

# NESEC NEWS

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## Michael O'Neil Named Director of Vermont EMA



Michael O'Neil, Director, VT EMA

VTEMA PHOTO

MONTPELIER - Governor Peter Shumlin recently announced the appointment of Michael O'Neil as Director of Vermont Emergency Management. O'Neil has extensive experience in emergency services, most recently serving as Chief Engineer and Emergency Management Director

for the city of Burlington's Fire Department.

"Mike's experience heading up emergency services in Burlington has prepared him for any emergency that could adversely impact the lives of Vermonters," said Governor Shumlin. He said O'Neil is experienced handling not only fire and emergency situations, but hazardous waste spills, natural disaster response and other dangerous situations.

"Mike has been proactive in reaching out to diverse groups on emergency preparedness, and understands that clear communication between responders and citizens is vital in crisis situations," Shumlin said. "I have the utmost confidence in Mike's ability to lead the state's response to emergency situations, and I support his approach to community-based partnerships, outreach and planning."

Vermont Emergency Management is charged with planning for and handling all hazards impacting Vermont. In addition, the department works with communities on prevention efforts to reduce the likelihood of a crisis and increase readiness for emergencies. A key role of the department is to coordinate communication between federal and state agencies in assisting local governments when di-

*(continued on page 3)*

## New Earthquake Mitigation Guidelines Available

TAMPA, FL - The Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) recently announce the availability of new guidelines to protect property from the effects of earthquakes.

The new IBHS guide, "Earthquake Risk Around the U.S. - How to Protect Your Property," provides information to help residents and business owners better understand the areas of a home or business most vulnerable to earthquake damage and offers a number of practi-

cal solutions to minimize the risk of property losses. The information and suggestions presented in this guide range from simple weekend tasks that require basic carpentry skills to more complex projects that may require professional assistance.

The guidelines are publicly available at [DisasterSafety.org](http://DisasterSafety.org). For more information, please contact IBHS at (813) 286-3400 or [info@ibhs.org](mailto:info@ibhs.org).



Earthquake Risks around the U.S.  
How to Protect Your Property

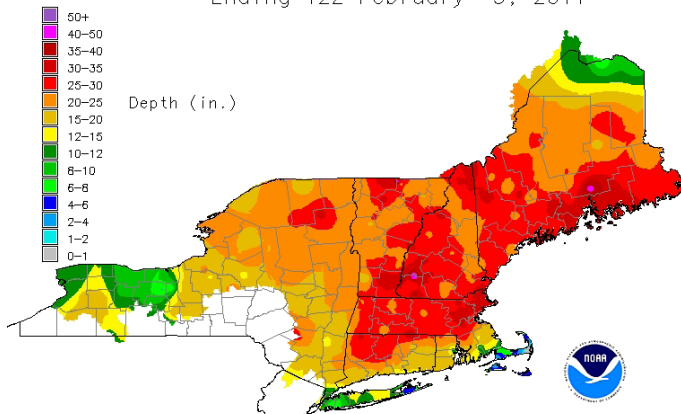


2011 IBHS Guidelines IBHS PHOTO

# Deep Snow Cover and Potential Spring Flooding

Current Snow Depth

Ending 12Z February 3, 2011



**NOAA Snow Cover Map for Northeast Region** PHOTO: NOAA

TAUNTON, MA - According to the National Weather Service the snow pack has grown considerably over the past few weeks. Based on a number of Cooperative Weather Observer sites and spotter reports, it appears that for much of the area, the snow pack is at least double the average February snow pack.

This is the deepest snow pack we've had in several years for most of southern New England. As of Friday February 4th the snow depth ranged from 25 to 30 inches across most of southern New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Northern Rhode Island and northern Connecticut. There were scattered higher and lower totals with the highest reported snow depth at 45 inches in Marlow, New Hampshire. The snow depth dropped off into southeastern Massachusetts and along the coast to 10 to 20 inches. The snow depth was lower on the cape and islands with some spots having bare ground.

The flood potential is above normal for the short term. The long term flood threat increases to much above normal across eastern Massachusetts, Rhode Island and northern Connecticut.

One of the items of concern as we go further into the season is snow-clogged drains, bringing the potential for poor drainage flooding.

The following links provide additional information about the snow cover and spring flood potential across the region:

The [National Weather Service](#) in Taunton and adjacent NWS offices issue a bi-weekly winter/spring flood potential outlook from January into April. NWS Taunton's flood potential outlook is accessible via the following web link. The next outlook is scheduled to be generated on Friday February 18th.

The [Northeast River Forecast Center](#) issues winter/spring outlooks on every other Thursday (Click on the Spring Flood Outlook Tab.)

The [National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center](#) provides comprehensive snow observations, analyses, data sets and map products (mix of modeling and real time data) of the snow pack across the U.S. Look for the link "Interactive Maps" on the left side of the page.

## Clear Snow from Exits and Furnace Outlets



**Snow buildup at an exit posing a fire hazard** PHOTO: NOAA

CONCORD, NH - New Hampshire State Fire Marshal Bill Degan reminds everyone to clear the snow from all of your exit doors. Secondary exit doors are all too often forgotten and in an emergency you may not be able to open it against the snow. He reminds us of a fire in Strafford, NH where three people lost their lives because the second exit door was blocked with snow and ice.

Chief Shawn Murray, President of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs asks residents to adopt a fire hydrant and clear it of snow; this may help firefighters gain quick access to the water in a fire emergency at your home.

For safety, also do not forget to clear snow away from all exhaust and intake vents for furnaces, clothes dryers and water heaters. Blockage of outdoor vents create dangerous fire-hazards and can lead to buildup of poisonous carbon monoxide in the interior of buildings. Homeowners should take a few minutes to walk around the exterior of their property to make sure all vents are uncovered.

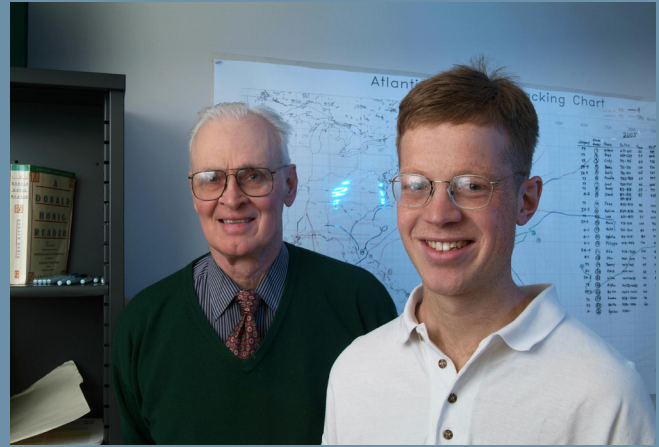
Homeowners should ensure they have installed properly working smoke/fire/CO detectors and a weather radio as part of home safety preparedness program.

## Busy 2011 Atlantic Hurricane Season Forecast

FORT COLLINS, CO - The team of researchers at Colorado State University (CSU) are forecasting higher than average tropical storm and hurricane development in the Atlantic next year.

Dr. Phil Klotzbach and Dr. William Gray recently released their preliminary outlook for the 2011 Atlantic hurricane season, and the level of activity experienced in 2010 may be similar. The team is forecasting seventeen named storms during the 2011 season. Nine of those are forecast to become hurricanes, with five of those achieving major status with winds of 111 mph or higher.

Klotzbach and his team cite warmer-than-average ocean water temperatures and the lack of the inhibiting factors from the current La Niña global weather phase as the main driving factors in creating a higher number of storms than usual. An average season would produce eleven named storms, six hurricanes, and two major hurricanes. The forecasters also indicate a higher chance for a landfalling major hurricane in the United States.



Dr. William Gray & Dr. Phil Klotzbach of CSU CSU PHOTO

Despite five major hurricanes and twelve total hurricanes in 2010, none directly impacted the mainland U.S.

The CSU forecasting group will revise their forecast in the spring and provide additional updates through the course of the 2011 hurricane season.

(continued from page 1)

## O'Neil Named Director

aster strikes.

O'Neil also served as an instructor in fire investigation, incident management, emergency response to terrorism, and more. O'Neil was deployed to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav in 2008 and the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti earlier this year.

"Chief O'Neil brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this position that will serve the people of this state well," said Keith Flynn, who has been appointed Commissioner of Public Safety. "He has the academic knowledge and the 'on the ground' experience that will allow him to lead Vermont Emergency Management forward to the next generation of response preparedness."

Please join us in welcoming Mike to the NESEC Board of Directors.

## Help Support NESEC by Shopping at Amazon.com

WAKEFIELD, MA - NESEC is proud to announce a fundraising partnership with Amazon. When you perform your normal Amazon shopping purchases using the link below, Amazon will give 4% of all profits to the Northeast States Emergency Consortium! So when shopping Amazon next, think NESEC. Your purchases will help emergency management activities in the Northeast.

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Using the HAZUS software, NESEC can provide earthquake, hurricanes and flood loss estimates PHOTO: FEMA

## GIS/HAZUS Assistance for State & Local Governments

WAKEFIELD, MA - Being able to estimate the social and economic and effects of natural disasters is a key component of hazard mitigation and planning for your community. The Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC) can do help you do just that 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 and 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 sent to your state Director of Emergency Management for signature approval and forwarding to NESEC.

# Donate \$15 and Receive a FREE NOAA Tone Alert Weather Radio

If you donate \$15 to NESEC we will send you a FREE NOAA HH50 Radio (MSRP \$29.99) to keep you and your family informed in the event of an emergency. Whether traveling, boating, hiking or working outdoors, this portable tone alert weather radio monitors National Weather Service and Emergency Alert System broadcasts so that you can stay safe through dangers such as: severe thunderstorms, winter storms, hurricanes, flash flooding and tornadoes. Package includes: One (1) NOAA HH50 Radio, belt clip, hand strap, and owner's manual. Radio runs on 3 AAA batteries (not included).

You can make your donation and receive your FREE gift using PayPal or credit card at: [www.nesec.org/news/weatherradio.cfm](http://www.nesec.org/news/weatherradio.cfm)

You can also mail a check or money order, payable to "NESEC", to:

**Northeast States Emergency Consortium**  
**1 West Water Street, Suite 205**  
**Wakefield, MA 01880**



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## NESEC NEWS

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