



The “10 P’s” of Post-Disaster Recovery

During this difficult time Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Ambassadors maintain focus on identifying and implementing opportunities to reduce risk of future disaster damages. They resist the instinct to quickly return to “the way things were.” Even with help, recovering and getting back on the road to disaster resilience is not an easy or rapid process. It requires constant attention to what we refer to as the “10 P’s” of Post-Disaster Safe Recovery:

People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People first - listen to the people (victims, public officials, subject matter experts, and taxpayers). • Establish goals and determine, collaboratively, the best solutions for the immediate situation and for future generations.
Posterity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think long term and broadly, finding creative, sustainable and resilient solutions. • Just because something has “never been done that way before” does not mean it will not work now.
Patchwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No single program exists to meet all the needs of the community or each individual. • Take a bit of “this and that.”
Persistence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep talking and negotiating. Never start any discussion with “no”. • Keep searching for the right answers and the right programs to meet specific challenges and needs.
Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on problems. How do allies, partners, and skeptics view the problem? How can differences be resolved and critical needs met? • Synergy is important - bring resources and stakeholders together.
Prudence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus efforts on achievable goals. • Everyone’s time is limited. Do not squander time on roadblocks. • Move on and come back later to issues that cannot be easily agreed upon.
Personal Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following a disaster, people must make critical decisions about their lives, their families and their futures. • Remember that this is a democracy and decisions must be made within a participatory engagement framework involving all who have a stake in the future of a community. • Disaster survivors will need resources; they will probably require additional help and support, such as mitigation counseling, as well as crisis counseling.
Proactive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the initiative. • Seek help. • Expand your staff. • Take advantage of the limited window of opportunity to create, fund, and complete the programs that will make a difference, long term, in your community.
Patience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice patience, particularly when systems are shattered beyond any possibility of quick repair. • Maintain calm. Help is available for everyone. Remember that community leaders are often victims themselves. When the task at hand seems overwhelming, remember to call a time out; you can regroup and come back to the issue with a calm perspective.
Plain Common Sense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe processes, plans and programs in a straightforward way. The concepts should “sound right.” They should provide logical solutions that resonate as the “common sense” thing to do.



Excerpts from Resilient Neighbors Network Best Practice “Vermont Protects River Corridors to Mitigate Flood Damage”

After Tropical Storm Irene in 2011 several state agencies, non-governmental organizations, as well as regional and municipal leaders worked together to strengthen flood resilience across Vermont. The Flood Ready Vermont website (www.floodready.vermont.gov) is dedicated to municipal officials - helping build citizen and community support for hazard reduction that can save lives and reduce damage to property and public infrastructure. Their efforts are excellent examples of best practices in communicating hazard mitigation challenges and solutions.

Through abundant links, videos, community data and stories of success Flood Ready Vermont calls attention to how the power of moving water can damage roads, culverts, bridges, homes and critical services. The site highlights the importance of protecting river corridors to provide the space needed by rivers and creeks to meander, slow down, and thus reduce their erosive power. The functions of river corridors are protected under state permits and by 30% of municipalities.

The website includes stories about Vermonters working proactively to become flood ready. A video produced by the Connecticut River Conservancy explains how the Town of Brandon is working to reduce flood damage, restore river corridors and adapt buildings

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nxrg9x6Kh0&feature=youtu.be>). Another, produced by

the Connecticut River Conservancy and the Conservation Law Foundation, illustrates how floodplains worked to reduce damage along Otter Creek (<https://youtu.be/ucb-Y8iipng>).

Vermont Flood Ready poses important questions: How can we protect the forests in our watersheds that slow down the flow of water and reduce the damaging peak flows? How can we create the space for streams and rivers to maintain the least erosive gradient down the valley? How can we delay water uphill, and on floodplains, before it arrives in town? Banners convey the key messages: Disaster is Not Necessary and Protect What Works!

The screenshot shows a webpage with the following content:

- Logos for NHMA (Natural Hazard Mitigation Association) and RNN (Resilient Neighbors Network).
- Title: "Vermont Protects River Corridors to Mitigate Flood Damage"
- Image: Aerial view of a winding river through a landscape.
- Text: "After Tropical Storm Irene in 2011 several state agencies, non-governmental organizations, as well as regional and municipal leaders worked together to strengthen flood resilience across Vermont. The Flood Ready Vermont website (www.floodready.vermont.gov) is dedicated to municipal officials - helping build citizen and community support for hazard reduction that can save lives and reduce damage to property and public infrastructure. Their efforts are excellent examples of best practices in communicating hazard mitigation challenges and solutions."
- Text: "The central message of Vermont Flood Ready: Flood damage has become more common and more costly - but it doesn't have to be that way. We can become flood ready together - developing in safer places, protecting the functions of the watersheds that protect us, adapting our critical infrastructure and preparing for emergencies. All over the state, select board members, planning commission members, town officials, planners, and citizens are working to make our communities flood resilient. Is your community flood ready?"
- Image: A banner for "FLOOD READY VERMONT" with the slogan "Keep what works" and a photo of a river.
- Text: "Through abundant links, videos, community data and stories of success Flood Ready Vermont calls attention to how the power of moving water can damage roads, culverts, bridges, homes and critical services. The site highlights the importance of protecting river corridors to provide the space needed by rivers and creeks to meander, slow down, and thus reduce their erosive power."
- Footer: "Natural Hazard Mitigation Association nhma.org"



Build Your Roadmap

Produced by NHMA, Building Your Roadmap to a Disaster Resilient Future helps vital community stakeholders navigate through the varied and at times bewildering array of pre- and post- disaster resources and programs available to reduce the impact of natural, technological, and human made events on the human built environment. This document offers quick and effective access to resources, programs, and ways of building agreement on pursuit of resilience, following the “whole community” approach.

The Roadmap is supported by FEMA for professional production assistance. It brings enormous volunteer expertise, directed at getting past the problems of how to begin and where to start – it is part Roadmap and part Guidebook.

<http://nhma.info/publications/>

