



## Southern Vermont Storm Assistance Sought

The state of Vermont is in the process of requesting financial assistance for towns that suffered damage in heavy rain and flooding Southern Vermont on July 29th and 20th. The state's estimate on damage as a result of the storm is more than \$5 million.

Shortly after the storm Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) Director Erica Bornemann requested a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to determine if the state qualifies for a federal major disaster declaration. FEMA has conducted that assessment and has verified more than twice the \$1 million in qualifying damage the state must show for a federal Public Assistance disaster declaration. FEMA validated estimates in select towns until county and state indicators for assistance were met although the Initial Damage Assessment results were higher.

The assessment also verified sufficient damage in Bennington and Windham counties to qualify for disaster assistance, should a declaration be

granted. Governor Phil Scott will submit a request for a federal declaration in the coming weeks. The application will be reviewed by FEMA, which will forward to President Joe Biden, who has ultimate authority to approve or deny the request.

Communities in Bennington and Windham counties should continue making repairs to public infrastructure, documenting all work carefully for possible future reimbursement. Eligible reimbursement costs include repair work on public roads and buildings, tree and debris removal from public rights of way, municipal employee time spent working on recovery, contractor help, equipment rentals, and other costs associated with the storm.

Municipal leaders are encouraged to monitor Vermont Emergency Management social media channels and traditional media for updates on when a disaster declaration request is made, and when it is ultimately approved or denied.

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## Emergency Preparedness Conference September 14-16

The Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference will be held September 14-16 from 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. each day. The event will once again be held virtually.

Presentation topics for this year's conference include:

- A 10-year anniversary look back at Tropical Storm Irene
- Hazard Mitigation opportunities

- Operating a virtual EOC
- Mapping access to water resources for fire departments
- Vermont arts & culture disaster resilience
- National Guard Resources
- Homeland Security prevention programs.

Registration and information can be found at <https://vem.vermont.gov/conference>.

## 10-Years After Irene: Building Back Stronger

Vermont recognized a somber anniversary on August 28th, as the date marked 10-years since Tropical Storm Irene left its mark on Vermont. Governor Phil Scott and members of his administration recognized the benchmark with an event in Brandon honoring those lost, those who came to the aid of their neighbors, and Vermont's recovery.

"This is a somber anniversary as we reflect on the damage done, lost homes, and worst of all, the seven people who died during and in the immediate aftermath of the storm," Governor Scott said. "At the same time, we all saw that Irene brought out the best in Vermonters, with countless acts of courage and kindness shown to friends, neighbors, and strangers. What's more, politics took a back seat to progress and after ten years of hard work, Vermont is stronger than we were before."

The Governor, Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn, and Vermont Emergency Management Director Erica Bornemann also highlighted how Vermont's thoughtful rebuilding after Irene has made the state more resilient to natural disasters. Millions of dollars in Hazard Mitigation funds have allowed towns to address areas of repetitive damage, and millions more are currently available.

Director Bornemann highlighted the efforts to date, and the need to continue our work to make Vermont more resilient:

"In many ways Irene was a turning point for emergency management in Vermont. That storm taught us many lessons about catastrophic incident response, recovery, and the need to think strategically about mitigating the impacts of future storms. The entire emergency management program at the state and local level has evolved tremendously since Irene because of that pivotal moment.

"Tropical Storm Irene showed us that we have no time to waste if we wish to be resilient for storms such as these in the future. They happen more and more frequently and are becoming increasingly severe as the climate warms. Each and every one of us must change the way we think of what it means to be prepared. Breaking the cycle of disaster will only happen with time and investment in hazard mitigation projects that substantially improve our infrastructure resilience. The only way to do that is to enhance floodplain storage, harden and improve infrastructure such as roads, bridges and critical buildings, and many other measures that can be paid for through the federal and state Hazard Mitigation Grant programs. The State Emergency Operations Center I discussed at the beginning is an example of such hazard mitigation as improvements to the building itself and the floodplain in the town of Waterbury have significantly reduced the risk of record flooding events impacting the building in the same way.

"Communities and individuals must ask themselves hard questions about the hazards they witness around them and whether they can truly withstand interruption and isolation over the course of many days. It is up to each and every one of us to develop plans to provide basic food, water, and shelter when it may not be able to come from elsewhere. The tools are available, but it takes the entire village to build resilience to disasters like Irene and countless others. September is National Preparedness Month. We invite you to join Vermont Emergency Management in sharing best practices and highlighting successes in preparedness. You can follow our social media channels for many excellent resources."

For more information on the federal Hazard Mitigation program and how your city or town can apply for funding, visit <https://vem.vermont.gov/funding/mitigation> or call 800-347-0488.

## VEM Training Schedule

### September 2021

#### **Active Shooter Preparedness Webinar**

September 8, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Registration required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cisa-active-shooter-preparedness-webinar-region-1-ctmamenhrivt-registration-166055563661>

#### **Vermont Emergency Preparedness Conference – Virtual**

September 14-16, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. each day

Registration required via the State Learning Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

#### **Weather and National Weather Service Alerts Seminar- In Person**

DPS- Headquarters- Waterbury

September 30, 2021, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Registration required via the State Learning Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

### October 2021

#### **MGT 323 – Instructor Development Workshop – Virtual**

October 4-8, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Must attend all sessions to receive credit.

Registration required <https://train.ncbrt.lsu.edu/Student/Register?ClassID=27893>

Please use access code: NCBRT323

#### **Introduction to Operational Planning: Comprehensive Planning Guide (CPG) 101 Overview- Virtual**

October 14, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Registration required via State Learning Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

#### **L0146 Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP) - In Person**

Norwich Fire Department

October 19 & 20, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. each day

Prerequisite: IS-120

Must attend all sessions to receive credit.

Registration required via the State Learning Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

#### **SEOC Center Support Section Training- Virtual**

October 26, 2021, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Prerequisite: IS-100, SEOC Orientation, and WebEOC

Registration required via State Learning Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

NOTE: Individuals must be on the SEOC Roster to participate in this training.

#### **SEOC Mission and Resource Support Section Training- Virtual**

October 27, 2021, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Prerequisite: IS-100, SEOC Orientation, and WebEOC

Registration required via State Learning Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

NOTE: Individuals must be on the SEOC Roster to participate in this training.

### November 2021

#### **Amtrak Passenger Train Emergency Response Training- In Person**

Middlebury Volunteer Fire Department

November 3, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

#### **Amtrak Passenger Train Emergency Response Training- In Person**

West Rutland Town Hall

November 4 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

*Training Calendar Continued Next Page*

## VEM Training Calendar—Continued

### Amtrak Passenger Train Emergency Response Training- In Person

Chittenden Regional Planning Commission,  
Winooski

November 5, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

### ICS 400- Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff – In Person

Camp Johnson, Colchester

November 6-7, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. each day

Prerequisite: ICS-300

Registration required via State Learning

Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

### SEOC Orientation- In Person

DPS – Headquarters- Waterbury

November 9, 2021, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Prerequisite: IS-100

Registration required via State Learning

Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

NOTE: Individuals must be on the SEOC Roster to participate in this training.

### G0191 – ICS/EOC Interface – In Person

St. Michaels College, Colchester

November 13, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Prerequisite: IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800

Registration required via the State Learning

Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

### SEOC Situational Awareness Section Training- Virtual

November 15, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Prerequisite: IS-100, SEOC Orientation, and WebEOC

Registration required via State Learning

Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

NOTE: Individuals must be on the SEOC Roster to participate in this training.

### SEOC Partner Training-Virtual

November 17, 2021, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Prerequisite: IS-100 and SEOC Orientation

Registration required via State Learning

Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

### March 2022

### ICS 300- Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents – In Person

DPS - Headquarters- Waterbury

March 15-17, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. each day

Prerequisite: ICS-100 and ICS- 200

Registration required via State Learning

Management System: <https://vermont.csod.com/>

**It's never been easier to get a COVID-19 vaccine. Walk-in opportunities are available all around Vermont each week. To find a clinic, or to request one in your town or at your business, please visit:**

**[www.healthvermont.gov/myvaccine](http://www.healthvermont.gov/myvaccine)**