

STATE OF VERMONT

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

**GUBERNATORIAL DIRECTIVE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE AGENCY OF
TRANSPORTATION AND THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

DEBRIS REMOVAL

The ongoing nature of the July and August 2023 flooding has resulted in widespread debris and wreckage on public and private property which is beyond the capacity of many residents and communities to manage in a timely manner. This has left some communities, neighborhoods and isolated households in more rural and impoverished areas without the same access to resources for safe and timely debris removal.

Despite the robust response from FEMA and various impacted communities, inequitable access to resources cannot be ignored. The remaining debris and wreckage is widespread and threatens public health and safety, and the economic recovery of many rural communities and residents throughout Vermont. Debris and wreckage remain dispersed throughout rural rights of way and on private property of Vermonters. The State must take action to ensure the most vulnerable individuals and communities are able to move forward and substantially complete debris removal.

Pursuant to my authority in 20 V.S.A. § 36, and notwithstanding any other provision of state law, I hereby direct the Agency of Transportation (VTrans), in coordination with the Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Chief Recovery Officer and the Agency of Natural Resources, to clear or remove debris and wreckage that may threaten public health or safety, or public or private property at the discretion of VTrans, as directed by the Secretary of Transportation.

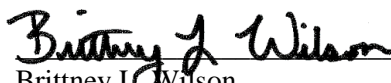
This directive shall be exercised when the affected local government, corporation, organization, or individual has unconditionally authorized the removal of debris and wreckage. In the case of removal of debris or wreckage from private property, the owner shall first agree to indemnify the State government against any claim arising from the removal and VTrans may move the debris and wreckage to the public Right of Way to sort and remove it following the requirements municipalities must meet to be eligible for reimbursement from FEMA.

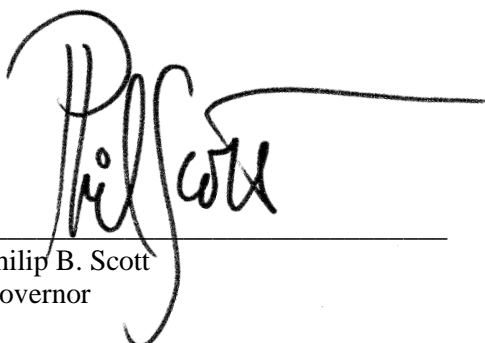
VTrans shall carry out this directive until such time as it is determined by the Governor that removal of debris and wreckage from the July and August 2023 flooding is equitable from community to community and household to household; and removal of debris and wreckage is substantially complete.

WITNESS my name hereunto subscribed and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont hereunto affixed this 25th day of August, 2023.



By the Governor:


Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs


Philip B. Scott
Governor