

**Halifax VT Special Selectboard
Meeting: Irene Flooding
Recovery Information**

September 3, 2011

Tropical Storm Irene hits Vermont

- August 27-28, 2011: Saturday into Sunday
- 9 inches of rain; streams rose very rapidly
- Fire Station / "Emergency Operations Center" or EOC notes 3 ft. water on Branch by 10:30 am
- Damage reports come in during the day; Three people sheltered in Halifax Elementary School
- Repairs begin in earnest Monday, Aug. 29, 2011

Initial Damage Assessment

- We weren't able to know full scope of damages as many roads were inaccessible and phone service was sketchy
- Nearly all town roads sustain damage, often serious; as does VT 112
- 125-150 townspeople cut off from road & services
- Many lines down / power outages
- Prioritization of roads based on ability to fix (from Garage and outward); daily planning.

Status Saturday, 9/3/2011

- 5 bridges inspected; all damaged /**need engineering**
- 14 households not accessible to ambulance; only 1 without power, but 21 still without phone
- Long-term road issues
 - Many have crumbling edges, reduced width
 - Green River Road has 1/2 mile of damage & bridge out
 - Pery Road still limited
 - Stowe Mountain, open both ends, no people in affected area
 - Amidon at the very end
 - Travel guides: Blue to Brattleboro; White to Whitingham / Wilmington / Jacksonville; Green to Greenfield

Personal damages (IA)

1. Photograph /document with receipts
2. Call 211 to report damage (broad assessment), **AND THEN YOU MUST ALSO**
3. Call 800-621-3362 (800-621-FEMA) to get an inspector to come out and assess the damage. This happens quickly (days); takes just weeks get to individual assistance payments, up to \$30,000 grant*

Business damages

- Vermont State has up to \$20K at 1% interest: 802-828-5627
- SBA loan up to \$250K; 802-828-3211 (Agency of Commerce and Community Development – ACCD)
- Obviously, you should again document your losses and payments for fixes.

Prioritizing among the town's needs

- Health
 - Food, water, access to ambulance / EMS
 - Safety on roads
- Self
 - Power & phone
 - Ability to travel to work, school, and beyond
- Wealth
 - Property (without people)
 - Access for fire trucks
- Confirmed mutual aid coverage for homes we can't reach

Next steps

- Watch the weather; currently under another flash flood warning
- Ongoing efforts to get everyone to point of being accessible; however the town is not responsible for private bridges / private lanes / driveways
- Ongoing efforts to keep roads open, make travel safer and more comfortable –based on road usage (corridors), and number of people impacted.
- Please continue to be patient & plan travel carefully.

Logistics Next Steps

- Emergency Operations Center is reduced staffing on Sunday to reduce fatigue. Back in normal staffing Monday.
- Emergency declared; funding clearer for longer-term public work
 - Can begin hiring contractors to work under direction of Town Highway
 - Earlier resource requests being processed
 - Need people to help with (SIGN UP SHEET):
 - Damage Assessment
 - Procurement – Joe Tamburrino
 - Finances
 - Highway – Paperwork / Spreadsheet / Photo Organization
 - Any other volunteer welcomed with open arms
