



# VEM NEWS

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## April Storm Recovery Information:

**VT Emergency Management:**  
[www.vemvt.com](http://www.vemvt.com)  
(800) 347-0488

**FEMA:**  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov);  
(800) 621-FEMA  
(3362)

**Small Business Administration:**  
[www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)  
(800) 659-2955

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## Lamoille County Added to FEMA Declaration

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has added Lamoille County to the list of Vermont counties eligible for Public Assistance in recovering from April's nor'easter storm.

The storm of April 15 and 16 brought heavy snow, rain, and wind to some sections of Vermont causing massive power outages, road washouts and damage to bridges. The Rutland County area sustained heavy damage when winds estimated at more than 70 miles-per-hour uprooted trees and left a swath of debris in its wake.

The FEMA declaration has now been extended to Lamoille, Bennington, Rutland, Caledonia, Essex, Orange, Windham, and Windsor counties. Funds will go to communities to rebuild roads, repair bridges, and remove debris like gravel and tree limbs from public rights of way. Much of this work has already been done and communities will be able to apply for funds to cover overtime paid to municipal employees.

FEMA funds will pay for up to

**To apply for federal disaster assistance connected to the storm of April 15 and 16, towns and non-profits should contact:**

**Gary Schelley**  
**State Public Assistance Coordinator**  
**Vermont Agency of Transportation**  
**(802) 828-0425**

75% of expenses accrued by cities and towns during and after the storm. Vermont's Agency of Transportation has been taking damage estimates and has been conducting in-depth damage assessments; towns in the affected counties that have documented storm damage should contact their district VTrans office.

FEMA is operating a satellite office in White River Junction as a base for Vermont operations during the recovery process.

The majority of the requests are likely to cover costs of repairing roads and clearing debris from public rights of way. Some costs related to debris

removal that are eligible for reimbursement include:

- Labor
  - \*Municipal Worker overtime costs;
  - \*Contractor expenses.
  - ~Eligible work includes debris removal, emergency protective measures,
  - \*Equipment rental

-Eligible debris removal activities from municipal infrastructure include the clearance of:

- \*Trees and woody debris;
- Building wreckage;
- Sand, mud, silt, and gravel;
- Vehicles (only if it is clearly a result of the event);

# HEAT—A SIGNIFICANT WEATHER HAZARD

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The National Weather Service of Vermont and Vermont Emergency Management are joining forces to designate June 13<sup>th</sup> as Heat Awareness day. The designation is intended to bring attention to the health dangers that can be associated with excessive heat and offer some solutions to protect yourself from the heat.

The National Weather Service categorizes a hot day as one that reaches 90-degrees or warmer. The Champlain Valley, for example, averages six such days a year. A heat wave is defined as three or more consecutive days with the maximum temperature reaching or exceeding 90-degrees.

Too much heat can lead to health disorders like heat cramps, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and even death. There is an average of 175 heat related deaths in the United States each

year. The groups most susceptible to the dangers of heat are the elderly, very young, those with chronic illnesses, and those on certain medications. Health related disorders are caused by the body's inability to dissipate the heat, basically cool itself.

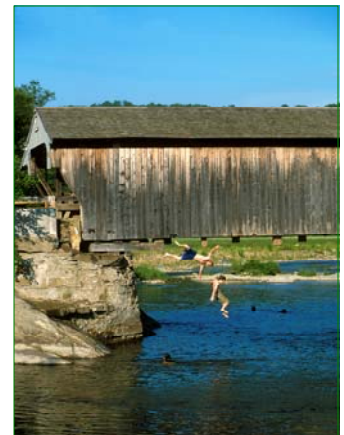
Safety tips for dealing with excessive heat:

- Wear lightweight, light colored clothing.
- Drink plenty of water or non-alcoholic fluids.
- Slow down; take it easy, avoid strenuous activity.
- If you must be outside, try to limit your activities to the early morning or late evening hours, find shade, cool your body as often as possible in air conditioning, a pool, or any body of water.
- Never leave children or pets unattended in a vehicle.
- Provide your pets with plenty of cool water and keep them in a cool or shaded environment.

The National Weather Service will issue excessive heat watches, warnings and advisories to alert the public of potential dangers.

For more information, visit the National Weather Service web site at [www.weather.gov/om/heat](http://www.weather.gov/om/heat).

*From the National Weather Service*



Staying cool is sometimes a necessity, and usually fun during the summer in Vermont (State of Vermont, Dennis Curran)

## LAMOILLE COUNTY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Other disaster-related material.

To be eligible for public assistance, debris removal must be necessary to do one of the following:

-Eliminate immediate threats to lives, public health and

safety (for example: to allow rescue vehicles access to all areas of a community)

-Eliminate immediate threats or significant damage to improved public or private property; or

-Ensure economic recovery of the affected community to the benefit of the community-at-large.

**What: FEMA Applicants Briefing**

**When: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday June 6**

**Where: Cambridge Rescue, Route 108 Cambridge**

## 211 TURNS 2

Vermont's 2-1-1 health and human services helpline recently celebrated its 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary with a significant change in operations: service is now available around the clock. Vermont 2-1-1 was launched in February of 2005 to help people with health and human services needs connect with private, local, state and national agencies that can help meet those needs.

The service's resource database contains detailed information about the services of over 600 agencies. 2-1-1 call specialists provide referrals on issues ranging from adult education and affordable housing to legal counseling and veterans services.

"In 2006, we logged 8,346 calls, an increase of 68 percent over 2005," 2-1-1 Director MaryEllen Mendl says. "And we have just expanded our service to be available twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. We analyze the calls and find that solving basic needs is our leading category— people seeking help with food, housing, finances, material goods and transportation."

Four members of the 2-1-1 staff have recently become Certified Information and Referral Specialists and one a Certified Resource Specialist by the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems, a professional organization. Vermont 2-1-1 calls are directed to a single statewide

information and referral center. Resource staff members are setup in different regions of the State to ensure that the 2-1-1 database contains accurate information about services in local communities.

Vermont 2-1-1 is a free and confidential service available to everyone in Vermont by dialing 2-1-1, a local call from anywhere in Vermont. 2-1-1 staff works closely with the Vermont Agency of Human Services (AHS), to help Vermont residents find services. Visitors to [www.vermont211.org](http://www.vermont211.org), can search the 2-1-1 database and will also find a link to AHS "Screen Door", a service that helps match individuals with government services for which they might qualify.

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## JUNE VEM GRANTS UPDATE

The Homeland Security's Preparedness Fiscal Year 2004 pass-through fund awards expired on May 31, 2007. All final sub grantee reimbursement requests under this award are due to VEM by June 15, 2007.

Most of the State's Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) have received supplies that were ordered in bulk through Vermont Emergency Management (VEM).

Currently, training options are being finalized and a Citizen Corps Program

"Request Form" will soon be distributed to all CCP Team Directors which will allow teams to order supplies, as well as coordinate applicable training sessions directly with VEM.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation State Planning Grant was approved for VAPDA and the Town of Lincoln for Fiscal Year 2007. Subgrants will be issued within the next month.

The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) grants for fiscal

year 2007 funds are still available to Local Emergency Planning Commissions (LEPCs) through the duration of the State's fiscal year (ending June 30, 2007). There are still several LEPCs who have not sent in applications for these funds. Please note that all LEPCs must demonstrate appropriate fiscal responsibility or have an appropriate fiscal agent designee.

For more information contact Christine Brown at VEM at (800) 347-0488.

Visit Us at

[www.vemvt.com](http://www.vemvt.com)

**Vermont Emergency Management**

103 South Main Street  
Waterbury, VT 05671

Phone: 800-347-0488  
802-244-8721  
Fax: 802-241-5556  
TTY: 888-545-7598  
Hazmat Hotline: 800-641-5005



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**COMMUNITIES ENCOURAGED TO UPDATE EMERGENCY PLANS**

It's 5:15 on a Friday afternoon and Vermont Emergency Management needs to talk to your town Emergency Management Director, but who is it? VEM has contact information for most towns, but many of those town contact numbers are only answered during regular working hours. Chances are good VEM will eventually find your EMD, but without a Rapid Response Plan with contact information in hand; time could be lost in the search.

VEM has been actively involved with local first responders, ham radio operators, regional planning commissions, local officials, state agencies and private and non-profit businesses to become more thoroughly prepared for all emergencies; from floods

and power outages, to hazardous spills and plane crashes.

Over the past several years a significant amount of FEMA and Homeland Security funds have been allocated to help towns and cities prepare and update their Rapid Response Plans and Emergency Operations Plans through the technical assistance of the regional planning commissions, and in some cases, Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) and consultants.

Many communities have updated and developed plans, signed them and provided them to VEM. Many other communities have not yet signed the Rapid Responses Plans and forwarded them to VEM. Many other communities

have not yet signed the Rapid Responses Plans and/or Emergency Operations Plans to acknowledge their accuracy and forwarded them to VEM.

It is very important to have updated emergency contact information for every community in the event of an emergency situation. If your town or city has not yet prepared, updated or signed your plan and need assistance, officials can call their local planning commission or Vermont Emergency Management for help.

*The information above was outlined in a letter to towns from Vermont Emergency Management Director Barbara Farr. For a copy of the letter, please call VEM at (800) 347-0488.*

**Hazard Mitigation Conference**

Vermont Emergency Management and regional mitigation partners are hosting the National Conference of State Hazard Mitigation Officers in Stowe, from July 17-20. For more information contact VEM at (800) 347-0488.

**Shelter Numbers**

The Red Cross reports that 99 people, including 10 with special needs, were sheltered in its facilities

during the April nor'easter, a significant number for a Vermont shelter.

**RACES Test a Success**

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, the RACES program activated 2 of the Vermont hospital network stations (Fletcher Allen Health Care and Rutland Regional Medical Center) to participate in a northern New York hospital emergency communications test. 10 healthcare centers established contact

through a repeater system on Whiteface Mountain in NY and transmitted simulated emergency messages. The success of this drill now ensures that the RACES program has the capacity to contact northern NY hospitals and create a network that allows greater resource coordination in the event of the pandemic event. This is considered a major success as the majority of NY hospitals send their critical patients to Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington.