

Vermont's Greatest Disasters: Comparing Irene with the Great Flood of November 1927

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Hurricane Irene moved through southwestern New England into southern Vermont on 28 August 2011 and caused \$500 million in damage due mainly to flash flooding. However, the Great Flood of November 1927 is still arguably the worst natural disaster to hit Vermont. These two storms' general weather circulation patterns, tracks, wind, and precipitation are presented along with a comparison to Hurricane Floyd in 1999. Historic photographs from the 1927 storm and Irene are compared, contrasted, giving a general historical perspective of these events. Both storms caused historical amounts of damage related to the extratropical transition of tropical cyclones interacting with surface fronts and the complex geography/topography of Vermont. The risk of repeated episodes of flooding will be also be discussed.

PRESENTERS' BIOS

Paul Sisson has been the Science and Operations Officer at the National Weather Service Office in Burlington, VT since 1993. He is the program manager for training, research, new technology and forecasting techniques. He previously served as Meteorologist In-Charge of the National Weather Service office in Providence, RI and staff meteorologist for Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. His research interests and publications have focused on improving forecasting of heavy precipitation.

Dr. William Minsinger lives in Randolph Center, VT and is semi-retired from the practice of orthopedic surgery. He has had a long interest in weather with some of his childhood experiences including

seeing debris falling from the sky from the Worcester tornado in 1953 and experiencing Hurricanes Carol and Connie and Diane in his hometown of Milton, MA. He has been the President of Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory in Milton for a number of years and has written several books on historical weather events including the 1938 Hurricane and the 1927 Flood.