Service Change Notice
National Weather Service Burlington, VT
2:00 PM EDT Mon Sep 11 2023

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Subj: New major flood stage level and updated impact statements for the stream gauge at Waterbury, VT on the Winooski River.

Effective at approximately 0900 UTC Coordinated Universal Time on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, the NWS in Burlington will lower the major flood stage level from 428.0 feet to 425.0 feet for the stream gauge at Waterbury, VT on the Winooski River. The levels for minor and moderate flood stage (419.0 and 421.0 feet, respectively) will remain unchanged.

This change is a result of recent flood damage assessment surveys performed in the region during which a re-evaluation of the local floodplain within the stream gauge reach was coordinated with local town officials. In addition to the new major flood stage level, updated wording will be incorporated into impact statements at moderate, major and record flood levels. Those are also shown below for reference, which will provide added situational awareness to local citizens and emergency responders during future flooding events.

FLOOD CATEGORY LEVELS FOR THE STREAM GAUGE AT WATERBURY, VERMONT ON THE WINOOSKI RIVER

| FLOOD LEVEL | WAS | NEW FLOOD LEVEL |
|---|---|---|
| ACTION/BANKFULL | 417.0 FT | 417.0 FT (UNCHANGED) |
| MINOR FLOOD | 419.0 FT | 419.0 FT (UNCHANGED) |
| MODERATE FLOOD | 421.0 FT | 421.0 FT (UNCHANGED) |
| MAJOR FLOOD | 428.0 FT | 425.0 FT (NEW) |

UPDATED FLOOD IMPACT STATEMENTS FOR THE STREAM GAUGE AT WATERBURY, VERMONT ON THE WINOOSKI RIVER

FLOOD LEVEL: MODERATE FLOOD

UPDATED IMPACT: In Waterbury, high water will encroach properties on Randall Street, Foundry Street and Route 2 crossing Thatcher Brook. Rowe Field will flood. High water will also approach low lying parking lots at the Waterbury State Office complex. Downstream in Richmond, Bridge Street near the Round Church and the public park will begin to flood. Considerable field flooding will occur from Waterbury downstream through Richmond.

FLOOD LEVEL: MAJOR FLOOD
UPDATED IMPACT: There will be widespread, and in some cases severe flooding from Waterbury downstream through Richmond. In Waterbury, homes and businesses along Randall Street, Healy Court, Foundry Street, and the lower portions of Elm Street will flood with some evacuations likely. Route 2 will be inundated just east of the Winooski River Bridge, and at the Thatcher Brook crossing by the railroad bridge limiting access to town. Flooding will also affect homes on the lower portions of Union Street and high water will approach condos on O'Hear Court. High water will also block access to the State Office complex and the Fire Station and areas on Parker Court will flood. In Richmond, Bridge Street near the Round Church will be inundated and high water will impact some residences on Esplanade Street and Cochran Road. The public park will be flooded.

GAGE LEVEL: 430.0 FEET (RECORD)
UPDATED IMPACT: There will be widespread, devastating flooding from Waterbury downstream through Richmond. In Waterbury, many homes and businesses will flood, including those On Main Street, Elm Street, Parker Court, Foundry Street, Union Street, O'Hear Court, Healy Court and Randall Street with numerous evacuations needed. Route 2 will be inundated and closed east of the Winooski River Bridge and at the Thatcher Brook crossing by the railroad tracks, severely restricting access to town. The Fire Station will see severe flooding and the State Office complex will be isolated by high water. In Richmond, many homes will be impacted by flooding, including those on Bridge and Esplanade Streets, and along portions of Cochran Road with evacuations needed. This stage is equivalent to the FEMA One Percent Annual Chance Flood.

The National Weather Service welcomes public feedback. If you have any questions or comments concerning this change, please contact:

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