
From: Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance <kelly@vermontoutdoorbusinessalliance.org>
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Subject: Resources for Flood Response and Recovery



Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance

VERMONT FLOOD RECOVERY 2023 - *HOW TO FIND HELP*

VOBA is hoping for the best for the families, neighbors, and employees impacted by flooding around the state. We are deeply grateful for the collective

efforts and lending of resources to ensure safety and preparedness in continuing to navigate the emergency.

The state of Vermont is operated under a [State of Emergency](#) with the Vermont Emergency Management Center deploying resources and agencies working to ensuring safety during the response phase. President Biden signed a Presidential Disaster Declaration allowing for federal agencies to provide emergency assistance. After a visit by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials and Vermont's Congressional delegation, Governor Scott submitted a [major disaster declaration](#) which was approved by the President, thereby increasing relief assistance to the state. In particular, it enables the U.S. Small Business Administration to set up disaster centers and activate a disaster loan program for physical and economic injury.

It is important for impacted businesses to submit damage data through [Vermont 211](#) so Vermont accesses as much federal funding as possible. Businesses providing information will be added to a contact list for communications about financial assistance and be matched up with business assistance advisors.

Additionally, [submit](#) your impacts and questions to VOBA or directly to executive director [Kelly Ault](#) so we can assist in navigating needs and resources as the state moves into the economic and community recovery phase.

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) is [updating](#) guidance and resources and has assured that businesses can: 1) Clean up the mud and debris along with damaged inventory, equipment, furniture, and fixtures, and remain eligible for disaster loans; and, 2) Replace ruined inventory, equipment, and supplies and remain eligible for disaster loans. In both scenarios, it is advised to take pictures of everything and

document all expenses.

The Vermont Small Business Development Center provides a [Disaster Recovery Guide for Businesses](#) and specifically recommends that businesses: 1) Call their local insurance agent and do exactly as they direct; 2) Begin documentation: Take pictures of everything from this point forward and keep a running narrative of every action; 3) Estimate the cost of the damage and make a list of damaged or lost items and, if possible, include the date of purchase, value, and receipts; and, 4) Keep all financial data up to date and backed up.

The Vermont Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation published a [press release](#) on outdoor recreation and the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative offers a [compilation of sources of updated information](#), including [Vermont State Parks](#), [Vermont Rail Trail System](#), [VermontVacation.com](#), and [Trail Finder](#). Seek out organizations as sources for specific activities, such as the [Vermont Trails and Greenways Council](#) and [Ski Vermont](#).

Stay Vermont strong!



VERMONT FLOOD RECOVERY 2023 - HOW TO HELP

VOLUNTEER:

- The state's [volunteer portal](#) matches up individuals and group looking to serve. Those in need of volunteers, can email volunteer@vermont.gov.

DONATE:

- The [Vermont Main Street Flood Recovery Fund](#) has been established to provide grants to small businesses. The Fund is currently accepting donations with the goal to provide grants in the range of \$2,500-\$10,000

to cover costs such as equipment replacement, supplies and help with clean-up.

- The Vermont Community Foundation is accepting donations for the [VT Flood Response and Recovery Fund 2023](#) to support Vermonters responding to and recovering from the floods.
- 1% for the Planet is connecting business members with Vermont outdoor recreation and environmental partners engaged in relief efforts. Fill out the [survey](#) to become a beneficiary.

RESOURCES:

- Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance's Flood Resources [webpage](#) identifies economic recovery and outdoor recreation resources.
- Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility's [Flood Recovery Guide for Businesses](#) identifies resources for receiving and providing support.

SUPPORT:

- VOBA will be publishing a full page advertisement in the August issue of Vermont Sports Magazine with a statement supporting Vermont's flood recovery and listing VOBA's [members](#). Email [here](#) to opt out of the advertisement.
- [Skida](#) is donating 20% of proceeds from selected products purchased through the end of July to the Vermont Farm Fund supporting farms devastated by flooding.

[Let VOBA know](#) if your company has a fundraiser or volunteer program in place or if you interested in donating product to those in need.

VERMONT FLOOD RECOVERY 2023 - HOW TO RECREATE

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation provides key messages outdoor recreation in advance of the weekend to share with residents and customers:

- There are opportunities to get outside in less-impacted areas, but people should use caution and act responsibly when out on trails.
- Trail managers are working to assess trails and recreation infrastructure and post notices, but cannot get to every trail before the weekend.

Other messages:

Avoid flood waters! Please stay away from waterways. It is not safe to wade, swim, fish, or boat until flows return to normal, even in areas that are not posted with notices to avoid contact. Recent flooding across Vermont has inundated many municipal wastewater treatment plants and private septic systems. This has led to partially treated and untreated discharges of sewage into the environment. The state's rivers, lakes, and ponds could contain pathogens like viruses and bacteria that may cause illness as well as significant debris from the floods. The edges of waterways are also unsafe and easily damaged, especially if they were recently flooded.

Access is the first step. Roads remain closed in many parts of the state. Before you head out, [check 511](#) for state highway closures. Local crews are also busy repairing culverts and restoring town roads, which are not listed on 511 and forest roads leading to trailheads may have been washed out. You might encounter road closures that are not posted online. If you come to a closure, turn around and choose a different route or alternate destination. Never travel over flooded roadways.

Know before you go. Check the online resources listed below to see if there are alerts posted for the trail you plan to visit

- [Trail Finder](#): hiking and multi-use trails
- [VMBA's Trail Conditions](#): mountain bike trails
- [GMC Trail Conditions](#): Long Trail system alerts
- [Vermont State Parks](#): State Park alerts listed on specific park pages

If conditions do not warrant hiking, biking, or other recreation, consider visiting open businesses. Your favorite outdoor business, coffee shop, or other business could use our support during this challenging time.

Use caution. Trail managers are out assessing trails and posting closures and warnings if they encounter unsafe conditions or damaged infrastructure. However, they will not be able to get to every trail across the state before the weekend. Furthermore, with more rain in the forecast and already saturated soils, trail conditions are actively changing. Use caution when recreating, even if the trail was not posted as closed. Turn around if you encounter a washed out trail or bridge, significant blowdowns, landslides or other hazards. Protect yourself and natural resources and do not try to find a new path around the obstacle.

Stay safe. Recreate within your abilities and make good decisions when you are outside. Backcountry search and rescue operations require many emergency responders, many of whom have had a busy week with rescue and recovery around the state. Plan your trip in a responsible way that minimizes risk and lowers the chance you might need rescue.

Check out Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative's Flood Recovery Resources [webpage](#).

VOBA MEMBER - INDUSTRY



[Vermont Parks Forever](#) (VPF), the foundation for Vermont's 55 state parks, is committed to fostering environmental stewardship through innovative nature education, access to parks, and equity in the outdoors.

Since 2016, VPF's [Park Access Fund](#) has helped thousands of Vermonters who otherwise wouldn't be able to experience all the parks have to offer. This program has grown by 800% over the past 7 years and this year, the Park Access Fund has gifted almost 10,000 free days in the parks in partnership with 40 community organizations across the state.

- Check out [who we're helping together](#)
- Recommend a [partner for 2024](#)
- [Support this good work](#)

Vermont's state parks are for everyone and together we can promote a more equitable outdoor experience for all!



Mailing address:

PO Box 633, Montpelier VT 05601

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Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance · PO Box 633 · Montpelier, VT 05601-0633 · USA

