the roadways you most often travel? What is the fastest way to get to higher ground? Knowing the answer to these questions ahead of time can save your life.
- **Prepare Your Home:** Here are some ways you can prepare your home before a flash flood; Use sandbags to protect your home and slow the flood waters, have a professional install a check valve to prevent flood water from backing up into your drains at home, and get flood insurance if your home is in a flood prone area.
- **Leave:** If it is likely your home will flood, don't wait to be ordered to leave; evacuate yourself! If you have pets, take them with you or board them at a safe facility.

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





WV Public Service Training

Course	Date	Location
Emergency Services Instructor Course I & II	06/05-07 & 12-14/2026	Summit Point Motorsports
Emergency Medical Technician—Refresher	06/12-20/2026	Hedgesville VFD
Emergency Services Instructor Course I & II	08/07-09 & 14-16/2026	Hampshire County ESA

For more information contact: Jaime Weller at (304) 596-2653 or Steven Harris at (304) 596-2652

Local Training

Course	Date	Location
Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	06/09/2026	JCESA
Community CPR and Stop the Bleed	07/19/2026	JCESA
Community First Aid	07/21/2026	JCESA

All Community CPR, Stop the Bleed, and First Aid courses are held at the Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency (JCESA) located at 419 Sixteenth Avenue, Ranson, WV 25438 @ 6:00 pm.

State Training

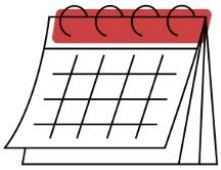
Course	Date	Location
N/A	N/A	N/A

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.

MAY MEETINGS & EVENTS



- WV State weather calls on Mondays and Fridays at 10a.m.
- Sterling National Weather Service call every Monday and Friday at 10:30a.m.
- Counter Terrorism Meeting: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 1400; JCOHSEM EOC
- LEPC Meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 0815; Hospice of the Panhandle

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STAFF:

- **Dick Myers, Director / Planner / Program Manager**
  - ⇒ Office: 304-728-3329
  - ⇒ Email: dick.w.myers@jeffcowv.gov

- **Brandon Wonder, Public Affairs Coordinator**
  - ⇒ Office: 304-724-8914
  - ⇒ Email: brandon.j.wonder@jeffcowv.gov