Disaster: Preparedness, Response & Recovery

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Preparedness:

Advance Planning for Disasters

Preparing for Storms

Flood Ready Vermont

Response & Recovery:

What to do Just Before and During a Disaster:

What To Do When a Major Storm is in the Forecast

What To Do During the Disaster Event

File a PACIF Claim

Frequently Asked Questions:

State of Emergency Legal FAQs

FEMA Public Assistance (PA) FAQs

Primary Sources of Disaster Funding:

FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Program

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (USDA)

Emergency Relief (ER) Program for Federal-aid Highways (FHWA)

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Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) Facebook Page

The latest flood updates from VEM:

https://www.facebook.com/vermontemergencymanagement

Road Closures:

Visit **https://newengland511.org/**(opens in a new tab)for state road closures.

Local road closures are not shown on 511; please respect all local detours. Some local road closures can be found on the Waze crowd-sourced navigation app. This free, Google-owned GPS app provides travelers with up-to-date navigation and traffic information. Municipalities can set up an account and use Waze (PDF, 116.6 KB) to list local road closures.

Page Navigation Tips

- **Scroll down** to find our very latest **News** and **Resources**. **Click the LOAD MORE button** repeatedly to show earlier entries.
- If you are having a hard time locating something on any of our pages, try searching by keyword: press the "Ctrl" and "F" keys simultaneously to make a little box appear somewhere on your screen (the location varies by browser), and enter your keyword there. Or scroll to the top of the page and click on the small magnifying glass icon in the top right corner.

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Resources for Municipalities | Flood Funding Opportunities
Response and Recovery Websites | Addressing Resident and Business Questions

General

Cleanup

- Protecting Workers and Volunteers During Flood Cleanup (VLCT)
- Clean and Prevent Mold - Vermont Department of Health
- Fuel Tank Spills – VANR Spills Program

Funding and Financing

- Emergency Relief Assistance for Federal-Aid Highways - FEMA Public Assistance does not cover Federal-Aid Highways.
- Vermont Bond Bank – VBB is actively tracking the short term and long term financing needs of Vermont's communities in support of borrowing.
- Working Capital Financings: Federal Tax Law Considerations - Vermont Bond Bank guidance on when short term borrowings for municipalities can be completed on a tax-exempt basis.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Compliance

- After A Flood: Information for Flood-Damaged Communities - Municipal support for permitting and substantial damage estimation. Includes DEC contacts for assistance, coaching resources, and handouts and posts municipalities can use for property owner outreach.
- Guidance: Help for Communities on How to Comply with FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program After a Flood - Communities must complete Substantial Damage estimates and permitting to remain in good standing for the NFIP.

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Published 7/21/2023.

- Resources for Municipal Administrative Officers - ANR guidance about Substantially Damaged (SD) and Substantial Improvement (SI) determinations. Includes draft public information post, template letter for building owner, and more.
- FEMA SI/SD Checklist - Initial screening thresholds and included/excluded improvement cost

Water and Wastewater

- Mutual Aid through Vermont Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (VT WARN) - Equipment and personnel assistance.
- EPA: Lessons Learned from Water/Wastewater Utilities that Participated in FEMA's Public Assistance Grant Program - Discusses Immediate Needs Funding for emergency work and has other practical advice. Published May 2012.

Where to Find Help

- Report a Landslide to the Vermont Geological Survey - This is NOT for emergency response.
- Property Concerns with Rivers and Streams - Frequently Asked Questions answered by Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
- Flood Safety Tips and Resources - Has contact list for plumbers and electricians by county and flood safety information sheets you can post or use for resident messaging.
- Flood Risk and Historic Buildings - State Historic Preservation Office guidance
- Mobile Home Condemnation and Public Building Assistance - Contact the Division of Fire Safety at 802-479-7561 for assistance.
- Statewide Contracts Search Tool - AI powered tool to assist municipalities and other political subdivisions to purchase goods and services under the terms

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negotiated by the State Office of Purchasing and Contracting on select statewide contracts.

- How to Manage Flood Damage to Trees - Recommended by the VT Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. Trees many need special, post-flood care to minimize longer-term damage.
- Starting Over Strong Vermont - Flood recovery outreach program for individuals and communities through community outreach and access to mental health services. Municipalities can use this service for their employees and volunteers.

In addition to FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) program, your municipality or residents may be eligible for the programs listed below. Deadlines for applications vary among the programs. These opportunities are described more fully on our Open Funding Opportunities webpage. Check back periodically as we will add to this list.

- FHWA Emergency Relief - Supports repair or reconstruction of Federal-aid highways and roads on Federal lands which have suffered serious damage because of natural disasters or catastrophic failures from an external cause. These roads are NOT eligible for FEMA Public Assistance.
- Vermont Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF) - Through this program, the State of Vermont pays a share of the required local match for FEMA Public Assistance. The State contribution is based on disaster preparedness actions taken by the municipality. Find your municipality's ERAF rate at Flood

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Ready Vermont.

- USDA Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) - The EWP Program is a recovery effort aimed at relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural disasters. Public and private landowners are eligible for assistance but must be represented by a project sponsor. Applications for this program have closed.
- USDA Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) Floodplain Buyout - Use this program where structure projects to reduce threats from flooding and erosion are not cost-effective and/or beneficial. (Use VEM's program first!)
- EDA Disaster Supplemental Funding - Supports disaster recovery activities including economic recovery strategic planning grants, public works construction projects including broadband and resiliency projects, workforce development, capitalization of revolving loan funds, and economic development projects that enhance density in the vicinity of other economic development. Vermont qualifies for FY2022 funding.
- USDA Rural Development Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (ECWAG) - Helps eligible communities prepare, or recover from, an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. Contact Rebecca Schrader, Lead Community Program Specialist, Rebecca.schrader@usda.gov, before pursuing an application
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) - Supports projects such as mitigation of local roads and bridges, home acquisition (buyout), structural elevations or relocations, replacement of undersized culverts, mitigation outreach and education, etc. Project ***do not*** need to be directly connected to damage incurred from this disaster.
- EPA Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability - Supports underserved, small, and disadvantaged communities to increase drinking water facility resilience to natural hazards. ***Disadvantaged Community*** is determined by the State's affordability criteria.

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- Clean Water Initiative Flood Response and Recovery - Municipalities can use this funding to perform preliminary assessment of clean water project losses. Other municipal activities may be eligible. Last resort funding after sources like FEMA PA and insurance used.

State of Vermont

- Vermont Emergency Management
- Vermont Emergency Management Public Assistance
- Agency of Natural Resources
- Department of Environmental Conservation - After a Flood
- Department of Health
- Department of Mental Health
- Department of Libraries
- Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation - Guidance for municipal parks and recreation departments
- Division of Fire Safety - Safety and inspections after a flood
- Division for Historic Preservation - Guidance for historic buildings and sites
- Agency of Agriculture, Foods, and Market
- Agency of Commerce and Community Development
- Flood Ready Vermont
- Vermont Bond Bank - Resources and reminders about short- and long-term financing needs, cost documentation best practices, etc. for response and recovery.

Other Resource Websites

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- Vermont Bond Bank - Flood Response Resource Page
- National Weather Service Forecast Office - Burlington, Vermont
- National Weather Service Forecast Office, - Albany, New York
- Road Conditions
- Track River Forecasts and Levels (National Weather Service)
- Vermont 211 or Dial 211

General - Applies to Individual, Business, and Nonprofit Assistance

- Governor's Office Flood Recovery Resources - Compilation of resources to help individuals and businesses navigate flood response and recovery.
- Cleaning Up After the Flood Resources - Agency of Natural Resources guidance and resources
- Guidance for Vermont Flood Recovery Health and Safety - Vermont Department of Health (VDH) Frequently Asked Questions
- Clean and Prevent Mold - Vermont Department of Health
- VT DEC Property Concerns with Rivers and Streams - Frequently Asked Questions
- USDA NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program - For imminent threats to life and property. Projects or floodplain buyouts. Governmental entity must be applicant. 60-day window from disaster event to apply.
- Vermont Language Justice Project Videos - Resource for non-English speakers to access flood safety information
- Translated Recovery Materials - A variety of recovery materials translated to multiple languages

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- Report Damages to 211 Flyer - For posting
- VT Division of Fire Safety Disaster Placards - What do the placards (tags) colors represent? Can they be removed?
- Plumbers and Electricians Contact List - Published by the Vermont Secretary of State and the Division of Fire Safety. List is organized by county.
- Vermont State and Local Level Referrals - Where to find help for disaster recovery needs.

Individual Assistance

- Individual assistance - Site for reporting damages now to inform the state's FEMA request.
- FEMA Individual Assistance Information - VEM website summarizing available assistance, non-monetary services, eligibility criteria, and more
- Request Volunteer Help to Assist with Home Cleaning - Call VT 211. If you can't get through, try 866-652-4636 or 802-652-4636.
- Debris Removal Guidelines for Private Residential Properties

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Business Assistance

- Business Resources - Agency of Commerce Business Recovery Center
- Business Emergency Gap Grant Program - VT Department of Economic Development (Program closed)
- Business Emergency Gap Assistance Program for Agriculture - VT Agency of Agriculture (Program closed)
- Vermont Arts & Culture Disaster and Resilience Network(opens in a new tab) - Assistance for Arts and Culture organizations

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- Agricultural Businesses - Agency of Agriculture website

Latest *Flood - Preparedness, Response & Recovery* News

Latest Resources By VLCT Staff

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