
From: floodlines-bounces@maillist2.nh.gov on behalf of Gilbert, Jennifer
<Jennifer.Gilbert@nh.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 12:37 PM
To: floodlines@maillist2.nh.gov
Subject: [Floodlines] 10th Anniversary of the Mother's Day Flood - What You Can Do Now
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

It is hard to believe it has been 10 years since the Mother's Day flood event that impacted communities in the southern and southeastern portion of New Hampshire in May 2006. It all started with the month of May being the second wettest May in the state on record (NOAA). Then a significant rain event began on May 11, 2006 and lasted until May 15, 2006 and produced almost 14 inches of rainfall. The flooding that resulted from this rain event was declared a major disaster by President Bush on May 25, 2006 for the following counties: Belknap; Carroll; Grafton; Hillsborough; Merrimack; Rockingham; and Strafford.

Over \$17 million in disaster assistance was provided to residents and communities to assist with the recovery. Many residents learned that their homeowner's policy did not cover damages as a result of a flood. They had to rely on disaster assistance, which usually only provided partial assistance. Some residents did not have the resources to repair their damaged house and ultimately had to walk away from it. Some of these houses remain standing and vacant today. For those that had a flood insurance policy, they were better able to repair or rebuild their house and in many cases built their houses higher and reduced the flood risk.

Prior to the 2006 flood event, there were a total of almost 6,700 flood insurance policies in the state. Between 1978 and April 2006, approximately \$13 million in losses had been paid out to residents that had a flood insurance policy. As a result of just the May 2006 flood event, the amount of paid losses in the state doubled to a new total of approximately \$27 million.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey's Flood of May 2006 in New Hampshire report (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2007/1122/pdf/OFR2007-1122.pdf>), the peak discharges during the May 2006 flood were the largest ever recorded at 14 long-term streamgages in the state. In addition, peak discharges equaled or exceeded a 100-year recurrence interval at 14 streamgages.

Starting last night, WMUR began a 3-part series on the Mother's Day flood event during their 11 PM newscast. The first part aired last night and focused on Goffstown. The second part will air tonight and focus on Newmarket. The third part will air tomorrow night and focus on the Suncook River. Each part's video and transcript will be posted on WMUR's Special Reports page (<http://www.wmur.com/special-reports>) the day after.

In 2006, it had been 10 years since the previous significant flood event impacted the southern portion of the state. But residents soon learned that the 100-year flood does not happen only once every 100 years when flooding hit the area again just one year later in April 2007. In fact the 100-year flood or the 1% annual chance flood can happen twice in one year, in consecutive years, or in 5, 10, or 50 years. That's thing about Mother Nature she is unpredictable and everyone is at risk. **Flooding is the most common disaster in New Hampshire and can happen anywhere.** It is important for everyone to understand their flood risk and take steps to protect their family and home from the financial costs and damages of flooding.

To learn more about:

- how to take action and be safe, go to <http://www.readynh.gov/disasters/floods.htm>.
- protecting your house and contents and the benefits of flood insurance, go to www.floodsmart.gov.
- your flood risk, go to www.msc.fema.gov.

- receiving emergency and severe weather notifications by phone or email, go to <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/BFC2664C2B92>.

Jennifer Gilbert, CFM, ANFI

Senior Planner

State Floodplain Program Coordinator

NH Office of Energy and Planning

107 Pleasant Street, Johnson Hall, 3rd Floor

Concord, NH 03301

Main - 603-271-2155 | Direct - 603-271-1762

Fax - 603-271-2615 | www.nh.gov/oep

www.nh.gov/oep/planning/programs/fmp/