



Flood Damage severe from April 15 storm

Heavy rain and snowmelt caused sharp rises in rivers throughout the state on April 15. The resulting flooding created road closures and power outages, and left behind millions of dollars in damage for local governments to repair.

Towns like Pittsfield, Stockbridge, Bethel, and others, bared the brunt of the storm as it stalled over that area of the state. Those communities and many in other parts of the state are now facing a long process of bringing roads, bridges, and other public infrastructure back to their pre-storm condition.

When the water receded, local and state officials identified more than \$2-million in statewide damages. This prompted Vermont Emergency Management Director Erica Bornemann to request a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to determine if the state qualifies for a federal major disaster declaration. The request asked for assessments in Bennington, Essex, Orange, Rutland, Washington, and Windsor counties.

The more than \$2-million in damages identified by Vermont officials is more than twice the \$1-million dollar amount in response and public infrastructure recovery costs the state

must show to qualify for a Public Assistance disaster declaration. Damages identified by the state in Bennington, Essex, Orange, Rutland, Washington, and Windsor counties also exceed the \$3.78 per capita threshold a county must show to qualify.

FEMA evaluators were in Vermont the week of April 22, and will return the week of May 6, to verify the damage. The data from that assessment will support a possible Major Disaster Declaration Request for public infrastructure. Vermont has until May 15 to request a disaster declaration. FEMA would then review the application and forward a recommendation to approve or deny the request to President Donald Trump.

A Public Assistance disaster declaration provides 75% reimbursement to communities and other eligible applicants for repairs to public infrastructure damaged in the disaster.

Towns are encouraged to repair roads now and closely document costs of the work. The exception to this rule is in cases where communities wish to change the scope of a project, by installing a larger culvert, a bridge where a culvert used to be, or other work that does more than return public infrastructure to its pre-disaster state.

NRCS flood assistance

Local Emergency Management Directors are sometimes faced with questions from private residents following a flooding event.

There is a federal program which can in some instances help homeowners whose property is in imminent peril of being damaged or washed away in the next storm (For example: a structure hanging over the embankment of a flood-eroded stream that has not already been damaged).

The Natural Resources Conservation Service's Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) may be able to assist. The EWP offers technical and financial assistance to help local communities relieve imminent threats to life and

property caused by floods, fires, windstorms and other natural disasters that impair a watershed.

Many conditions must be met before a community can obtain funding. Please visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/> or <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/vt/programs/financial/ewp/> for complete information on the program.

For more information on the program, contact Michel Lapointe, Civil Engineer, USDA-NRCS, at (802) 288-8155 x 118.

Recovery/Mitigation funds awarded for Colchester Causeway

Vermont Senators Patrick Leahy and Bernie Sanders, and Representative Peter Welch announced on April 26 that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded \$1,153,409 to repair the Colchester Causeway. A May 2018 windstorm that saw gusts as high as 80 mph caused powerful waves that eroded large sections of the causeway and shut down the internationally renowned recreational path.

The popular Island Line Trail connects the towns of Colchester and South Hero on a three-mile long causeway in Lake Champlain that was part of the former Rutland Railroad. The State of Vermont moved quickly to provide funds to complete necessary repairs to reopen the path for most of the 2018 biking season.

The State also requested, with support from the congressional delegation, a federal disaster declaration for Chittenden, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange and Orleans counties, opening the door for federal recovery assistance. The declaration provided Colchester with \$583,000 to make permanent repairs to the causeway.

The town was awarded another \$570,000 to cover the cost of mitigation measures to make the Causeway more resilient against future flooding. That work is scheduled for the fall of 2019, to avoid path closures during the high-use summer months.

For more information on the federal Hazard Mitigation Program in Vermont visit www.vem.vermont.gov/funding/mitigation.

Contract for school safety planning and exercise awarded

The Department of Public Safety (DPS), Agency of Education, and Vermont School Safety Center will partner with Williston company Margolis Healy to provide school safety planning, training and exercise assistance to Vermont schools. This partnership marks the latest phase of a school safety strategy announced by the Scott Administration in February 2018.

“Ensuring the safety of Vermonters—especially our kids—is one of government’s most important responsibilities,” said Governor Phil Scott. “I’m pleased with the coordination between state, local and private partners to develop and implement school safety upgrades and training to ensure we continue to have safe schools and communities.”

Margolis Healy will provide training and exercise guidance directly to schools and work with school administrators and public safety personnel to develop a standardized Emergency Operation Plan, simplifying the planning process for school districts and create statewide uniformity.

“We are taking a multi-tiered approach to school safety,” Public Safety Commissioner Thomas Anderson said. “The Vermont School Safety Center offers best practices and

recommendations on how to keep schools safe, and state funding has allowed schools to better control access and enhance security. The planning effort with a trusted partner like Margolis Healy is a critical step toward ensuring Vermont schools are prepared and safe.”

Funding for the contract with Margolis Healy comes from the Homeland Security Grant Program, building on last year’s \$4 million state allocation for school building upgrades. 239 schools have upgraded, or are in the process of upgrading facilities with new door locks, cameras, public address systems and other infrastructure to increase the security of students and staff.

Margolis Healy is a professional services firm specializing in campus safety, security and regulatory compliance for higher and K-12 education and has worked with DPS and the Agency of Education for several years on school planning and security.

For more information on school safety planning in Vermont, visit the Vermont School Safety Center website: www.schoolsafety.vermont.gov/.

Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference—September 6 & 7— Lake Morey Resort

www.vem.vermont.gov/conference

VEM Training Schedule

Register via the Vermont Learning Management System:
<https://vermont.csod.com/>

May 2019

ICS 402 – ICS Summary for Executives

May 7, 1:00-4:00PM

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

G0290 – Basic Public Information Officer

May 8, 8:30AM-4:30PM

DPS Headquarters, Waterbury

ICS 402 – ICS Summary for Executives

May 9, 2:00-5:00PM

Bennington Country Regional Planning Commission

Vermont Emergency Management Directors Seminar

May 9, 5:00-7:00PM

UVM Extension, Berlin

ICS 400 – Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff

May 13 & 14, 8:00AM-4:30PM

VTrans Training Center, Berlin

Vermont Local Emergency Management Director Course

May 18, 9:00AM-5:00PM

Cambridge Fire Department, Cambridge

Vermont Local Emergency Management Director Course

May 21, 9:00AM-5:00PM

St. Michael's College, Colchester

ICS 100 – Introduction to Incident Command

May 22, 8:00AM-4:30PM

VTrans Dill Building, Berlin

G191 – ICS EOC Interface

May 22, 9:00AM-3:00PM

Castleton Town Office, Castleton

Vermont Local Emergency Management Director Course

May 23, 8:00AM-4:30PM

Wilmington Fire Department, Wilmington

ICS 200 – ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents

May 30-31, 8:00AM-4:30PM

VTrans Training Center, Berlin

June 2019

G191 – ICS EOC Interface

June 5, 8:30AM-3:00PM

VTTC, Berlin

Advanced Evaluator

June 11, 8:00AM-4:30PM

VTTC, Berlin

American Red Cross Shelter Fundamentals

June 12, 12:30-4:30PM

DPS Headquarters, Waterbury

ICS 300 – Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents

June 12-14, 8:00AM-4:30PM

VTrans Training Center, Berlin

AWR-167: Sport Event Risk Management

June 17 & 18, 8:00AM-4:30PM

UVM, Burlington

G0191 – ICS EOC Interface

June 18, 8:30AM-3:30PM

St Michaels College, Colchester

MGT-412 – Sport and Special Event Evacuation Training and Exercise

June 19 & 20, 8:00AM-4:30PM

UVM, Burlington

ICS 300 – Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents

June 25-27, 8:00AM-4:30PM

VTrans Training Center, Berlin

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VEM Training—continued

G0290 – Basic Public Information Officer

June 25, 8:00AM-4:30PM

Middlebury Regional EMS, Middlebury

G0291 – Joint Info System/Joint Info Center

June 26, 8:00AM-4:30PM

Middlebury Regional EMS, Middlebury

July 2019

MGT-361 Managing Critical Incidents for Higher Education Institutions

July 10-12, 8:00AM-4:30PM

Middlebury College, Middlebury

AWR-356 Community Planning for Disaster Recovery

July 11, 8:00AM-4:30PM

DPS Headquarters, Waterbury

G0191 – ICS EOC Interface

July 16, 8:30AM-3:30PM

DPS Headquarters, Waterbury

L0131 Exercise Evaluation and Improvement Planning Course

July 29-Aug 1, 8:00AM-4:30PM

VTrans Training Center, Berlin

Mass Casualty Exercise

On April 6th, individuals from Mad River Valley Ambulance Service, Northfield Ambulance, Waterbury Ambulance, Moretown Fire, Waitsfield-Fayston Fire, Waitsfield Emergency Management, University of Vermont Medical Center – Central Vermont Campus, Vermont Emergency Management, and numerous volunteer patients participated in an Mass Casualty Incident exercise.

Through this exercise, EMS agencies and Fire Departments were able to practice their ability to effectively respond to a Mass Casualty Incident, including demonstrating knowledge of the Incident Command System; demonstrating communications between the scene, dispatch, and the hospital; and performing triage, stabilization of casualties, and definitive care for those likely to survive their injuries.

Exercises like this are a part of a larger preparedness system where organizations identify and assess threats and hazards, create plans to address those threats and hazards, train individuals on those plans, validate plans through exercises, then review and update plans and resources based on the results of those exercises.

If you are a local organization interested in participating in an emergency exercise, please contact your VEM Regional Coordinator.

Northwest: Max.Kennedy@vermont.gov

Northeast: Emily.Harris@vermont.gov

Southern: Richard.Cogliano@vermont.gov

If you are a state organization interested in participating in an emergency exercise, please contact the State Exercise Administrator, Eric.Forand@vermont.gov

