

Scenario #4: “Tropical cyclone and flooding”

The Scenario

Vermont typically is not known for hurricanes and tropical storms but things changed today as Hurricane Bob made its way up the Atlantic Ocean and made its way through parts of New England. Hurricane Bob came ashore the outer banks of Virginia as a Category 1 storm. Hurricane Bob has already caused extensive damage to the island nations of the Caribbean. Meteorologists and other experts expected New York City to receive most of the damage but it seems most of the damage may be more inland and concentrated within the state of Vermont.

Hurricane Bob unleashed an endless amount of rain (approximately 11 inches of rain) in Vermont after pounding the suburbs of upstate New York last night. Rivers have overflowed past their banks, washing away roads, highways and bridges in every part of the state and leaving countless communities to fend for themselves until help arrives. The Vermont Emergency Management agency has estimated more than 250 state roads (which amounts to every state road) has been closed. Many have been washed out by streams or blocked off by runoff from hills and mountains. Millions are without electricity and flooding has displaced thousands from their homes. There are reports of whole towns being swept away. It is unclear the amount of damage caused but it is estimated to be in the billions. Early reports have the death toll at approximately 40 with at least one hundred reported missing. Volunteers are pouring in from nearby states but things are still chaotic in the aftermath of the storm. State and local resources are overwhelmed. The U.S. president has declared this area a major disaster area, allowing federal aid to support local and state efforts.

Your Review: What do you tell your public? Factor out the issues and follow protocol to formulate your response to the discussion question and public service announcement.

Source of information: Diccolo, J. A., McWhirter, C., Steel, E. (2011). [Irene’s flood prove deadly as water continues to Rise](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904332804576538111620272104.html?mod=WSJ_Home_largeHeadline). Retrieved from
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