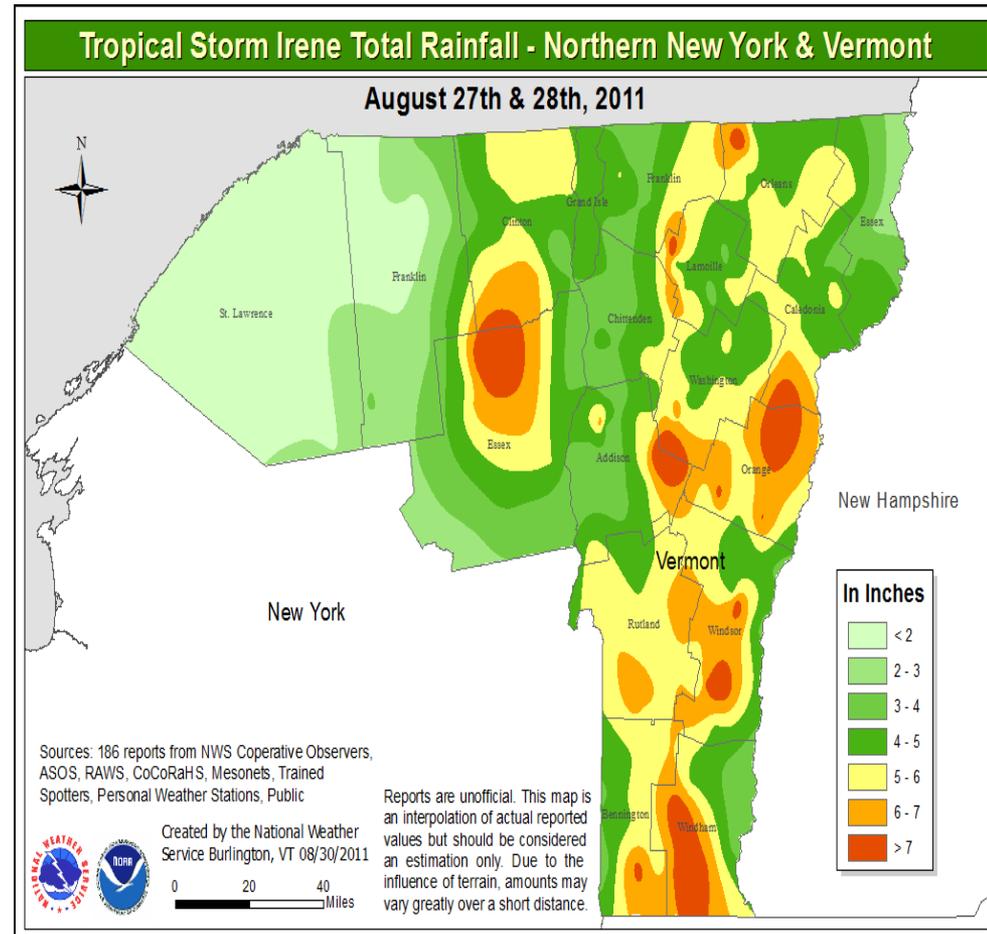


Tropical Storm Irene: Devastation and Aftermath in Vermont



August 27-29, 2011

- 3 people dead
- 2 people missing
- 13 communities were entirely cut off
- 90 schools experienced delayed openings
- Nearly 700 Vermont homes damaged or destroyed
- Up to 8.3 inches of rain fell in parts of Vermont in less than 24 hours – the approximate amount that normally falls over two months
- 260 roads and 30 bridges were made impassable
- 6 covered bridges, icons of Vermont, were destroyed
- 72,300 Central Vermont Public Service customers lost power





Castleton State College



Ludlow, VT



“Otter Creek in Rutland, Vermont, went from a depth of less than 4 feet Sunday morning to more than 17 feet at 1:45 a.m. Monday -- nearly 4 feet higher than the record set in 1938, according to the National Weather Service.” (CNN)



“Tropical Storm Irene did more than gut businesses, homes and offices in Wilmington, population 1,876. Three days after the storm, the town remains virtually isolated from outside: Irene’s flooding wiped out all major roads and bridges in every direction.” (Burlington Free Press)



“[In Rochester] the waters filled the foundations of dozens of homes, disinterred the coffins of 30 people at the local cemetery and ripped apart bridges and roads.”

(Burlington Free Press)

Nearly every major Vermont highway was damaged
and many local roads were destroyed



Unprecedented Destruction



Route 4 in Mendon: before and after the flood

- Over 263 roads and bridges were washed out or damaged (CNN)
- Trapped Vermonters were forced to use ATVs in order to leave town and access supplies (WCAX)

Disruption of Vermont's Economy





Killington Base Lodge- Killington, VT

Hurricane Irene damaged several hundred Vermont farms and businesses, including several ski resorts; important drivers of Vermont's tourism economy.

Farms flooded; crops ruined

Perley dairy farm
Royalton, VT



“When the rain-swollen White River rose up and overflowed, it laid waste to the 125-year-old Perley dairy farm. Cows were carried away. Tractors and trucks were inundated with muddy floodwaters. The water took out a road, destroyed the first floor of the farmhouse, lifted a 6-foot long tank where milk is stored, knocked out power and smothered fields in the 10-acre spread.” (Associated Press)

“25 of the 60 cows are gone- drowned or swept downriver.” (Vermont Public Radio)

Disruption of Vermonters' Lives



Nearly 700 homes damaged or destroyed

Pittsfield, VT



Bethel, VT

“Lauren McTear looks over the remains of the trailer home owned by her boyfriend's parents... The trailer was destroyed by a recreational vehicle, which floated down the river into it.”
(AP) Berlin, VT

Vermonters Helping Vermonters



Construction workers repairing a bridge in Moretown, VT



Manchester Fire Department evacuates residents of Winter Street in Manchester

- Thousands of First Responders, National Guard Troops, Norwich Cadets, and local volunteers helped Vermonters in need.
- Their help has been invaluable in aiding hurt, stranded, and displaced Vermonters



The DHART helicopter airlifts people in need of medical care out of Rochester.



“Norwich University cadets from Platoon 11-5-1 haul a dryer caked in mud from the basement of a home on Water Street in Northfield Saturday morning. More than 1,000 cadets have made their way to the area since Tropical Storm Irene flooded homes with up to ten feet of water.”
(Burlington Free Press)



“Michel Gilbert and his sons Michael and Isaiah try to move a neighbor's jeep out of high water as flooding hits Huntington.”
(Burlington Free Press)



A Vermont family offers food to hungry neighbors in Pittsfield



Photo by Liam Mulholland (age 9) Westminster West, VT

“Ultimately, this moment in Vermont history will not be told by what Irene did to Vermont, but is being written by what Vermonters are doing in response to Irene... Inasmuch as this imminent fall unveils the bloom of striking, fading foliage, it will also reveal the enduring fabric of a Vermont ever so determined to carry on with its being unique communities, craving to be intertwined and connected, solid, but never solitary.”

-David Mulholland Westminster West, VT