

August 27-29, 2011 Burnham Hall Floodproofing Deployment, Lincoln, VT
Report to:

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On Saturday August 27th, Hurricane Irene headed for Vermont, with heavy rains predicted for Lincoln. Flash floods were predicted. This is precisely the situation our community center had prepared for with pre-disaster grant assistance from Vermont Emergency Management and FEMA [1, 2]. We did not want a repeat of the disastrous Flood of '98.



At 5:00 pm, it was still a sunny afternoon in Lincoln. A group of eleven community members deployed the gasketed aluminum plank flood protection barriers over the windows and doors of our town community center, Burnham Hall.

The rain arrived during the night and continued during Sunday at a fast and furious pace. Local rain gauges registered between 6 and 8 inches.

The New Haven River rose quickly, flooding its banks, then the lawn of Burnham Hall, and then up the walls to a level 47 inches above the floor level.

The planks held tight. Water and mud were kept out of the building. The river raged by. The rip-rap bank held fast. The pressure of nearly four feet of water outside the building actuated the floor hydrostatic pressure protection valves, to keep the floor from buckling upward. A small amount of sand-filtered water came in by design through these valves, and was easily handled by the sump pump system. Power failure during the afternoon, necessitated bringing a generator on-line to keep the sump pump operating.

By Monday, the river was down and clean up and mop up started. A great sense of relief was had by all that the inside of the building had been protected!



[1] FMA06 Sub-Grant Number - 02140-31036-001-FMA06

[2] PDMC07 Sub-Grant Number - 02140-31226-001-PDMC07