



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS
The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
Homeland Security and Emergency Management
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Flash flood damage to the railroad track and boardwalk at Weirs Beach. Photo by HSEM Senior Field Representative Cindy Richard.

FLASH FLOODS POUND LAKES REGION AND NORTH COUNTRY – The Granite State was still reeling from a tornado that tore a 50-mile swath through the parts of five counties on July 24th when it was struck again by a series of intense thunderstorms that triggered flash flooding in more than 25 communities. The rapidly rising waters killed a seven-year-old Rhode Island girl who was swept away in her family’s vehicle at an Ashland campground and caused major damage to roads and other infrastructure. A preliminary damage assessment by joint federal and state teams found damage to infrastructure totaling more than \$1.24 million in Belknap, Coös and Grafton counties.

MEETING SCHEDULED FOR FLOOD DAMAGED COMMUNITIES – A public meeting is scheduled for tonight (Thursday, August 28th) in Meredith on flash flood damage to Meredith, Center Harbor, Ashland and New Hampton. Representatives of state and voluntary agencies will be available to discuss their roles in the flood response and to answer questions from local officials and residents of the four communities. The meeting will be held at the Meredith Community Center beginning at 6 p.m.

HEAVY RAINS CAUSED LANDSLIDE THREAT – Flash flooding wasn't the only problem created by the early August rainstorms. Several landslides were reported as saturated hillsides became unstable. In the most serious incident, a slide in Bath blocked both lanes of Route 112. State Geologist David Wunsch said unstable ground posed a threat to homeowners as well. He said homeowners should watch for warning signs, such as the loss of utilities, cracks in masonry or doors or windows that don't close properly. Dr. Wunsch suggested that homeowners make sure that gutters and drainage systems are kept clear to draw water away from buildings.

DISASTER DECLARATION GIVEN FOR TORNADO COUNTIES – President Bush has granted a Presidential Disaster Declaration to five New Hampshire counties damaged by the July 24th tornado. Initially, Belknap, Carroll and Rockingham counties received the declaration, but Merrimack and Strafford counties were later added. The declaration was for Public Assistance. Much of the losses are related to debris removal and municipal expenses related to responding to the tornado. Governor Lynch also asked for Individual Assistance, but that was denied. FEMA said damage to private property that would be covered under Individual Assistance was not sufficient to warrant an IA declaration. The governor is also seeking to add flood-damaged communities in Belknap, Coös and Grafton counties to the disaster declaration.

LIONS CLUBS TO DONATE \$10,000 TO TORNADO VICTIMS – The Lions Clubs International Foundation and local Lions Clubs are providing \$10,000 to tornado victims in Belknap, Carroll, Merrimack, Rockingham and Strafford counties. The aid will be in the form of vouchers to local businesses for clothing, food, water, infant supplies and other items. The vouchers will be distributed at the Epsom Fire Station on Saturday, August 30th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Anyone seeking assistance will be required to provide proof of residence in one of the communities struck by the tornado.

APPLICANT BRIEFINGS SET FOR TORNADO DAMAGE – Two briefings for officials of communities damaged by the July 24th tornado have been scheduled for the first week in September in Epsom and New Durham. The sessions will help officials prepare applications for Public Assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. There is a deadline of September 20th for applications for assistance. Officials such as road agents, public works directors or finance directors are encouraged to represent their communities at the briefings.

The applicant briefings will be held September 2nd at 10 a.m. at the Epsom Fire Station and September 3rd at 1 p.m. at the New Durham Public Library.

BANK TO OFFER SPECIAL LOANS TO TORNADO VICTIMS – First Colebrook Bank has announced a special loan program for victims of the July 24th tornado. The bank will offer unsecured home improvement loans of up to \$10,000 to borrowers who meet the bank’s underwriting criteria. Bank officials say the Storm Loan Program will run until the end of October. The bank has set aside \$1 million for the loans.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULED ON FUNCTIONAL NEEDS IN DISASTERS – The second New Hampshire Working Conference on Functional Needs Populations in Disasters will be held at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord on Tuesday, October 14th. The day-long conference is aimed at helping state and local emergency managers develop their plans for assisting functional needs groups.

Breakout sessions include GIS Mapping for Community Planning and Response, Adults and Children with Special Health Care Needs, Homeless and Law Enforcement Concerns During Response. The keynote speaker will be June Isaacson Kailes of the Center for Disability Issues and the Health Professions Western University of Health Sciences of Pomona, California. The conference is free. The registration deadline is Sept. 18th. For on-line registration, go to: www.nh.train.org/DesktopShell.aspx.

EM RADIO SPOTS TO AIR IN SEPTEMBER – Five new 60-second radio spots on emergency management topics will begin airing next month on radio stations around the state. The radio campaign, which is done in cooperation with the N.H. Association of Broadcasters, is HSEM’s primary outreach program to the general public. This year’s spots include messages on weather watches and warnings, flood safety, school emergencies, emergency planning for businesses and the I Can Help – NH program, which seeks to encourage health care professionals to register for volunteer service during disasters.

BROOKLINE VOLUNTEERS COMPLETE EXTENSIVE TRAINING – More than 30 members of the Brookline Emergency Response Team, or BERT, have completed an extensive training program. At an August 12th ceremony, they received certificates for their work and the congratulations of the state Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. They also received backpacks with gear and other items to assist them in their role. BERT members have completed training in traffic control, shelter management, animals in disaster and the National Incident Management System, among other courses. The team responded to Deerfield to provide access control in the wake of the July 24th tornado. Representing HSEM at the ceremony were Assistant Director Kathryn E. Doult and Senior Field Representative Joann Beaudoin.