



NAUGATUCK VALLEY
COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS

August 18th - 19th

FLOOD RESOURCE GUIDE

Last Updated Tuesday, September 3, 2024





Table of Contents

Latest News from DEMHS (Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security)	3
Messaging from Governor Lamont’s Office	4
General Information and other Useful Links	7
FAQ and Resources	8
Municipal Website and Social Media Links	10
Agriculture Resources	13
CT DEEP (Department of Energy & Environmental Protection)	15
CT DOT (Department of Transportation)	16
CT DECD (Department of Economic & Community Development)	17
FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)	21
Resources from other National Agencies & Organizations	23



Latest News from DEMHS (Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security)

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY

The State must demonstrate the damages were a direct result of the event and that they meet statewide and county indicators. Businesses and residents must provide damage estimates as follows.

1. Identify damages caused by the event. Assess your property and belongings for damage that occurred as a result of this event. This includes structural damage, damaged personal possessions, lost inventory, lost revenue due to business disruption, etc. Note your losses and take many pictures that confirm losses.
2. Contact your insurance company to see if you are covered under your current insurance policy. Assess your primary residence and personal property (including transportation/vehicles) for damages caused by this event.
3. Submit your damage estimates through the Crisis Track Portal at <https://crisistrack.juware.com/public/CTDEMHS/request.html>. Submit **all** damages at this time, we will work after to identify what qualifies and what does not qualify. Note structural damage and lost inventory and/or lost revenue due to business disruption, etc. Secondary homes or apartment buildings should be assessed as a business loss. Note if the home is inaccessible due to the event.
4. Monitor social media and other media sources for information pertaining to Individual Assistance, Small Business Administration etc.

For more information regarding storm recovery, please visit <https://portal.ct.gov/demhs>. Any questions please reach out to your local emergency management office.



Messaging from Governor Lamont's Office



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

GOVERNOR NED LAMONT

Governor Lamont Provides Update on Recovery From Historic Rainfall and Flooding in Western Connecticut

8/30/2024

(HARTFORD, CT) – Governor Ned Lamont today provided the following updates as of 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 30, regarding Connecticut's recovery from the August 18 historic rainfall and flooding.

“These historic floods devastated homes, businesses, and infrastructure in western Connecticut, and we are committed to helping the impacted communities rebuild and recover as soon as possible,” **Governor Lamont said**. “In addition to launching a state-funded program to help small businesses with the costs of rebuilding and reopening, my administration is continuing to work directly with FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration to determine whether the thresholds have been met that would enable homeowners and business owners to receive federal reimbursements to aid in the recovery process for damaged infrastructure. I am impressed at the speed that crews from the Connecticut Department of Transportation, their contractors, and municipal workers have been working to reopen roads and bridges. Our administration remains determined to work with all our partners to help everyone in the impacted areas recover and restore a sense of normalcy.”

Connecticut Department of Transportation crews continue to reopen roads

Maintenance staff from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) have been working around the clock to repair and reopen damaged roads and bridges. Immediately following the storm, a total of 30 state roads were closed and five rail lines were closed or delayed. As of this afternoon, CTDOT has reopened 23 roads and four rail lines are operating on schedule.

Activities have included debris removal on state roads, as well as the cleaning of culvert, pipes, and catch basins. In total, approximately 125 catch basins have been cleaned, 450 shoulders and



washouts have been repaired, 31 culverts and pipes have been cleared, and 1.2 million pounds of debris have been removed. Additionally, the CTDOT Bridge Safety and Evaluation Team has inspected nearly 40 state-owned bridges to ensure their safety.

“Our focus has been restoring infrastructure to ensure no one is cut off from their neighbors and community,” **Connecticut Transportation Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto said.** “We’ve rebuilt nearly two dozen roads and have plans in place to reopen several more by the end of the month. Thank you to incredible work of CTDOT crews, contractor partners, and local public works staff who have been working around the clock.”

Several state roads, such as Route 34 in Oxford and Route 67 in Southbury and Oxford, remain high priority to reopen to traffic. The CTDOT is working with its contracting partners to design temporary bridges that can be installed until permanent fixes can be completed.

Two washouts along the Waterbury Branch Line have severely impacted rail service. No trains are running along the line and the service is being replaced by buses until further notice. Crews are actively working to fix the washouts near Beacon Falls and Seymour. Site access remains challenging, especially in Seymour near the Kinneytown Dam, while crews are working as quickly as possible to restore rail service.

Interactive map launched for residents to track road recovery process

The CTDOT today launched a new interactive map of road repairs so residents can track the recovery process of damage from the August 18 storm. To access that map, [click here](#) or click the link available on the ct.gov/dot homepage.

This August 18 storm-specific map is in addition to CTDOT’s regular *CTroads* website that provides real-time updates and alerts on roads statewide, which is available at ctroads.org.

State actively conducting required damage assessments needed to receive a federal major disaster declaration

The Lamont administration is actively working with towns, businesses, and homeowners to conduct the required damage assessments and calculate whether the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) indicators/thresholds have been met that would enable the state to receive a federal major disaster declaration, which could result in the release of federal funding to reimburse homeowners, businesses, and state and local governments for some of the costs of rebuilding and repairing damage to eligible public and uninsured private property.

To support this effort, over the last several days, staff from the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and municipal officials have been taking staff from FEMA and the SBA to homes and businesses in the impacted areas of Fairfield County, Litchfield County, and



New Haven County to view damage in person and conduct preliminary damage assessments. This assessment process may continue into next week, if needed.

The joint preliminary damage assessment for FEMA's Public Assistance program, which can include reimbursements for eligible state and local government costs of repairing public infrastructure, is scheduled to begin September 9.

The requirements for seeking a federal major disaster declaration typically takes a period of days or weeks to complete, as state and local governments are required to submit very specific and detailed documentation with cost estimates to support the request for federal funding.

Small businesses and nonprofits can begin applying for funds from the state's micro-grant program on September 3

Beginning next week, small businesses and nonprofit organizations with fewer than 100 employees in Fairfield County, Litchfield County, and New Haven County that suffered damage from the storm can begin applying for a state micro-grant program that will provide grants of up to \$25,000 to support their recovery efforts.

Governor Lamont has [allocated](#) \$5 million in state funds for this program. It is being administered at the request of the Lamont administration by the WBDC, a nonprofit organization based in Fairfield County, with support from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development.

Small businesses and nonprofits can apply for grants beginning September 3 by filling out the application that will be made available online on the WBDC's website at ctwbdc.org.

****Download: [Civil preparedness emergency declaration in response to severe flooding](#).**



General Information and other Useful Links

1. The Connecticut state agency leading the charge toward response and recovery associated with the August 18th and 19th flooding event that greatly impacted our state is the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DESPP/DEMHS). Here is a link to the DEMHS Flood Disaster website, which will be updated with links to damage assessment forms and other useful information in the coming days:

[August 18th, 2024: Severe Flooding Disaster \(ct.gov\)](#)

2. If you see caution tape, barriers, cones, barrels or any other apparatus blocking a roadway, please do not attempt to go around these things. There have been multiple reports of people ignoring warning signs to capture photographs, videos, etc. or just out of sheer curiosity.

Even if an area appears safe on the surface, there may be structural integrity issues beneath that cannot be seen. This includes utility lines and other dangerous elements of the general infrastructure. Avoid traveling in heavily impacted areas, if possible, to allow local, state and federal officials to do the necessary work to assess the damage.

3. The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DESPP/DEMHS) is undertaking the initial damage assessment survey from the heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding that occurred between the dates of August 18th and August 19th.

It is crucial that we promptly assess the extent of the damages and gather the necessary information to determine if thresholds and criteria are met to be considered under the FEMA Individual Assistance program and/or Small Business Administration (SBA) programs. Here is a link to the SBA webpage: [Disaster assistance | U.S. Small Business Administration \(sba.gov\)](#).

Here is the residential and business self-reporting link:

<https://crisistrack.juware.com/public/CTDEMHS/request.html>

4. For real-time travel updates on road closures, visit ctroads.org.



FAQ and Resources

1. Will personal property damage be covered by FEMA or any other source?

The short answer is “potentially”. The state is still awaiting guidance from FEMA on the necessary damage assessment forms needed for future funding. The public is encouraged to gather photographs, videos, and any other information related to personal property damage that is **NOT COVERED BY PERSONALLY HELD INSURANCE POLICIES**. Severe damage like driveway destruction is more likely to be covered than minor flooding of a home’s basement. See link below to self-report damages. Please include all the requested information, including photographs.

Here is the residential self-reporting link:

<https://crisistrack.juware.com/public/CTDEMHS/request.html>

2. What should businesses do to address damages?

Document damage with pictures and video. Typically, with major incidents like this, the SBA (Small Business Administration) will offer low-interest loans to cover uninsured business damages and losses. Exact details on necessary documentation will be forthcoming from the state and federal governments. See link below to self-report damages. Please include all the requested information, including photographs.

Here is the business self-reporting link:

<https://crisistrack.juware.com/public/CTDEMHS/request.html>

3. Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

Each municipality in Connecticut has an Emergency Management Director who is the leader of recovery efforts related to disasters. If your municipality was heavily impacted, it is likely this individual and/or his/her staff is being inundated with phone calls and emails. Please contact your individual town hall to be properly directed. Many of the municipalities have published additional guidance through social media, municipal websites, and phone calls to residents. Links to websites and social media pages can be found on pages 9 and 10 of this Guide.



CRISISCLEANUP.ORG



WESTERN CT FLOODS CLEANUP HOTLINE (203) 392-1752

If you need help cleaning up damage from the Western CT Floods, call (203) 392-1752 to ask for help. We will connect you with volunteers from local relief organizations, community groups and faith communities who may be able to assist with:



 Muck Out  Debris  Trees

All services are free, but service is not guaranteed due to the overwhelming need. This hotline will remain open through Friday, September 6, 2024.

PLEASE NOTE: this hotline CANNOT assist with social services such as food, clothing, shelter, insurance, or questions about FEMA registration. Volunteers work free of charge and provide the tools and equipment necessary to complete the work.



Municipal Website and Social Media Links

Below is a list of useful information and links specific to some of the more heavily impacted NVCOG communities. We strongly encourage you to monitor your town's individual webpage and or social media page(s) as updates are likely to be posted more frequently.

Ansonia

City of Ansonia Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064810535985>

City of Ansonia Website: [Home - City of Ansonia, Connecticut](#)

Mayor Cassetti wants to ensure that our residents report any and all property damage to our Emergency Management Director, Jared Heon.

This will help the City as it prepares to submit damage estimates to FEMA for reimbursable expenses for storm damage that may have occurred on August 18, 2024.

Please note this is ONLY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF ANSONIA. Include your address, nature of the damage and contact information along with any pictures of the damage that you may have.

Please submit your information to EMD Director, Jared Heon at jheon@ansoniaact.org.

Seymour

Route 67 in Seymour is open as of 1:00 pm, Tuesday 8/20/24.

First Selectwoman's Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/SeymourCT.org>

Town of Seymour Website:

[The Official Website of the Town of Seymour, CT - home \(seymourct.org\)](#)

Naugatuck

Borough of Naugatuck Website:

[Naugatuck, CT | View Our Borough's News, Resources, & Things To Do - Naugatuck, CT \(naugatuck-ct.gov\)](#)

Mayor's Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/mayorpetehess>



Oxford

Town of Oxford Website: [Oxford CT | \(oxford-ct.gov\)](http://oxford-ct.gov)

Southbury

Town of Southbury Flooding Information Page:
[Emergency Center - Southbury, CT \(southbury-ct.org\)](http://southbury-ct.org)

Town of Southbury Website: [Home - Southbury, CT \(southbury-ct.org\)](http://southbury-ct.org)

Town of Southbury Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/SouthburyFirstSelectman>

Woodbury

Town of Woodbury Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090866977339>

Town of Woodbury Website: [Woodbury, CT \(woodburyct.org\)](http://woodburyct.org)

Please take a moment to read the following message from Woodbury's Emergency Management Team:

Historic Flooding in Woodbury Recovery Efforts

Residents of Woodbury, as we enter recovery mode, please continue to look at the multiple official channels of communication for updates. As you all know, our town along with multiple towns around us suffered significant impacts to infrastructure, homes, and businesses. In the aftermath of a disaster, the road to recovery can be long and challenging. Our community's strength lies in coming together and supporting one another through this difficult time. Here's what you can do to aid recovery efforts and ensure the safety and well-being of everyone:

1. **Stay Informed:** Keep up to date with official information from local authorities and emergency services. Follow instructions regarding safety, cleanup, and the availability of essential services. Look for road closure and condition updates and obey all postage signage.
2. **Health and Safety:** Be mindful of your health during recovery. Wear protective gear while cleaning up debris and be cautious of potential hazards like downed power lines, contaminated water, and unstable structures. If you or someone you know is injured, seek medical attention immediately. For any concerns about well water in previously flooded areas, please contact the health department.



3. **Help Your Neighbors:** Check on your neighbors, especially those who are elderly, disabled, or may need extra assistance. Helping each other is crucial in the recovery process.

4. **Document Damage:** If your property has been damaged, take photos or videos for insurance claims. Make a list of damaged or lost items and report them as soon as possible.

5. **Accessing Assistance:** We are only in the beginning phases of assessments and the state is working on seeing what assistance, if any, will be available. This is a process that takes time, and the Town of Woodbury will continue to post information as it becomes available.

6. **Volunteer and Donate:** If you're able to help, consider volunteering your time or donating to reputable organizations. Your contribution can make a significant difference in the lives of those affected by the disaster. Please be aware of scams and if you are not sure or believe you are being scammed report it to officials.

7. **Mental Health Support:** Disasters take an emotional toll. If you or someone you know is struggling, don't hesitate to seek mental health support.

8. **Rebuilding Together:** Recovery is a community effort. Please continue to support our Public Works Personnel, First Responders, all of our wonderful volunteers, neighbors and businesses in our community as they get back on their feet.

By working together, we can rebuild and recover stronger than ever. Remember, recovery is a marathon, not a sprint. Stay patient, stay resilient, and stay connected.

For more information and resources, use the following websites, social media pages and phone numbers:

- Emergency Services: 911
- Emergency Manager: (203) 695-3037
- Senior Centers: (203) 263-2828
- Social Services: (203) 263-4117
- Fire Department: (203) 263-3100
- Police Department: (203) 263-3400
- Eversource: (800) 286-2000
- United Way 211: free health and human service information and referral helpline. Calls are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call 211 or visit the website at www.211ct.org.



Agriculture Resources



Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FSA, NRCS, State, and local agencies have disaster, emergency, and other programs that may help affected farmers.

To learn more about FSA and NRCS programs, please visit our webpages or contact the local [USDA Service Center](#). Farmers can also apply for FSA and NRCS programs, manage conservation plans and contracts, and view and print conservation maps by [logging into their farmers.gov account](#), or can [sign up today](#) if needing to create an account. Additionally, FSA offers a [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#) which helps farmers learn which disaster program might be right fit by completing five simple steps.

FSA is equitably serving all farmers and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans. NRCS helps farmers and forestland owners make investments in their operations and local communities to implement conservation practices and improve the quality of our air, water, soil, and wildlife habitat.

For more information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov or www.nrcs.usda.gov.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture has updated their [Disaster Relief Resources webpages](#) to reflect current information and tools available to help you navigate this challenging time.

FLOOD LOSS & DAMAGE REPORTING

In an effort to better understand the scope of the situation, Connecticut Department of Agriculture is asking producers to share estimated losses with us through our [online reporting tool](#). This data will be shared with USDA Farm Service Agency and UConn Extension. By filling out this information it will assist these entities in determining if a disaster declaration can be obtained. Your farm name and contact information is not required, but if you would like to be contacted, please share that.

If you have not done so, please also contact your local Farm Service Agency County office to report your damages as well as your insurance agent to report impacts for covered crops. USDA disaster assistance information can be found on farmers.gov, including USDA resources specifically for producers impacted by flooding. For FSA programs eligibility, producers should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#).

AgriStress HELPLINE for Connecticut

If the impacts of the flood damage and losses are causing you, your farm family, or farm workers increased stress or negatively impacting your mental health, resources are available at www.CTFarmStressRelief.org. For immediate crisis help, call or text 833-897-2474.



Flooding Resources for Agricultural Producers

[Guidance for Industry: Evaluating the Safety of Flood-affected Food Crops for Human Consumption | FDA\)](#)

[Vegetable: Flooded Crops: Food Safety and Crop Loss Issues | Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment at UMass Amherst\)](#)

This document from UMASS Extension explains pooling versus flooding, reporting losses, harvesting, and the impact on soil and field clean up. It also explains how if the edible portion of the crop comes in contact with flood waters it is considered "adulterated".



CT DEEP (Department of Energy & Environmental Protection)

Link to DEEP Homepage - [Department of Energy & Environmental Protection](#)

See link below for information relating to the cleanup of debris from the severe storm event of August 18, 2024. See the rest of this web page: [Disaster Debris Management Preparedness \(ct.gov\)](#) for more information about the management of storm debris in Connecticut.

[Emergency Authorization for Solid Waste Management for Storm Event of 8-18-2024 \(ct.gov\)](#)



[CT DOT \(Department of Transportation\)](#)

Link to DOT Homepage - <https://portal.ct.gov/dot>

For real-time travel updates on road closures, visit ctroads.org

Key Actions Since Last Update (8/30/24)

- Traffic has been successfully restored for the majority of homeowners and business owners located on state roads, with alternate routes available to ensure access. Drive times may be a bit longer until replacement and temporary structures are installed.
- CTDOT maintenance staff and contractors continue to prioritize cleanup activities and have been working 12 to 15-hour days 7 days a week. Activities include debris removal on state roads, as well as the cleaning of culverts, pipes, and catch basins. As work shifts to larger projects, maintenance staff will begin returning to normal operations.
- In total, a reported 126 catch basins have been cleaned, 449 shoulders and washouts repaired, 31 culverts and pipes cleared, and 600 cubic yards of debris representing 1.2 million lbs. of debris removed since the beginning of this event.
- CTDOT Highway and Bridge Design teams are actively developing plans for the reconstruction of remaining damaged infrastructure, including temporary spans and full replacement for locations deemed irreparable.
- CTDOT is providing support for assessing local bridges on the National Bridge Inventory that CTDOT inspects, starting with the hardest-hit communities and gradually expanding to surrounding towns who request assistance.
- In total, 38 state-owned bridges have been inspected by the DOT Bridge Safety and Evaluation Team.
- The MTA Metro-North Waterbury Line remains closed, with work along the Beacon Falls damaged segment ongoing with substantial completion anticipated in mid-September. Work along the Seymour damaged segment is significant and will require more time to complete. Supplemental bus service is currently operational along the Waterbury Line. A full timeline for restoration of rail service is "To Be Determined".
- CTDOT is submitting Initial Damage Assessment to the Federal Highway Administration today, kickstarting the process for federal aid to repair/replace bridges and roads. Over \$50 million in work has been identified.
- In anticipation of the start of school, CTDOT communicated with Local Traffic Authorities in impacted communities about all state detours for through-traffic; municipalities are responsible for coordinating any local detours.
- CTDOT has established a public facing [interactive map](#) to provide updates on recovery progress.
- To keep the traveling public informed on road restoration and any advisories, CTDOT is posting on our social media accounts on Facebook, X, and LinkedIn. Current road status information can be found on CTRoads.org.



CT DECD (Department of Economic & Community Development)

LINK TO SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM: [CT State Funding for Flood Recovery - WBDC \(ctwbdc.org\)](https://www.ctwbdc.org)

To be eligible, you must:

- Have a business based in Fairfield, Litchfield, or New Haven County
- Have fewer than 100 full-time equivalent employees
- Have experienced damage and/or loss of revenue as a result of the flooding

****Business that apply for the grant will be selected at random for a site visit before funding is awarded****

If your business is located in a town outside the following listed counties, please be aware that your application may take additional time to review. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we process all applications thoroughly.

Fairfield County:

- Stamford
- Darien
- Monroe
- Weston
- Wilton
- Shelton
- Bethel
- Danbury
- Newtown
- Redding

New Haven County:

- Ansonia
- Derby
- Seymour
- Beacon Falls
- Naugatuck
- Oxford
- Southbury

Litchfield County:

- Woodbury



[Click here](#) to download a PDF version of the grant application.

****You must apply through our grant software. Emailed applications will **not** be accepted. ****

[Click here](#) to download a PDF of our FAQ regarding the grant program.

WBDC Grant Application Tutorial – WBDC uses Wizehive Zengine as our grant application software. In this brief, pre-recorded session, WBDC Ignite Grant Coordinator Juliette LaRock provides a tutorial on how to navigate the platform. (Run time: 7 minutes)

WBDC staff is here to help you through the application process. Contact us at CT.Flood.Grants@ctwbdc.org if you have questions or need assistance.

****Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted.****

CT DECD – Link to homepage - [Department of Economic Community Development \(ct.gov\)](#)

GOVERNOR LAMONT ALLOCATES \$5 MILLION IN STATE FUNDING TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO SMALL BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY RECORD FLOODING IN WESTERN CONNECTICUT

Application Period for State Micro-Grant Program Begins September 3, 2024

(SEYMOUR, CT) – Governor Ned Lamont, joined by Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) Commissioner Daniel O’Keefe, today announced that he is allocating \$5 million in state funding to launch a micro-grant program that will help small businesses in the western portion of Connecticut rebuild and recover from the record rainfall and flooding the state received last week.

Under this program, state grants of up to \$25,000 will be available for small businesses and nonprofit organizations in Fairfield County, Litchfield County, and New Haven County that have fewer than 100 employees and experienced damage from the floods. Grants can be used to cover various expenses to help in the recovery, including those associated with cleanup efforts, replenishing lost inventory, and replacing equipment.

Governor Lamont and Commissioner O’Keefe announced the establishment of this program while visiting small businesses in Seymour that were forced to close due to flood damage.



“We are working to quickly launch this state grant program in an effort to help small, locally-owned businesses rebuild, repair, and re-open as soon as possible,” **Governor Lamont said**. “Small businesses are the engine of our economy and the heart and soul of our communities, and they employ thousands of workers. In addition to this state-funded program, we are working with our federal partners to determine eligibility that could provide further support for our business community, and this program is one component of the recovery effort. I am committed to supporting Connecticut throughout the recovery process.”

“This kind of unforeseen natural disaster can cripple small businesses that may not have the financial resources to quickly recover, rebuild and reopen,” **Commissioner O’Keefe said**. “This micro-grant program is an important first step on the road to recovery, providing critical gap funding to help our small businesses stabilize operations as best they can while they pursue more long-term support from the federal government or other sources.”

The program will be administered on behalf of DECD by the [WBDC](#), a nonprofit organization based in Fairfield County that works to support business growth and job creation statewide. On September 3, 2024, the WBDC will launch an application process for businesses to seek grants. Applicants will be required to provide detailed descriptions of how their businesses were impacted and include photos, receipts, invoices, and estimates where applicable.

This state-funded grant program is separate from any potential federal funding that businesses or homeowners may be eligible to receive if the state is awarded a major disaster declaration from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or the U.S. Small Business Administration. The Lamont administration is working with towns, businesses, and homeowners to conduct detailed damage assessments and calculate whether the cost thresholds have been met that would enable the state to receive such a declaration, which could result in the release of federal funding to support the rebuilding and repairing of damage to eligible public and uninsured private property. The process of conducting these assessments and then applying for this type of declaration typically takes several weeks to complete and is already underway. Any homeowners and business owners who experienced damage to their property are strongly urged to participate in this documentation effort by either filling out an online survey hosted by the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security ([click here for survey](#)) or by contacting their town’s local emergency management office to have their damages recorded.

Last week, President Joe Biden [authorized](#) a federal emergency declaration for Fairfield County, Litchfield County, and New Haven County due to the storm. That declaration enables the state to coordinate with FEMA on the deployment of certain federal resources, such as personnel and equipment, that augment emergency actions the state and its municipal partners are taking to protect lives and property. The state has been coordinating with several federal entities since the approval of this declaration to help in the recovery effort, including with the U.S. Army Corps of



**NAUGATUCK VALLEY
COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS**

49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, CT 06702 · 203-757-0535 · 203-735-8688

Engineers and the Federal Highway Administration on the rebuilding and reopening of roads, and with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard on the clean-up and protection of waterways.



FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)

Link to FEMA homepage - [Home | FEMA.gov](#)

According to state officials, FEMA personnel is mobilizing to Connecticut on Wednesday, August 28th to assess the damage incurred on August 18th and 19th.

This on-site assessment is a crucial part of the process for gaining eligibility for federal disaster funding that the region desperately needs.

Please ensure you report all damage through the crisis track portal so the cost of damages and reimbursement expenses can be accurately captured:

<https://crisistrack.juvare.com/public/CTDEMHS/request.html>

[Be Safe When Returning to Flooded Home | FEMA.gov](#)

Message from FEMA Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation:

“Weeks or months can pass between an incident and a Presidential disaster declaration. During that time, response or early recovery actions can impact endangered and threatened species and/or their habitat. In some cases, those impacts can limit FEMA’s subsequent ability to complete the required environmental project review for the Endangered Species Act.

To address that limitation, FEMA engaged in consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). As a result, USFWS has provided the attached list of species impact avoidance and minimization measures with the expectation that FEMA, through the state emergency management agencies, would share it with prospective applicants for Public or Individual Assistance as soon as possible following a significant incident.

Because CT has requested Preliminary Damage Assessments for both Individual Assistance and Public Assistance from the August 18-19, 2024 rain and flood event in three counties, we are sharing this information to protect future grants if a presidential disaster declaration occurs. Please see the attached information and share this with the communities affected by the flood events.

Federally Endangered and Threatened species protected by the Endangered Species Act in CT include the following:

Mammals:

- Indiana bat
- Northern long-eared bat

Shorebirds:

- Piping plover
- Roseate tern



- Rufa redknot

Turtles (reptiles):

- Hawksbill sea turtle
- Leatherback sea turtle
- Bog turtle

Clams:

- Dwarf wedge mussel

Insects:

- Puritan tiger beetle

Plants:

- Small whorled pogonia
- Sandplain gerardia



Resources from other National Agencies & Organizations

OSHA's Emergency response guidance and PPE requirements

[Emergency Preparedness and Response: Getting Started | Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(osha.gov\)](#)

HUD

[Guide for Team Leaders to Help Disaster Victims Get Back to a Healthy Home \(hud.gov\)](#)

American Red Cross

[Flood-Preparedness-Checklist-R2 \(redcross.org\)](#)

EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)

Below please see guidance/advice from our EPA and CDC partners regarding PPE and safe cleanup of flooded areas:

EPA: strongly suggest hiring professional crews who will be equipped, or state employees trained and equipped to handle material this includes propane tanks. They provided the below.

- What are the atmospheric conditions and contaminants?
 - Is it hot/cold? Establish work/rest ratios in extremes.
 - Assess LEL. EPA uses 10% as a turnback value. Use ventilation as an engineering control.
 - Assess chemical contaminant concentrations (including Benzene from oils/fuels, which can be tricky).
 - Wear respiratory protection if air monitoring results exceed OSHA PEL (<https://www.osha.gov/annotated-pels/table-z-1>) or NIOSH REL (<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/pgintrod.html>). Using a PAPR is pretty much the standard for this work, upgrade to Level B if significant contaminant concentrations are present or if the site has uncharacterized unknown's.
- Is it dry or liquid. Almost always, this is a wet/liquid situation which means that a Saranex (or equivalent) chemical protective suit and appropriate gloves are worn.
 - Tyvek only for solids.
 - If there is a splash component, you will need to upgrade to a chemical protective suit like Saranex.
 - Glove/boot selection based on contaminant which will require a bit of research (https://safety.fsu.edu/safety_manual/OSHA%20Glove%20Selection%20Chart.pdf and/or <https://www.purdue.edu/epps/rem/laboratory/personal/PPE/gloveselection.pdf>).
- Decontamination is really important and is almost always an afterthought.
 - Properly set up decon line FIRST ensuring that it's up wind yet accessible to entrants.
 - Select Decon solution based on contaminant. Usually soap and water.



- Based on the contaminant, it may be necessary to survey personnel to see if Decon worked.
- Depending on how dirty the work is, it may be appropriate to bring a decon or shower trailer.

CDC (Center for Disease Control)

CDC guidance/links:

Protecting yourself from Chemical Exposures after a Disaster

https://www.cdc.gov/natural-disasters/safety/guidelines-for-protecting-yourself-from-chemicals-after-a-disaster.html?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/chemicals.html

EPA Mold Publications – Resource for Cleaning up Mold

<https://www.epa.gov/mold/publications-about-mold>

From VT Flood Clean up:

<https://anr.vermont.gov/document/anr-flood-debris-cleanup-guidance>

Pump out Basements, deal with Spills, Oily Debris, Mud and Silt from VT

<https://anr.vermont.gov/flood#clean-up>

Oil spill / flood waters NY state factsheet

<https://health.ny.gov/publications/2752.pdf>

North Dakota – Flood and Home Heating Oil Clean up

https://deq.nd.gov/flood/Residential_Factsheets/Home_HeatingOilSafety_Factsheet.pdf

Illinois -After the Flood Best practices guide.

<https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/files/aftertheflood-web.pdf>

Flooding aftermath and children’s health from Pediatric Environmental Health Units:

https://www.pehsu.net/Flooding_Aftermath.html

Team Rubicon – Muck out after a flood

<https://teamrubiconusa.org/news-and-stories/how-to-clean-up-after-a-flood/>

If you have additional questions or suggestions for items to be included in this guide, please contact Drew Baklik at dbaklik@nvcogct.gov.