



P1 FIREWORKS AND PARK

SAFETY

Encourage firework and park safety preparedness for the entire community.



P2 SERC CONFERENCE

Follow details about the upcoming SERC conference in October at Camp Dawson.



P3 DISASTER RECOVERY

With four federally declared disasters, how is the state moving forward



P3 CREDENTIALING ARRIVES

After several years of delays and consideration, the Credentialing Program became operational in May 2014.

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Firework and Park Safety

The West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is excited about the Fourth of July, but wants to ensure citizens are prepared and know how to stay safe.

WVDHSEM wants to ensure residents are prepared during the summer holidays. Fireworks safety is extremely important during this time of year. According to the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, 200 people on average go to the emergency room with fireworks-related injuries around the July 4th holiday. It is vital to know how to use fireworks safely to avoid injury. Remember, the safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public display by professionals.

In addition to firework safety, WVDHSEM is stressing importance of park safety. Parks a great place to spend time in the summer, but can pose risks to citizens if they are not prepared.

Summer can be a fun time for all, but remember to be prepared and stay informed to ensure community safety. .

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“ ...200 people on average go to the emergency room with firework-related injuries around the July 4th holiday. ”

Firework and Park Safety

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When at the park, be sure to always stay informed of the weather as it can change in the blink of an eye. Before your trip, consider creating a family communication plan for when you are at the park. This plan will detail how you will get to a safe place, contact one another, reunite with each other, and what to do in different situations. Another activity is creating an emergency supply kit for your car with items you may need in an emergency, such as food, water, and a first aid kit.

Fireworks are an important part of the Independence Day holiday, but can be dangerous. Fireworks can cause serious burns and eye injuries. Fireworks also pose a fire risk to structures, vehicles, and grasslands and forests. Fireworks cause millions of dollars of property damage every year and can result in user injury or death. The best way to protect your family is to not use fireworks at home. If you decide to use fireworks for your holiday celebration, always follow the instructions and safety tips to reduce your risk.



“ Before your trip, consider creating a family communication plan for when you are at the park. ”

Fireworks injuries are preventable, and everyone should enjoy a safe and happy holiday. Sparklers, firecrackers, and rockets are the leading contributors to July 4th related injuries throughout the area. Injuries may be prevented by never allowing young children to play with or ignite fireworks, never pointing or throwing fireworks at another person, and never attempting to re-ignite a malfunctioning firework.

Together we can prepare for enjoyable holiday season by embracing fireworks and park safety. By understanding the risks associated with summer celebrations, the entire community can work together for a safe Independence Day holiday and summer season.



2015 SERC Conference



LOCATION

The State Emergency Response Commission Conference will be held at Camp Dawson West Virginia Army National Guard facility located in Kingwood, Preston County West Virginia from October 13-15, 2015. A room block will be held in the Robert C. Byrd Complex on site.

TOPICS

The SERC Conference will have speakers from CSX, Department of Transportation, National Weather Service, the West Virginia National Guard, Colombia Gas, and FirstEnergy. Topics will include Local Emergency Planning Committee basics, Hazardous Materials Grant Program, Water Contamination Modeling, Rail Transportation, Sheltering, and Weather Preparedness.

REGISTRATION

Registration details may be obtained from www.serc2015conference.eventbrite.com. Questions, comments, or concerns may be sent to Melissa.d.cross@wv.gov

Since March, West Virginia has had four federally declared disasters due to severe storms, flooding, mudslides and landslides affecting 37 of the 55 counties statewide in at least on disaster. All four disasters have had a Public Assistance declaration approved by President Obama.

Disaster Recovery and Hazard Mitigation



What is the roadmap to recovery? WV begins the long process of disaster recovery and mitigation.



As of publication, West Virginia has had four federal disasters with only Public Assistance declarations. Governor Earl Ray Tomblin has appealed an Individual Assistance denial and is awaiting a final decision. With these four declarations, the state continues to work on repairing damages to infrastructure through the Public Assistance program administered by WVDHSEM and through the FEMA/State Joint Field Office. For the four disasters, fiscal estimates project infrastructure investments of over \$65 million throughout 37 different counties.

As with previous disasters, the declaration request included Hazard Mitigation. These funds will be used to assist individuals, businesses, and government entities in mitigating future damages from natural and man-made disasters. This program reduces or eliminates the long-term risks for approved properties. Previous projects in hazard mitigation have included “buy-outs” of properties in the flood plain and increased elevation of buildings in the flood plain. The hazard mitigation program is also looking toward the purchase of generators for critical infrastructure facilities to mitigate disaster effects.

Credentialing Arrives



After several years of consideration, followed by some false starts the WV Credentialing Program became operational in May 2014. The program has continued to grow since that time. While agencies are strongly encouraged to participate in this program, involvement is on a voluntary basis.

The initial emphasis of the program has been the emergency response community and personnel who are defined as “emergency response officials.” To date, there are 127 agencies across all levels of government in 14 counties participating with approximately 500 PIV-I cards issued. These cards have numerous capabilities including, but not limited to: Identification, Encryption, Digital signature, multi-factor authentication, logical access, physical access, attribute assignment and financial transactions.



While the above are possible with the card, some require additional infrastructure and/or incorporation into current systems. Efforts to accomplish this on the state and federal levels are ongoing. The use of cards for physical/logical access is also dependent on the agencies and the desire and capabilities to do so. While multi-use is strongly encouraged, it is not mandatory and an agency may utilize any specific card capability.

The program is currently operated out of the WVDHSEM with a vendor operating and maintaining management systems that meet standards and guidelines for issuance of PIV-I credentials. There are eleven enrollment sites statewide including: Kanawha, Cabell, Wood, Raleigh, Monongalia, Ohio, Berkeley, Jefferson, Hardy, and Hampshire with two sites being added in the future. The WVDHSEM website has a FAQ on the program. Inquiries may also be directed to the program coordinator at david.w.skeen@wv.gov

Personal Voice: Director Gianato

Communication is a vital tool for emergency managers throughout the country. Every disaster and after action review finds communication deficiencies and lessons learned. It is with that in mind, that I have directed a newsletter to be developed. It is my pleasure to announce the inaugural edition of the *News WVDHSEM* newsletter. At the WVDHSEM, I have strived for old and new ways to communicate ideas, events, and program details to emergency managers and partners throughout the state. I feel this monthly newsletter, is a wonderful opportunity to showcase agency events and programs. I also hope that emergency management partners throughout the state will share news and lessons learned from their jurisdictions for distribution across our network.



It is my desire for you to actively participate in the development of future issues of *News WVDHSEM* to share important happenings in the emergency management field.

NEXT ISSUE:

BACK TO SCHOOL

Preparedness and planning are critical for the back-to-school season.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

All submissions and images must be submitted to Terrance Lively (terrance.d.lively2@wv.gov) no later than July 17 for inclusion in the August 2015 edition.



WVDHSEM

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