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# NESEC NEWS

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## Tropical Storm Irene: \$36 Million in Federal Aid to Vermont

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*A Vermont house undercut during flooding caused by heavy rains following Tropical Storm Irene* FEMA PHOTO

BURLINGTON, VT – On November 8th, 2011, President Obama, at the request of Vermont Governor Shumlin declared Vermont a disaster as a result of the devastation

caused by Hurricane Irene. Since that time \$36 Million in Federal Aid has been made available to the State of Vermont to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area affected by Tropical Storm Irene beginning on August 29, 2011, and continuing.

Late in October, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Small Business Administration have brought almost \$1 million in new aid to Vermonters recovering from the devastation of Tropical Storm Irene.

“We’re gratified to bring this assistance to Vermonters and there will be more help to come,” said FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer James N. Russo.

Russo noted that some Vermonters with damage from Irene have said their loss was too small to register with FEMA. However, the agency may be able to help with any amount of loss over \$50. “And to the many people we’ve encountered who say they won’t register with FEMA because they want others to benefit, I commend your generosity,” he said, “But know that the agency has the funding to cover all eligible claims for assistance to individuals and households affected by Irene.”

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## Heavy Snow and Power Outages in the Northeast

WAKEFIELD, MA - A record breaking early season nor'easter dropped several feet of snow across the northeast. Several locations broke October snow-storm records, including New York City's Central Park, where 2.9 inches of snow accumulated. The highest snowfall amounts were further inland, with over 30 inches accumulating in western Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire. The storm received

a preliminary rank of Category 1 on the Northeast Snowfall Impact Scale (NESIS), which takes into account snowfall accumulation in populated areas, the only ranking storm on record to occur during October.

NASA's Aqua satellite flew over the region on October 30 after the snow was ending in New England and captured the ghostly blanket of white.

Significant damage was reported



*One of the hundreds of trees toppled during the storm* MASS.GOV PHOTO

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Tropical Storm Irene Brings Aid

(Continued from page 1)



**Building facades destroyed by floodwaters following Tropical Storm Irene** FEMA PHOTO

The following is a snapshot of Vermont disaster assistance as of the end of October:

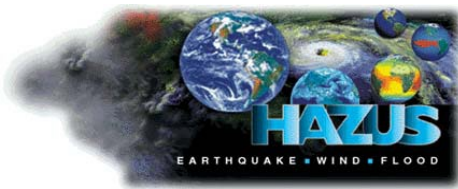
- 6,727 registrations received
- 4,054 visits to Disaster Recovery Centers
- 3,169 Vermonters given housing assistance
- 1,340 Vermonters given temporary rental assistance.
- 5,936 SBA disaster loan applications to homeowners, renters and businesses

## GIS/HAZUS Assistance Free for State and Local Governments

WAKEFIELD, MA – A central component of hazard mitigation planning in any community or state is the ability to estimate the social and economic effects of natural disasters.

The difference between a swift, coordinated response to a disaster event and a response that becomes a disaster in itself, can often be found in a thorough understanding of how impacts and response demands can change in different situations.

The Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC) can help your community hazard mitigation efforts by providing your town, city, county or state with an easy-to-understand damage report and HAZUS-MH disaster simulation covering the impacts of any earthquake, hurricane or flood in your district. The reports include dollar damage estimates, shelter requirements, debris estimates, and much more. To request your free disaster simulation reports, simply visit <http://www.nesec.org/resources/> and fill out the HAZUS-GIS Assistance Request Form. Forms can then be directed to your state Director of Emergency Management for signature approval.



## Northeast Snow and Power Outages

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across the region from the storm because of the strong winds and many of the trees had not yet lost their foliage. The

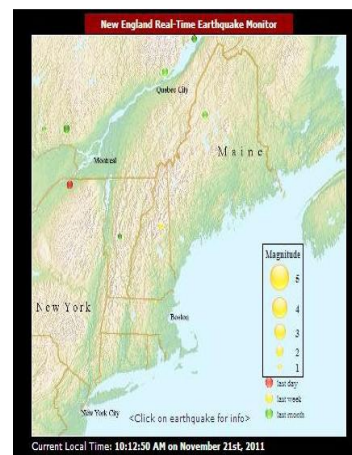


**Power outages caused by downed trees posed a significant problem in the aftermath of the storm** CT.GOV PHOTO

excess snow accumulating on branches caused them to break. The storm temperatures were also relatively warm, leading to a high water content of the snow (heavier snow). In particular, extensive damage occurred to utility poles, electric and telecommunication lines from fallen trees and tree limbs. Over 3 million people lost electricity and there were 22 storm-related fatalities.

President Obama declared emergencies in the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire as a result of the storm

## Real-time Earthquake Information for the Northeast



**Click the image to link directly to Weston's Real-time Earthquake Monitor**

WESTON, MA- Weston Observatory operates the New England Seismic Network (NESN), a network of broadband seismometers distributed throughout the New England states. For 75 years, Weston Observatory has monitored earthquakes in New England. The New England Seismic Network is supported by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) through the Advanced National Seismic System (ANSS).

Recently, Weston Observatory developed and implemented the New England Real Time Earthquake Monitor. Real-time earthquake information is available 24 hours a day at the Weston Observatory Website. To view up to the minute real-time earthquake information just click on the image above.

Thanks to our colleagues at Weston Observatory for providing this important information to us.

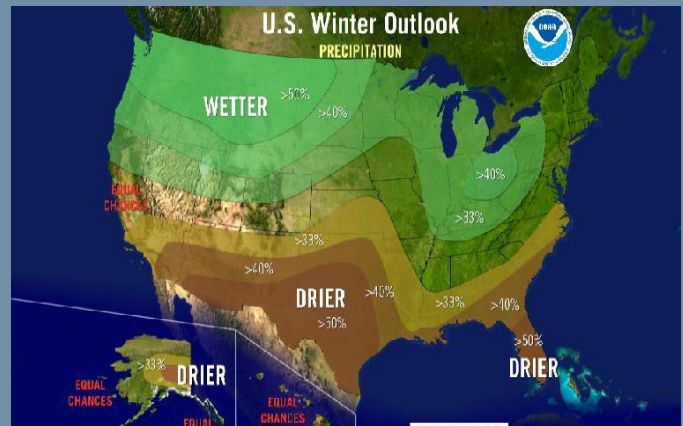
## NOAA's Uncertain 2011-2102 Northeast Winter Forecast

WASHINGTON, DC - The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released their annual Winter Outlook on Thursday Oct. 20.

For the second winter in a row, La Niña will influence weather patterns across the country, but as usual, it's not the only climate factor at play. The 'wild card' is the lesser-known and less predictable Arctic Oscillation that could produce dramatic short-term swings in temperatures this winter.

The Arctic Oscillation is always present and fluctuates between positive and negative phases. The negative phase of the Arctic Oscillation pushes cold air into the U.S. from Canada. The Arctic Oscillation went strongly negative at times the last two winters, causing outbreaks of cold and snowy conditions in the U.S. such as the "Snowmageddon" storm of 2009. Strong Arctic Oscillation episodes typically last a few weeks and are difficult to predict more than one to two weeks in advance.

NOAA's current forecast for the Northeast states:  
Northeast and Mid-Atlantic: equal chances for above-, near-, or below-normal temperatures and precipitation.



*A map of NOAA's predicted winter weather outlook shows areas of wetter and drier weather throughout the US*

Winter weather for these regions is often driven not by La Niña but by the Arctic Oscillation. If enough cold air and moisture are in place, areas north of the Ohio Valley and into the Northeast could see above-average snow;

NOAA is basically saying that anything can happen here in the Northeast. Two things we can be certain of this winter is that it will be cold and it will snow.

## Call for Nominations: 2012 National Awards in Excellence and Lifetime Achievement Award

SACRAMENTO, CA - Nominations are now being accepted for the 2012 National Awards in Excellence and the Lifetime Achievement Award. The Awards in Excellence are given every year by the Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC). This year nominations are solicited nationally in partnership with the Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC), the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC), and the Cascadia Region Earthquake Workgroup (CREW). The 2012 National Awards in Excellence will be awarded for exemplary programs and products that have significantly contributed to addressing earthquake risk reduction through demonstrated achievements in mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

The 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award will be given to recognize an outstanding leader in earthquake risk reduction who is still practicing in his or her profession. The recipient will have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment, level of service, and contribution to earthquake risk reduction.

Awards will be presented at the 2012 National Earthquake Conference, April 10-14, 2012 at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee.

Nominations are due to the WSSPC office December 30, 2011. Nomination forms and information are available at the WSSPC website at

<http://www.wsspc.org/awards/nominations.shtml>.

## Donate \$15 and Receive a NOAA Weather Radio as Our Gift to You!



WAKEFIELD, MA - If you donate \$15 to the Northeast States Emergency Consortium, you will you receive a FREE gift of a Midland HH-50 All Hazards Weather Radio to keep you and your family informed and safe!

The HH-50 Monitors all 7 NOAA Channels for All Hazards and EAS weather bulletins, warnings and forecasts, has audible tone alert alarm and automatically scans all NOAA weather channels upon power on. The package you will receive includes: One (1) Midland HH50 Radio (MSRP \$29.99), belt clip, hand strap, and owner's manual. Radio runs on 3 AAA batteries (not included). As an added bonus you will receive FREE SHIPPING (US Addresses only). To make a credit card or Pay Pal donation for your FREE Midland Weather Radio please click the Donate button below:



To donate by check, please send a personal \$15 check, payable to "NESEC", to: The Northeast States Emergency Consortium, 1 West Water Street, Suite 205 Wakefield, MA 01880. Supplies are limited so please donate today!

# 2012 EERI Annual Meeting & National Earthquake Conference

"Learning from the Past to Protect the Future"  
**Save the Date:** April 10-14, 2012, Memphis, Tennessee

Join us at the anchoring event of the New Madrid Bicentennial — engineers, scientists, emergency managers, social scientists, and policy makers.

- Learn the many lessons from recent and historic earthquakes and how to apply them to reduce future impacts and build resiliency.
- Look into the vulnerability of aging large infrastructure.
- Exchange key information on tools for earthquake risk reduction.
- Learn from successful earthquake mitigation and response programs in the public and private sectors.
- Get the latest information on seismic safety improvements for our schools.
- And much more!

Co-organizers:



Check [eeri.org](http://eeri.org) for more information and updates



[www.earthquakeconference.org/](http://www.earthquakeconference.org/)

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## NESEC NEWS

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