Irene Recovery
Legislative Update

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Secretary of Administration

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Irene Recovery Officer

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State recovery priorities

- Help individuals, families, businesses and farms
- Reestablish critical infrastructure
- Support town efforts
- Restore State infrastructure
- Plan for the future
Helping individuals, families and businesses

- Primary support through FEMA & SBA
- Deadline is less than a week from today – November 15, 2011
  - Nearly 6,900 registrants to date
  - Almost $20 million in direct FEMA grants to individuals & families
  - Plus more than $20 million in SBA loan assistance to individuals & businesses

Housing: Overview

- By the numbers
  - Approximately 1400 residences with significant damage.
  - Washington, Windham, Windsor and Rutland counties were the hardest hit.
  - FEMA has determined that 1350 households were displaced and is providing rental assistance.
    - 2/3 homeowners
    - 1/3 renters
Housing: Overview

- Based on interviews about their needs, FEMA is following up with approximately 1070 households
  - 968 in adequate temporary or permanent situations
  - 18 currently looking for housing either with referrals from FEMA or said they’ll find something on their own
  - 75 FEMA has not been able to reach

Housing: Ongoing Issues

- Not enough available units in some towns and other factors leave some households still in need of help.
- Some households are in temporary or inadequate situations – “precariously housed.”
  - FEMA and Long Term Recovery Committees are working to identify each household in need and provide case management services.
Housing: Mobile Homes

- Of 1400 homes significantly damaged, 433 are mobile homes.
  - 1/3 in mobile home parks – 15 parks.
  - 2/3 on privately-owned land.
- Mobile homes are of particular concern:
  - Many affected residents are on fixed incomes with little ability to purchase new or rent. Residents have no equity and tend to be lower income.

Housing: Mobile Homes

- Lt. Gov. Scott’s mobile home removal initiative. Funded through private donations. Total cost: ~$300,000
Housing: Property Issues

- State tax abatement strategy
- Sen. Campbell’s property issues task force

Long-term recovery for individuals & families

- Long-term recovery committees have formed around the state
  - Comprised of reps from local groups, VOADs, CAPs, AHS field service offices
- Caseworkers will help affected Vermonters access range of benefits
  - This includes direct assistance, goods, services, including funds raised through statewide efforts.
Long-term recovery committees

Legend
- No Committee Identified
- Vermont
  1. Franklin/Southern VT LTRC
  2. Chittenden County LTRC
  3. Addison County LTRC
  4. Rutland County LTRC
  5. Northfield/Rutland LTRC
  6. Eastern VT LTRC
  7. Precision Valley Disaster Recovery Committee
  8. Upper Valley Rising LTRC
  9. Third Branch Flood Recovery
  10. Northfield/Rutland LTRC
  11. West River Flood Recovery
  12. Rutland Waterways LTRC
  13. Central Vermont LTRC
  14. St. Johnsbury LTRC

Long-term recovery for individuals & families

- Private fundraising to aid survivors
  - Both statewide funds (VT Disaster Recovery Fund, VCF) and local funds
- Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters – VOAD
  - On the ground in Vermont working at every level of recovery
- Donations management
  - Connecting affected Vermonter with donated goods and services.
Neighbor Helping Neighbor

- From day one, volunteers took to the streets to help neighbors in need. Those efforts are ongoing every day.
- VT Clean Up Day – Oct. 22nd

Business Support

- VEDA – Low interest financing to businesses & farms
  - Over 200 recipients
  - More than $14 million in loans
- SBA – Small biz loans
  - Over 60 loans approved
  - Approx. $8 million in loans
Farm Support

• Over 450 farms have filed Farm Loss Claims with USDA, amounting to over 15,000 acres impacted by Irene.
• A conservative estimate of crop losses and crop land damage needing repair exceeds $10 million.
• Support for farms thru VT Farm Disaster Relief Fund -
  ◦ 122 farmers have received more than $600,000 so far – with more to come

Supporting Towns: Overview

• A top State priority is to assist towns as they rebuild from Irene
• 225 municipalities were impacted by Irene. 45 of those towns are considered to have been severely impacted.
• Working closely with VLCT & RPCs to assess and assist.
• Many town budgets are stretched
  ◦ Costs are 2x or 3x annual budgets
Supporting Towns: Finances

- To provide interim financial assistance, we are working with State Treasurer Pearce & local banks:
  - Advancing State payments
  - Assisting with bank loans
  - FEMA Community Disaster Loan Program

Supporting Towns: PA

- Getting work done & reimbursed
- FEMA Public Assistance (PA) is primary method for reimbursement
- State PA office at VTrans has supported severely affected towns with expert assistance on PA at no cost to towns
- Focused on drawing down as much federal money as possible to cover costs
Supporting Towns: PA

- Nearly 3,000 FEMA Project Worksheets (PWs) expected
- OIG: Expect an audit
- Auditor Salmon working with towns to document, document, document
- If towns have questions about PA, please contact:
  Alec Portalupi, State Public Asst. Officer
  (802) 828-3889
  alec.portalupi@state.vt.us

Transportation

RECOVERY CREW VT
TROPICAL STORM IRENE 2011
Installation of a temporary bridge was completed on October 15th.
VTrans Response

Temporary foot & traffic bridges

Route 100

Irene damage

ICC Response
Cavendish “Canyon” VT 131

Cavendish Canyon VT 131
ICC Response
The ICCs are operated by a Unified Command (UC) in Montpelier. The UC role was to set priorities, provide overall management through directives, and take the lead on communication and public information. The UC was given direction by the Secretary's Office.
Our Goals

- Establish emergency access to cutoff/isolated towns & locations within communities
- Establish access for utility companies to restore power to areas that are still cut off
- Establish mobility (public access) to towns that currently have emergency access only
- Establish mobility along East/West corridors (to include truck traffic/commerce)
- Inspect all bridges of concern
- Prepare state roads for winter operations
Resources

VTrans Employees: To date approximately 700 have been assigned to IRENE recovery tasks

Hundreds of National Guard Troops:
- Vermont – 200 people, numerous equipment
- Maine – 220 people, numerous equipment, Command & Control function for out-of-state troops
- Ohio – 145 troops, 8 aircraft, 23 vehicles
- South Carolina – 51 people, 23 pieces of equipment
- West Virginia – 30 people, 10 pieces of equipment
- Virginia – 16 people, 6 pieces of equipment

DOT Partners
- Maine – 150 people, 145 pieces of equipment
- New Hampshire – 75 people, 60 pieces of equipment

Over 200 Private Contractors and Consultants
Approximately 1800 people from the private sector, primarily from Vermont

Medical Assistance from LA, ME, AR, MO, NH, ID and FL
EOC, RPCs, Red Cross Church groups, Fraternal Organizations, and many individuals

State System Impacts

SUMMARY OF STATE HIGHWAY ROADS AND BRIDGES

August 28, 2011
State Road Segments Closed = 146 ~ 531 miles
Bridges Closed = 34

September 28, 2011
State Road Segments Closed = 6 ~ 13 miles
Bridges Closed = 6

November 9, 2011
Road Segments Closed = 2 ~ 9 miles
Bridges Closed = 2
Town Highway Impact

LOCAL HIGHWAY ASSET DAMAGE

September 30, 2011
- Road Segments Damaged = 2,260
- Road Segments Closed = 175
- Bridges Damaged = 289
- Bridges Closed = 90
- Culverts Damaged = 963
- Culverts Closed = 335

November 2, 2011
- Road Segments Closed = 119
- Bridges Closed = 66

Maps tell the story
Transportation: Leaning Forward

- Hidden hazards
- Risk Assessments – “Scan Tour”
- Inter-agency collaboration
- Spring prep / emergency prep
- Lessons learned / Irene innovations

Rivers & Streams

- Due to scale of Irene flooding, river issues still persist, including debris and gravel.
- ANR working with RPCs to survey rivers, esp. in hard-to-see areas
- FEMA funding for debris removal
- NRCS funding may be available for “exigent” situations
  - Homeowners need local sponsor
- Springtime will bring new issues
Rivers & Streams

- If towns have questions about river management or permitting, please contact:
  Mike Kline
  State Rivers Program Manager
  802-793-7617
- If towns have questions about NRCS funding, contact:
  NRCS Vermont Office
  802-951-6796

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

- Typical hazard mitigation projects would include:
  ◦ Repair/mitigation of local infrastructure
  ◦ Home acquisitions (buy-outs)
  ◦ Structural elevations or relocations
  ◦ Replacement of undersized culverts
  ◦ Remediation of stream bank erosion, etc.
- Project proposals need not be directly connected to flooding from the most recent disaster.
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

- Because of size of Irene disaster, as much as $25 million in grants may be available.
- Deadline for HMGP applications: Friday, January 20, 2012
- Contact:
  Ray Doherty
  State Hazard Mitigation Officer
  802-241-5258
  rdoherty@dps.state vt.us

State infrastructure & employees

- Waterbury State complex
  - Damage & costs
  - Reseating state employees
  - Process going forward
- State Hospital
**Damage Estimates**

- Important caveat: these are estimates and are subject to change
- **FHWA Emergency Relief (ER)**
  - For State and town roads & bridges on federal aid system.
    - Cap of $100 million in aid per disaster
- **FEMA Public Assistance (PA)**
  - For damage to public assets, including town highway & bridge damage
    - Standard cost share of 75/25
    - However, over $80 million threshold: 90/10

### Worst Case Scenario

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<th>Local Share</th>
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Assumes:
- $250 million in FHWA ER damage
- No federal waivers for FHWA
- 75/25 cost share for FEMA PA
### Damage Estimates

**Best Case Scenario**

- Assumes: $175 million in FHWA ER damage
- $100 million cap waived for FHWA ER
- 90/10 cost share for FEMA PA

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**Important to remember:**
- Both scenarios include $50 million for upgrade of State Hospital and office complex.
- Actual costs spent out of multiple fiscal years and across multiple funds (GF, TF, ER and Capital funds).
- Planning for FY12 BAA & FY13
Vermont recovery
Leaning forward

- Rebuilding Vermont stronger, smarter and safer
- Capturing lessons learned... and actually learning from them
- Important to be looking ahead 1-2-5-10 years: where do we want to be in the years to come?

- Long-Term Community Recovery
  - All recovery is local; State’s role is to support local efforts
  - "Community Recovery Partnership"

- State planning efforts
  - Identifying key challenges
  - Assessing possible fixes, benchmarks, and financial considerations

- Together, these pieces will form the baseline to discuss solutions and next steps.
FEMA Appeals

- Appeals must be made in writing and sent by mail or faxed to FEMA **WITHIN 60 DAYS** of the date of the letter of determination.
- The appeal should include new or missing information, documents and damage repair estimates that support the appeal request.
- For questions on the appeal process, call 800-621-3362 and select the "help" option. Appeals may also be faxed to: 800-827-8112

Key Deadlines & Contacts

- **FEMA & SBA Registration**
  - November 15, 2011 | 800-621-3362
- **Disaster Unemployment thru VTDOL**
  - November 21, 2011 | 877-214-3330
- **Free Legal Services**
  - No deadline | 800-889-2047
- **Insurance Questions – BISHCA**
  - No deadline | 800-964-1784