

PHILIP B. SCOTT
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

REQUEST FOR MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION

August 21, 2024

The Honorable Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC

Through: Ms. Lori Ehrlich
Regional Administrator FEMA Region I
220 Binney Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 C.F.R. § 206.36, I request that you declare a Major Disaster for the State of Vermont for severe storms and flooding event which occurred on June 22-24, 2024, in north central Vermont. I am requesting Public Assistance for Caledonia and Lamoille Counties and Hazard Mitigation Assistance statewide.

This was a rapid-onset event, with a deluge occurring overnight. I did not declare a separate State of Emergency. The Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) Watch Officer was on duty for the overnight hours throughout the event. Utility outages were monitored throughout the incident. Conference calls were attended by state agencies and utility companies as well as weather calls with National Weather Service offices in Burlington, VT and Albany, NY. Vermont Agency of Transportation deployed to Stowe on June 24 and assisted town officials in evaluating and commencing emergency repairs on hardest-hit roads.

National Weather Service

Flooding and Severe Storms in Vermont – June 22-24, 2024

Overview:

A frontal system moved very slowly across Vermont between June 22 and June 24, 2024, resulting in periodic development of showers and thunderstorms across the state. The rainfall was not continuous during this time and fell over periods of a few hours, with several hours in between each shower or storm.

The heaviest rainfall in northern Vermont came in two rounds of thunderstorms that crossed Lamoille and Caledonia Counties during the afternoon and early evening hours on June 23. Multiple thunderstorms tracked across the same area, which enhanced the flooding impacts. Given the hilly, mountainous terrain, rapid runoff led to numerous gravel shoulder and gravel road washouts in this area. No additional flooding occurred on the 24th.

Flooding/Heavy Rain

Showers produced mostly light rainfall amounts across northern Vermont during the day on June 22nd into the early morning hours on June 23rd. A round of steadier showers moved through northern Vermont during the morning on June 23rd.

The heaviest rain across northern Vermont occurred during two rounds of strong thunderstorms from the afternoon into the early evening on June 23rd. The first round moved through between about 2-4pm EDT. The second round moved through between about 4-6pm EDT, then tapered off during the early evening. All of the flash flooding occurred during this time or shortly after.

Showers produced additional light rainfall amounts during the afternoon on June 24th, but no flooding occurred. Rainfall estimates and observations indicated that about 1-3 inches of rain fell across Lamoille and northern Caledonia counties from June 22-24, with most of that falling from the afternoon into the early evening on June 23rd.

River Flooding

No mainstem river flooding occurred. However, sections of the Lamoille River saw sharp rises from late in the day on June 23rd into June 24th, as seen in the hydrograph below for the Lamoille River at Johnson, VT in Lamoille County. Minor flood stage at this location is 13 ft and the river crested at 12.74 ft.

Wind Damage Reports

Strong thunderstorms crossed west to east across north/central Vermont during the afternoon and evening hours on June 23, with widespread lighter showers before and after these events. The strong winds were mostly reported outside of Lamoille and Caledonia Counties, but some strong winds were reported right along the western border of Lamoille.

-National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service - Eastern Region (July 11, 2024)

For complete details of these events, please refer below to Weather Summary, **Enclosure B:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service - Eastern Region, *Major Storm Impacts for the State of Vermont June 22-24, 2024, Report.*

Statewide Emergency Response

Local Liaisons (through Regional Planning Commissions) were not activated by the VEM Director for this storm event. We heard on the morning of June 24, 2024, of catastrophic infrastructure damage in the communities of Stowe and Walden, and VEM staff immediately began working with officials in those communities to understand and document damages as emergency repairs were undertaken.

Storm related Casualties and/or Casualties

Fortunately, there were no casualties or injuries caused by this storm.

Towns Declaring a State of Emergency

No towns declared a state of emergency.

American Red Cross and Local Shelters

No shelters were stood up or placed on stand-by for this event. While the state often opens them, Vermonters tend to choose to go to friends or family when that is an option.

State/ Local Resources for Assistance

New England 5-1-1 works in partnership with the other northern New England states, the New England 5-1-1 website provides real-time road and weather conditions, links to live cameras, construction alerts, and traffic warnings); VT 5-1-1 also provided road conditions in Vermont, and the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), Transportation Management Center provided VT Alert notifications for road closures and conditions. Information was made available to notify that several roads were closed due to downed trees and utility lines during this storm event.

VT 2-1-1 functions as a free, confidential information and referral program contracted by the State with the United Ways of Vermont, helping to connect Vermonters with a wide range of community, health, and human resources and services. VT 2-1-1 received over a huge number of disaster services-related referral calls during the storm event. VT 211 continues to field calls. There were reports to Vermont 211 that required two referrals (1- housing /shelter and 1-legal service) for Caledonia County residents and six referrals (3-housing/shelter, 1-heating fuel utility assistance, and 1-home heating fuel /donor services) for Lamoille County residents.

Vermont Agency of Transportation

Vermont State roads VT RT 12 in Worcester/Elmore and VT RT 14 in Hardwick were closed due to flooding.

Numerous local roads were also closed due to flooding throughout and after the weather event. Transportation personnel deployed to Stowe on June 24 to support the community.

Vermont's Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF)

Vermont's Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF), provides the state portion of the non-federal share of declared disasters for eligible municipal Public Assistance applicants and is funded through transfers from the Vermont General Fund. Estimates are not yet available to determine the need for additional ERAF transfers from the General Fund for this event. Based on cash flow expectations regarding previous disasters, 2024 Act 87 (The FY24 Budget Adjustment Act) added \$17.25 million to ERAF. My proposed FY25 Budget Adjustment will include a recommendation for an additional transfer from the General Fund to ERAF when

the Legislature reconvenes in January 2025. Current projections for previously declared disasters indicate that at least \$3.9 million must be added in the FY 2025 Budget Adjustment Act to accommodate updated cash flow estimates through FY 2026, not including the yet undetermined amount for this June event and subsequent July 2024 flooding from remnants of Hurricane Beryl.

Local Impact Statements:

Stowe:

On the evening of June 23, 2024, a short duration, extremely intense rainstorm descended upon the western slopes of the Worcester Range, targeting an area that included the Gold Brook watershed in Stowe extending north, through the Moss Glen Brook watershed, and continuing further north to the Bedell Brook watershed in Elmore. Estimates of rainfall vary slightly, but all are in the range of 2.3 inches to 2.5 inches within 20 to 30 minutes. The damage to the roads listed led to individuals unable to leave/access their houses. There were approximately 40-50 houses stranded 24-48 hours while emergency repairs were made to the road.

The most heavily damaged areas in Stowe were:

- North Hollow Road, Bryan Road
- Dewey Hill Road, North Hill Road, Clark Road
- Moss Glen Falls Road

North Hollow area (North Hollow Road and Bryan Road):

These are dead end town highways. During the Storm, Gold Brook impacted the roadway at three locations, in addition to other numerous ancillary impacts from drainage swales and overland water movement. Two of these locations were culvert related and the third was a location where Gold Brook jumped its banks and used the roadway as its preferred watercourse in lieu of its natural channel. There were significant impacts to this roadway, and its residents. Approximately 46 houses on these roads were without access on the evening of June 23, 2024.

Within 24 hours we were able to make emergency repairs to the road that provided access to all but 2 properties, however there were instances where driveways were damaged that limited access to individual house sites. Limited vehicular access was restored to all houses within 48 hours, with permanent repairs continuing for 3-4 weeks. Currently, there is one approximately 12ft. span culvert that remains in a state of temporary repair and the town is actively working on a permanent repair plan for this site.

Dewey Hill area (Dewey Hill Rd, Clark Road, North Hill Road):

Dewey Hill Road is a steep, partially paved roadway that connects the VT 100 corridor to the Stowe Hollow area. During the severe storm, the roadside drainage system along the south side of the road, including intersecting Town roads Clark Rd and North Hill Rd, were generally overwhelmed by the runoff and washed out a severe gully along the south side of Dewey Hill Rd, cutting off access to 35 houses on North Hill Rd, 6 houses on Clark Road and approximately 6-8 driveways. The gully was as much as 8' deep and 15' wide, for a length of appx. one-half mile. Access was restored to Clark Road and North Hill Rd around 1:00 am on the 24th with crude vehicular access restored to the remaining driveways during the workday of August 24, 2024. Work is nearing completion in this heavily damaged area, except for repaving.

Moss Glen Falls area:

During the severe storm, Moss Glen Brook carried massive amounts of woody debris from the upgradient portion of the reach that comprised of State Forest. The debris was trapped at the inlet of the Town's Bridge No. 39, rendering the 21ft. span culvert unable to convey the water under the road. The diverted storm flows breached its banks primarily to the east, then washing the entire width of an approximately. 400ft. length of Moss Glen Falls Road before returning to its channel. As a result, there were approximately 13 properties that lost access via public road; they were able to gain legitimate access via an unmaintained class 4 town highway until repairs were made to Moss Glen Falls Road. Moss Glen Falls Road was restored to vehicular traffic approximately by June 25, 2024, with work continuing until approximately by July 12, 2024, before being completed.

The Town of Stowe has responded to the impact of the June 22-24, 2024, storm with a combination of town and contracted forces to return impacted sites and roads to pre-disaster condition. Cleanup work is expected to continue over the coming weeks. Two longer-term aspects of the repairs are paving of Dewey Hill Road and Stowe Hollow Road, and a replacement of the failed culvert on North Hollow Road. Stowe is starting to coordinate and schedule paving repairs. The replacement of the North Hollow Road culvert is a more involved effort. The town is engaging engineers to assist in design and permitting and are exploring options to install a temporary bridge if a permanent replacement cannot be made in time for winter.

Demographics of Impacted Counties That Met County Thresholds

Vermont Median Household income is \$73,991 and Poverty Level is 10.4%. Most counties are rural and sparsely populated.

Caledonia County: Median Household income is \$62,964; Poverty Level is 11.8%; pop. 30,233

Lamoille County: Median Household income is \$55,247; Poverty Level is 13.2%; pop. 5,976

Sources: United States Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office, Web, 7 December 2023,

United States Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2020, to July 1, 2022, U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Web, May 2023, <http://www.census.gov/>

Additional Factors for Consideration

The profound impacts of this event must be viewed in context. Residents of Caledonia and Lamoille County are still recovering from the devastating impacts of the largest flood in Vermonters' living memory, DR-4720 which occurred during summer 2023. Since then, Stowe also incurred townwide road damages from DR-4762 in December 2023. Both Stowe and Walden incurred further damages from Hurricane Beryl on July 9-11, 2024. Local road crews and emergency responders are discouraged and exhausted, and local road budgets are tapped out.

The month of July is critical to Vermont's summer tourism season. This flooding came at a particularly detrimental time for Vermont's economy. The adverse effects caused by this severe storm event will extend into the fall foliage season which is historically a boon to Vermont's economy as well.

Towns in Vermont obtain insurance through the Vermont League of Cities and Towns' Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF). Roads, water crossings, and drainage structures are not covered, and insurance coverage is not commercially available.

Disaster History

The impacts of this storm clearly exceed the resources of the State of Vermont. Since 2013, Vermont has experienced 17 federally declared and numerous non-declared disasters: DR4120 (May 2013 flooding), DR4140 (June-July 2013 flooding), DR4163 (December 2013 ice storm), DR4178 (April 2014 flooding), DR4207 (December 2014 severe winter storm), DR4232 (June 9, 2015 flooding), DR4330 (June-July 2017 flooding), DR4356 (October 29-30, 2018 severe storm and flooding), DR4380 (May 4-5, 2018 severe storm), DR4445 (April 15, 2019 severe storm and flooding), DR4474 (Severe storm and flooding, October 31- November 1, 2019), DR4621 (Severe storms and flooding, July 29, 2021-July 30, 2021), DR4532 (COVID-19), DR4695 (Severe storm and flooding, December 22-24, 2022), DR4720 (Severe storms and flooding, landslides and mudslides, July 7-21, 2023), DR4744 (Severe Storms and Flooding, August 3-5, 2023), DR4762 (Severe Storm and flooding, December 18-19, 2023), and DR4770 (Severe Winter Storm, January 9-13, 2023).

For this June 22-24, 2024, severe storm and flooding event, a (PA) Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment was conducted from July 8 to August 12, 2024, and the validated PDAs were completed on August 12, 2024. In addition, two additional severe storms, flooding events have occurred and had Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments conducted and completed:

- The July 9-11, 2024, remnants of Hurricane Beryl event for which (PA and IA) validated, PDAs were completed on July 26, 2024. My request for a Major Disaster Declaration was submitted on August 2, 2024 and the President's Disaster Declaration was issued August 20, 2024.
- The July 29-31, 2024, remnants of Tropical Cyclone/Depression Debby, for which (PA and IA) PDAs were conducted and the validated PDAs were completed on August 12, 2024.

Hazard Mitigation Damage Avoidance

In recent years, Vermont and FEMA have successfully used funding made available pursuant to Section 404 (42 U.S.C. § 5170c) and Section 406 (42 U.S.C. § 5172).

Since Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, Vermont has been able to acquire more than 170 properties and remove flood-prone structures thanks to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Many of those parcels have been inundated multiple times in the past year as rivers access their floodplains without harm. We are committed to continuing our ongoing efforts to build resiliency and reduce flood vulnerability using Section 404 and Section 406 Hazard Mitigation.

Conclusion

Vermonters are suffering from repetitive damage and the cumulative effects of multiple severe storms since last summer.

For Caledonia and Lamoille Counties of Vermont, the June 22-24, 2024, severe storm and flooding event compounded the impacts of recent federally declared severe flooding events in July and December 2023 and flooding events that followed during July 9-11, 2024, all of which overwhelmed state and local resources.

Accordingly, I request a Major Disaster Declaration under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance, and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program assistance statewide.

Thank you for understanding the needs of our small state and for your continued support of the State of Vermont and its residents.

Sincerely,



Philip B. Scott
Governor

Enclosures:

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13

A: Public Assistance

B: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service - Eastern Region, *Major Storm Impacts for the State of Vermont June 22-24, 2024, Report.*

C: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Program

ENCLOSURE A:

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

FINAL

Event Name: June 23, 2024 Severe Storm and Flooding
Event Date(s): 6/23/24

State \$184
 County \$460
 VERMONT

Date:	PUBLIC DAMAGE								GOAL				
Report #:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	TOTAL	POP 2020	\$/CAP	\$4.60/CAP	SHORT	
Addison Co	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	37,363	\$0.00	\$171,870	(\$171,870)	
Bennington Co	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	37,347	\$0.00	\$171,796	(\$171,797)	
Caledonia Co	\$0	\$0	\$92,153	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$92,153	30,233	\$3.06	\$139,072	(\$46,919)	
Chittenden Co	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	168,323	\$0.00	\$774,286	(\$774,286)	
Essex Co	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	5,920	\$0.00	\$27,232	(\$27,232)	
Franklin Co	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	49,946	\$0.00	\$229,752	(\$229,752)	
Grand Isle Co	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	7,293	\$0.00	\$33,548	(\$33,548)	
Lamoille Co	\$56,375	\$84,219	\$1,072,008	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,212,603	25,945	\$46.74	\$119,347	\$0	
Orange Co	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	29,277	\$0.00	\$134,674	(\$134,675)	
Orleans Co	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	27,393	\$0.00	\$126,008	(\$126,008)	
Rutland Co	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	60,572	\$0.00	\$278,631	(\$278,632)	
Washington Co	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	59,807	\$0.00	\$275,112	(\$275,113)	
Windham Co	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	45,905	\$0.00	\$211,163	(\$211,163)	
Windsor Co	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	57,753	\$0.00	\$265,664	(\$265,664)	
State Agencies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	State POP	\$/CAP	\$1.84/CAP	SHORT
TOTALS	\$56,375	\$84,219	\$1,164,162	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,304,757	643,077	\$2.03	\$1,183,262	\$0	

NOTES:	DEBRIS CLEARANCE	PROTECTIVE MEASURES	ROAD SYSTEM	WATER CONTROL	BUILDINGS & EQUIPMENT	PUBLIC UTILITY	PARKS & OTHER	643,077	State Population total check-sum
PDA Percentages	4.32%	6.45%	89.22%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

Date:	PUBLIC DAMAGES - STATE AGENCIES NOT SPECIFIC TO ANY COUNTY							
Report #:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	TOTAL
ANR								\$0
AOT								\$0
Forest & Parks								\$0
Rails to Trails								\$0
VAST								\$0
VT Electric Coop								\$0
VEM								\$0
Washington Co Elec Coop								\$0
								\$0
								\$0
Totals	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

ENCLOSURE B:

WEATHER SUMMARY

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service - Eastern Region,
Major Impacts for the State of Vermont June 22-24, 2024, Report.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE EASTERN REGION
630 Johnson Ave. Suite 202
Bohemia, NY 11716

July 11, 2024



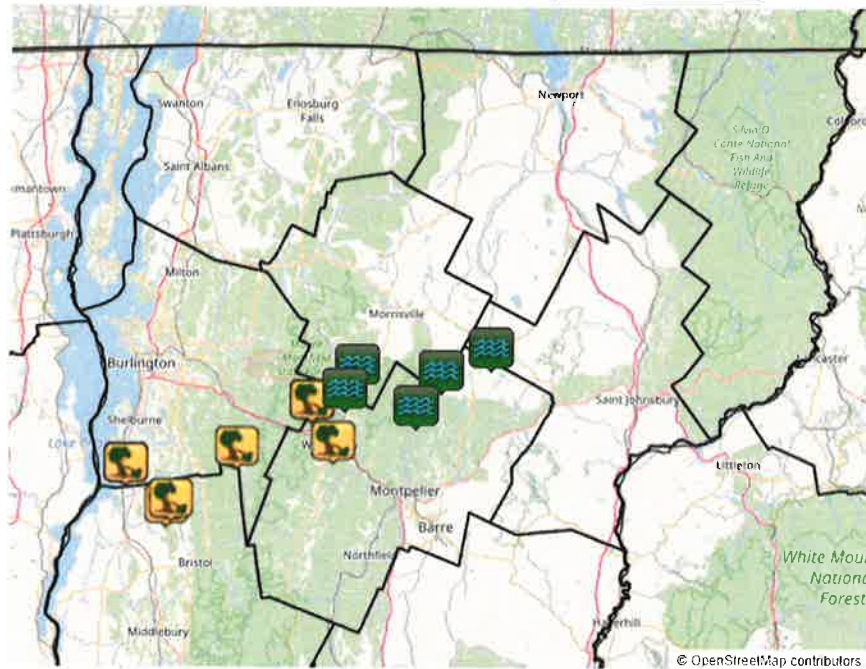
Flooding and Severe Storms in Vermont – June 22-24, 2024

Overview:

A frontal system moved very slowly across Vermont between June 22 and June 24, 2024, resulting in periodic development of showers and thunderstorms across the state. The rainfall was not continuous during this time and fell over periods of a few hours, with several hours in between each shower or storm.

The heaviest rainfall in northern Vermont came in two rounds of thunderstorms that crossed Lamoille and Caledonia Counties during the afternoon and early evening hours on June 23. Multiple thunderstorms tracked across the same area, which enhanced the flooding impacts. Given the hilly, mountainous terrain, rapid runoff led to numerous gravel shoulder and gravel road washouts in this area. No additional flooding occurred on the 24th.

Storm Reports - June 22-24, 2024 ([Link to this data](#))



- Tornado Funnel Cloud Waterspout Wind Damage Wind Speed Hail Lightning Landslide Flooding Rain Amount Snow Accum Ice Accretion Sleet



Flooding/Heavy Rain

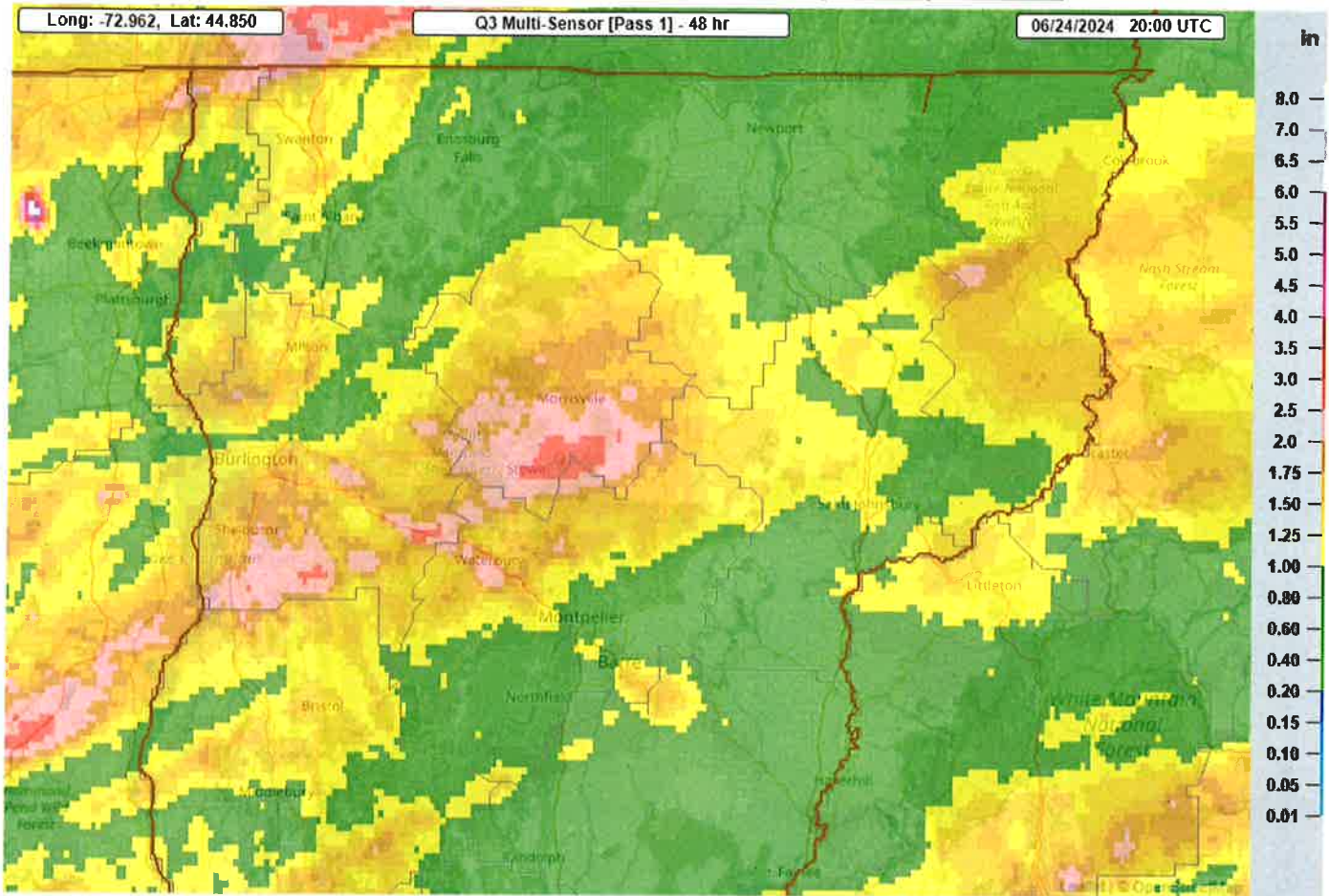
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Showers produced additional light rainfall amounts during the afternoon on June 24th, but no flooding occurred. Rainfall estimates and observations indicated that about 1-3 inches of rain fell across Lamoille and northern Caledonia counties from June 22-24, with most of that falling from the afternoon into the early evening on June 23rd.

Rainfall Amounts

June 22-23, 2024 Rainfall Estimate (*An interactive map can be found here*)



Total Rainfall Measurements

<i>County</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount (inches)</i>
<i>Caledonia</i>	<i>Danville</i>	<i>3.06</i>
	<i>St. Johnsbury</i>	<i>2.24</i>
	<i>Wheelock</i>	<i>1.73</i>
	<i>Sutton</i>	<i>1.52</i>
	<i>Ryegate</i>	<i>1.18</i>
<i>Lamoille</i>	<i>Stowe</i>	<i>2.29</i>
	<i>Stowe</i>	<i>1.95</i>
	<i>Lake Elmore</i>	<i>1.93</i>
	<i>Jeffersonville</i>	<i>1.37</i>
	<i>Johnson</i>	<i>1.30</i>

Rainfall Measurements June 22-24, 2024

(Note: observations with a double asterisk are 24-hr reports ending around 7am on June 24th)

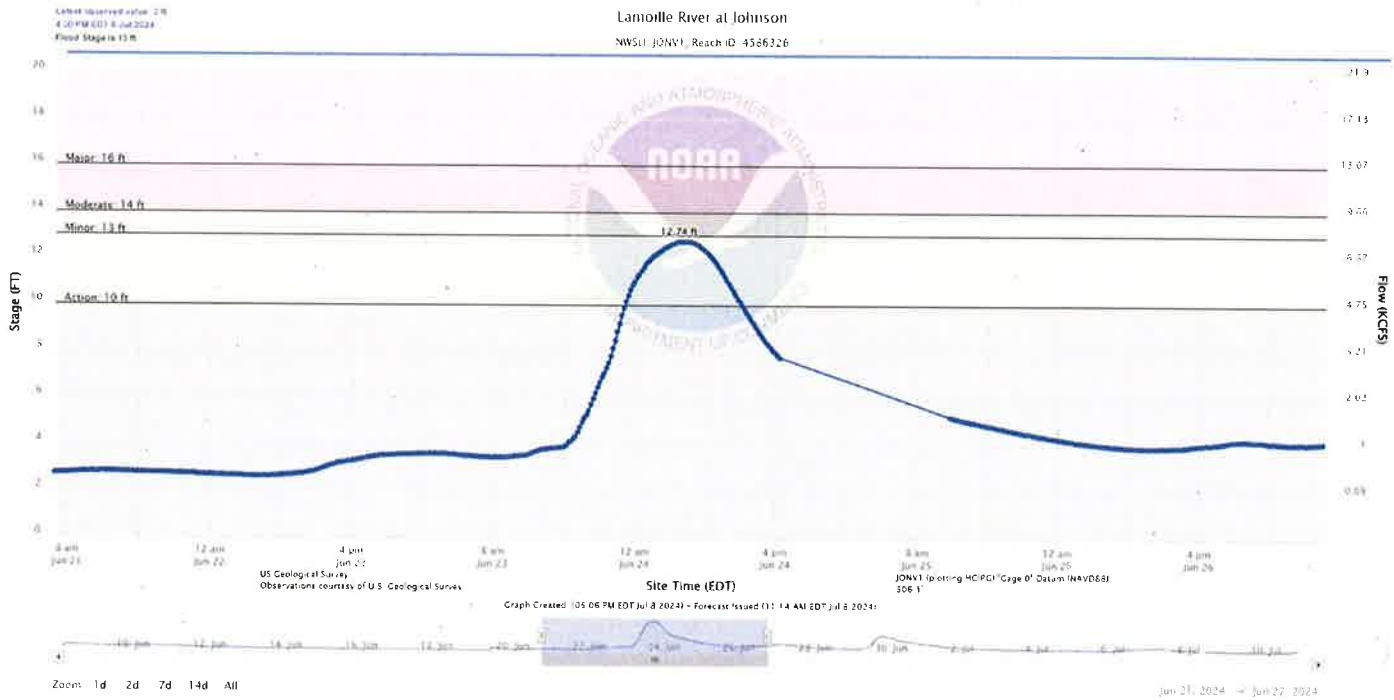
County	Location	Amount (inches)
Caledonia	Danville 0.4 N	3.06
	St. Johnsbury 5.2 NNW	2.85
	Sheffield 3.4 NW	2.63
	Lyndonville 1.1 W	2.62
	Wheelock 1.6 S	2.21
	St. Johnsbury 0.4 N	2.06
	Groton 4.4 WSW	1.96
	Ryegate 1.5 N	1.89
	Barnet 3.5 W	1.73
	Sutton	1.52**
	Danville 2.0 E	1.36**
Lamoille	Stowe 0.2 SW	3.05
	Wolcott 2.0 WSW	3.00
	Stowe 2.4 NNW	1.95**
	Lake Elmore	1.93**
	Jeffersonville 1.3 SSW	1.90
	Jeffersonville	1.37**
	Johnson	1.30**

Flood and Flash Flood Reports

County	Location	Date/ Time (EDT)	Summary
Caledonia	1 SSW Hardwick	2024/06/23 20:20	High water over bridge on Rt 14
Lamoille	Stowe	2024/06/23 16:30	Multiple washouts on North Hollow Road and Moss Glen Falls Road in the Stowe area.
	Elmore	2024/06/23 17:00	Bridge washout on Elmore Mountain Road.
	1 S Moscow	2024/06/23 18:03	Media relayed a picture of a culvert that was washed out due to heavy rainfall.

River Flooding

No mainstem river flooding occurred. However, sections of the Lamoille River saw sharp rises from late in the day on June 23rd into June 24th, as seen in the hydrograph below for the Lamoille River at Johnson, VT in Lamoille County. Minor flood stage at this location is 13 ft and the river crested at 12.74 ft.



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Strong thunderstorms crossed west to east across north/central Vermont during the afternoon and evening hours on June 23, with widespread lighter showers before and after these events. The strong winds were mostly reported outside of Lamoille and Caledonia Counties, but some strong winds were reported right along the western border of Lamoille.

Matt Doody, Scott Sukup, Peter Wichrowski, Howard Silverman, David Manning

***Emergency Response Meteorologists NWS
Eastern Region Headquarters***

ENCLOSURE C:
TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Assistance from Other Federal Agency Programs

County	SBA Home Loans	SBA Business Loans	FSA Loans	NRCS	FHWA	USACE	OTHER
Caledonia	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Lamoille	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Totals							