

The background image is a landscape photograph. In the foreground, there is a dark, grassy field. Behind it is a dense line of dark green trees. The sky is filled with large, dramatic clouds. A massive, dark, and textured cloud formation rises from the horizon, partially obscuring the sun. Bright light is visible where the sun is breaking through the clouds, creating a strong contrast and illuminating the edges of the surrounding clouds with a golden or orange glow. The overall mood is dramatic and powerful.

# **Joint Emergency Management Teams (JEM)**

## **Introduction**

June 12, 2008

# Location of the JEM Teams



# Joint Emergency Management Teams (JEM)

- 5 areas of focus:
  - Community Status Reporters
  - JEM coordination centers
  - Public education
  - Emergency preparedness
  - Comfort center management
- Preparedness vs response

# Community Status Reporter

- Community Status Reporters (CSR) are members of the community.
- Report incidents before, during and after an event once activated.
- Report what they see out their windows.
- They do not go out in an event.
- Receive reports on event progress.

# Hurricane Juan



# Reported Damaged



# Joint Operations Center / Joint Communication Center

- One in every JEM area.
- Set up when there has been a total disconnect from HRM.
- Has Representatives from our JEM Partners.
- Has multi mode of communications.

# What is a Comfort Center

A Comfort Center is a facility in our community where our citizens can go to in times of emergency to receive warmth, something to eat, information and other things.







# Public Education/ Emergency Planning

- Tabling events. Fairs, Group talks
- JEM Jamborees, twice a year.
- 72 hour preparedness.

# Tabling Event





Thank you for expressing an interest in the Joint Emergency Management (JEM) Organization, the community-based volunteer arm of HRM EMO.

There are 5 active Joint Emergency Management (JEM) teams within the rural areas of HRM and 3 inactive within the Core area. We take this whole area as our “community” and our motto is “neighbours helping neighbours”.

We have various programs (as follows):

**Community Status Reporters (CSRs)** – These are people who have joined us to report what is happening in their immediate area when it is happening. This enables us to give the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in HRM accurate information on which to base their decisions for handling the emergency. The volunteers are asked to report what they see from the windows of their home, and at no time are they asked to put themselves at risk. They receive an alert through CityWatch when an event (usually weather) is approaching. The CSRs are literally our “eyes and ears within a community”.

**Joint Support Center (JSC)** – This is our command center where the local emergency is handled. This can mean an individual coordinating actions from his/her home to setting up a larger center where representatives of our Partners (RCMP, EMC, etc) collect to work toward resolving the emergency.

**Comfort Centers** – We open temporary shelters in the community for the public to come for heat, warm food, information, etc. Although we close our doors every day, we can re-open on consecutive days or as many days as necessary. These centers are staffed by members of the community who are trained and registered with JEM under the auspices of HRM EMO. The staff is insured and the center is supported through EMO. We have several centers throughout HRM who have agreed to open their doors when needed for various reasons – information, hot food, possible vaccination centers, etc

**Public Awareness** – Part of our role is in educating the public on Emergency Preparedness. We support the Federal Government’s 72 hour program. Tabling events are held at various locations – fairs, senior’s expos, presentations to senior’s clubs and Scouting groups, etc. We go into groups and facilities to introduce our organization to their members.

**Emergency Planning** – We collect information and advise HRM EMO on the situations in our area. For example we are participating in collecting information for the HRM sector profiles, which supplies such info as fuel stations, hospitals, schools, etc for the various areas of the city, which in turn is made available to emergency response agencies when needed. We recently participated in the HRM HVR Assessment.

**Outreach** – This is a new program we are running in the Eastern Shore JEM, where vulnerable people can register with us and then receive a phone call within a day or so after an event to inquire on their status. This is designed for senior’s living alone, single mom’s with small children, people on vital medication or therapies, etc. We don’t fix problems but can use our resources to enable the members to resolve their own issues. All part of public education.

Our efforts cover all the aspects of Emergency Management – planning, preparation, response, recovery and mitigation. We have been in place for about 11 years in the rural areas, but there is still a lot of room for growth. We hope that you will consider joining us in some capacity. Looking after ourselves and our neighbours is a tradition in Nova Scotia, and one that we continue to practice.