



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION
GOVERNOR'S REQUEST COVER LETTER
MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY**

August 16, 2023

The Honorable Joe Biden
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Through: Ms. Lori Ehrlich
Regional Administrator
FEMA Region 1
99 High Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I humbly request that you declare a Major Disaster for Oxford County in the state of Maine as a result of a severe storm and flood event that occurred on June 26, 2023. Specifically, I am requesting Public Assistance (PA) categories A through G and Z, as well as Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding for use statewide.

Details of my request are offered in the attached Request for Presidential Disaster Declaration (OMB Control No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13) and the extent of damages are further supported with supplemental information. Validated damages for the event can be found in Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance. Meteorological factors and precursors for this severe storm and flood event have also been supplied and are described in detail in the attached National Weather Service Event Report. A State of Emergency was not declared for this event due to the isolated nature of flash flooding to a few towns within Maine's western mountains.

Slow moving showers and thunderstorms associated with a broad area of low pressure moved across western Maine through the night of June 25th and into the morning of June 26th. The extreme rainfall rates in hilly and mountainous terrain led to rapid run-off on multiple streams in the region. Showers and thunderstorms began in the Andover area around 2:30 am on June 26th. The storms intensified and spread across the mountains in the surrounding towns to include Byron and Roxbury. Rainfall rates peaked from



3:30 am to 6:00 am when the bulk of the heavy rainfall fell in the region. Radar estimated rainfall amounts of two to three inches in Bryon and Roxbury with even higher amounts of rain in North Andover. Radar estimated a very localized area of rainfall of up to six inches of rainfall just north of town in mountainous terrain. This caused considerable flash flood damage on multiple town roads, washed out culverts and bridges, and stranded over a dozen residents on a town road. While the main bridge to the neighborhood was quickly repaired, it was not immediately possible to entirely correct the problem due to ongoing flooding down the middle of the road. Multiple agencies were brought in to assess damages and provide guidance to the town on relocating Abbot Brook away from residence and the town road after the event, ultimately delaying recovery efforts and emergency access by over 72 hours.

While there are no reports of loss of work for disaster survivors as a result of the flash flood, the extent of isolated damage associated with this event has placed an extraordinary financial burden on the Towns of Byron and Andover. With only 752 residents residing in Andover, the damage dollar per capita breakdown results in \$2,789 per person. With only 103 residents residing in Byron, that damage dollar per capita breakdown results in a staggering \$5,123 per person. Per capita personal income in Oxford County, as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau was \$28,450 (in 2021 dollars), with 15.1% of families living in poverty. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for Oxford County as of the most recent 2021 report was \$1,594,247, ranking Oxford County tenth out of the sixteen Maine counties as reported by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. Gross Domestic Product for the state of Maine as of 2021 was \$63,594,547. Maine's 2020 Total Taxable Resources (TTR) was \$82.4 billion as reported by the U.S. Department of Treasury, resulting in \$60,485 per capita and an 83.4 per capita index.

The Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Duty Officer remained in monitoring status throughout the duration of the event to ensure the state was prepared to move to a partial activation of the State Emergency Operations Center should the need present itself. The Duty Officer remained in frequent contact with Oxford County Emergency Management Agency, however no resource needs were identified during the response phase of the event. The Andover Emergency Management Agency reported one person requiring rescue assistance from a flooded vehicle, however, no deaths, injuries, or missing individuals were reported. As the need did not present itself, no shelter assistance nor voluntary assistance was activated for this event. As the extent of damage to the transportation sector, alongside reinstating access for emergency vehicles, remained the focus for this event, the State soon transitioned from a monitoring status to recovery per ESF-5 and ESF-14 of the State's Emergency Operations Plan.

The Disaster Recovery Team was activated immediately after the event to support damage data collection across all western counties, resulting in only Oxford County exceeding their respective damage indicators in the Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) process for Public Assistance. The State did not meet its indicator for Individual Assistance, and on-site assessments were therefore not requested for sustained individual and homeowner damages. On July 18th, Maine formally requested a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) for Public Assistance, followed by a July 19th extension request for the disaster declaration request submission based on staffing and incident complexities associated with needing to balance a joint Preliminary Damage Assessment for a second flash flood event that took place within the same week as the Oxford County flash flood event. On-site assessments for the June 26th severe storm and flood event were conducted within Oxford County for the Town of Byron and the Town of Andover on July 21st. The FEMA team then worked from July 20th through August 14th to complete the validation process based on information received during and after the on-site damage assessments. The statewide PDA has validated \$2,625,214 in public infrastructure damages.

ENTITY	DAMAGE THRESHOLD	DAMAGES VALIDATED	THRESHOLD STATUS
Oxford	\$ 256,530	\$ 2,625,214	VALIDATED
State of Maine	\$ 2,411,375	\$ 2,625,214	VALIDATED

Validated public infrastructure and emergency protective measure damages from the event are currently broken down as follows; Category A (Debris Removal) was \$314,500 (11.98%); Category B (Protective Measures) was \$0 (0%); Category C (Roads and Bridges) was \$2,310,714 (88.02%); Category D (Water Control) was \$0 (0%); Category E (Buildings and Equipment) was \$0 (0%); Category F (Public Utilities) was \$0 (0%); and Category G (Parks and Other) \$0 (0%). We expect the bulk of damages to remain under Category A and Category C for this event, however all categories are requested in the event that further damages are identified.

Within the last 24 months, Maine has received a total of three disaster declarations. On March 15, 2022, DR-4647 was declared across three counties for a severe storm and flooding. On March 22, 2023, DR-4696 was declared across a total of six counties for another severe storm and flood event. On July 26, 2023, DR-4719 was declared across a total of eight counties for yet another severe storm and flood event. Oxford County was declared within both DR-4696 and DR-4719, which has resulted in both new and repeat damages between December 2022 and present for the county and its affected towns. With the increased frequency and intensity of storm events in Maine over the last 24 months, emergency management officials across all levels of government have been stretched in their fiscal and programmatic capacity to respond to and recover from disasters. Supplemental grants through the Federal Emergency Management Agency would enable Oxford County and the state of Maine to effectively build back the communities of Byron and Andover after the June 26th severe storm and flood.

It has been verified that all of the damaged infrastructure included in the validation process is not eligible for commercially available insurance coverage, and, therefore, all repair costs must be covered by local government taxpayers if Federal assistance is not obtained. Due to the extent of infrastructure damages, State resources are not adequate to meet local recovery needs. At this time, the State of Maine and Oxford County have successfully met their respective per capita thresholds, so I once again, humbly, request that a Major Disaster be declared due to the June 26, 2023, severe storm and flooding event for Oxford County.

I have designated Peter Rogers, Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency, as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Thank you for your continuing support of the state of Maine and our citizens.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills
Governor

Enclosures

OMB Control No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13
Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance
Additional Supporting Documentation: NWS Weather Event Report_06.26.2023



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PHONE: (207) 287-3531 (VOICE)

FAX: (207) 287-1034

10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment*

Individual Assistance Dates Performed **Requested** NA **Start** _____ **End** _____

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)
 The State did not receive any damage assessments for individuals and households. The State, therefore, did not request an Individual Assistance Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment.

Public Assistance Dates Performed **Requested** July 18, 2023 **Start** July 21, 2023 **End** July 21, 2023

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)
 One Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) team was deployed to Maine to assist state, county, and local partners in the joint PDA process in Oxford County. No accessibility issues were reported.

11. Programs and Areas Requested

Individual Assistance N/A Individuals and Households Program Crisis Counseling Program Disaster Unemployment Assistance
 All Disaster Case Management Disaster Legal Services Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)) If additional space is needed, please enclose additional documentation).
 Maine may pursue the SBA Rural Disaster Assistance program for any eligible entities identified in the coming weeks.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).
 Passamaquoddy Tribe

Please see **Enclosure A: Supplemental Information for Individual Assistance** for additional information in support of this request*.
 *Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Public Assistance N/A Debris Removal (Category A) Emergency Protective Measures (Category B) Permanent Work (Categories C-G)* (not available for Emergency Declaration Requests)

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)). If additional space is needed or your request includes different categories of work for different jurisdictions; please enclose additional documentation.

Categories A-G and Z are requested for Oxford County.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).

Passamaquoddy Tribe

Please see **Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance** for additional information in support of this request*.

Indemnification for Debris Removal Activity

I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.

I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State or Indian tribal government agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State or Indian tribal government agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

Request for Direct Federal Assistance

I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.

I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, and:

a. I request the following type(s) of assistance:

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.

c. In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.208, the State or Indian tribal government agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance: (1) Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work; (2) Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work; (3) Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State or FEMA-Tribe Agreement ; and (4) Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

Request for Snow Assistance

N/A I request snow assistance.

Snow assistance for the following jurisdictions (Specify counties, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas).

Please see **Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data** for additional information in support of this request*.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Hazard Mitigation* Statewide **OR**

For the following specific counties, parishes, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas.

12. Mitigation Plan Information*

a. Mitigation Plan Expiration Date October 21, 2023 b. Type of Plan Enhanced Standard

13. Other Federal Agency Programs

I do not anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies I do anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies

Please see **Enclosure C**: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs for additional information in support of this request*.

14. Findings and Certifications

I certify the following:

- a. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local government or Indian tribal government and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary.
- b. In response to this incident, I have taken appropriate action under State or tribal law and have directed the execution of the State or Tribal Emergency Plan on June 26, 2023 in accordance with the Stafford Act.
- c. The State and local governments, or Indian tribal government will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

15. List of Enclosures and Supporting Documentation

- Cover Letter Enclosure A (Individual Assistance)* Enclosure B (Public Assistance)*
- Enclosure C (Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs) Enclosure D (Historic and Current Snowfall Data)
- Additional Supporting Documentation NWS Weather Event Report_06.26.2023



Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

Date

If anyone except the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive signs this document, please provide the documentation that establishes that this individual has the legal authority to act on behalf of the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

Date: 8/15/2023	PUBLIC DAMAGE									
Report #:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	TOTAL	POP. 2020	\$/CAP
Oxford County									57,777	
Andover	\$314,500		\$1,783,032					\$2,097,532	752	\$2,789.27
Bethel								\$0	2,504	\$0.00
Brownfield								\$0	1,631	\$0.00
Buckfield								\$0	1,983	\$0.00
Byron			\$527,682					\$527,682	103	\$5,123.13
Canton								\$0	1,125	\$0.00
Denmark								\$0	1,197	\$0.00
Dixfield								\$0	2,253	\$0.00
Fryeburg								\$0	3,369	\$0.00
Gilead								\$0	195	\$0.00
Greenwood								\$0	774	\$0.00
Hanover								\$0	286	\$0.00
Hartford								\$0	1,203	\$0.00
Hebron								\$0	1,223	\$0.00
Hiram								\$0	1,609	\$0.00
Lincoln Plantation								\$0	41	\$0.00
Lovell								\$0	1,104	\$0.00
Magalloway Plantation								\$0	45	\$0.00
Mexico								\$0	2,756	\$0.00
Milton UT								\$0	150	\$0.00
Newry								\$0	411	\$0.00
North Oxford UT								\$0	16	\$0.00
Norway								\$0	5,077	\$0.00
Otisfield								\$0	1,853	\$0.00
Oxford								\$0	4,229	\$0.00
Paris								\$0	5,179	\$0.00
Peru								\$0	1,488	\$0.00

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

Date: 8/15/2023	PUBLIC DAMAGE									
Report #:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	TOTAL	POP. 2020	\$/CAP
Porter								\$0	1,600	\$0.00
Roxbury								\$0	361	\$0.00
Rumford								\$0	5,858	\$0.00
South Oxford UT								\$0	591	\$0.00
Stoneham								\$0	261	\$0.00
Stow								\$0	393	\$0.00
Sumner								\$0	994	\$0.00
Sweden								\$0	406	\$0.00
Upton								\$0	69	\$0.00
Waterford								\$0	1,570	\$0.00
West Paris								\$0	1,766	\$0.00
Woodstock								\$0	1,352	\$0.00
MDOT								\$0		
Conservation								\$0		
Inland Fisheries & Wild.								\$0		
MEMA								\$0		
County Totals	\$314,500	\$0	\$2,310,714	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,625,214	57,777	\$45.44

NOTES: PDA Goal \$256,530 Short



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE EASTERN REGION
630 Johnson Ave. Suite 202
Bohemia, NY 11716

August 9th, 2023

Localized Flash Flooding Impacts Oxford County Maine June 26th, 2023

Overview:

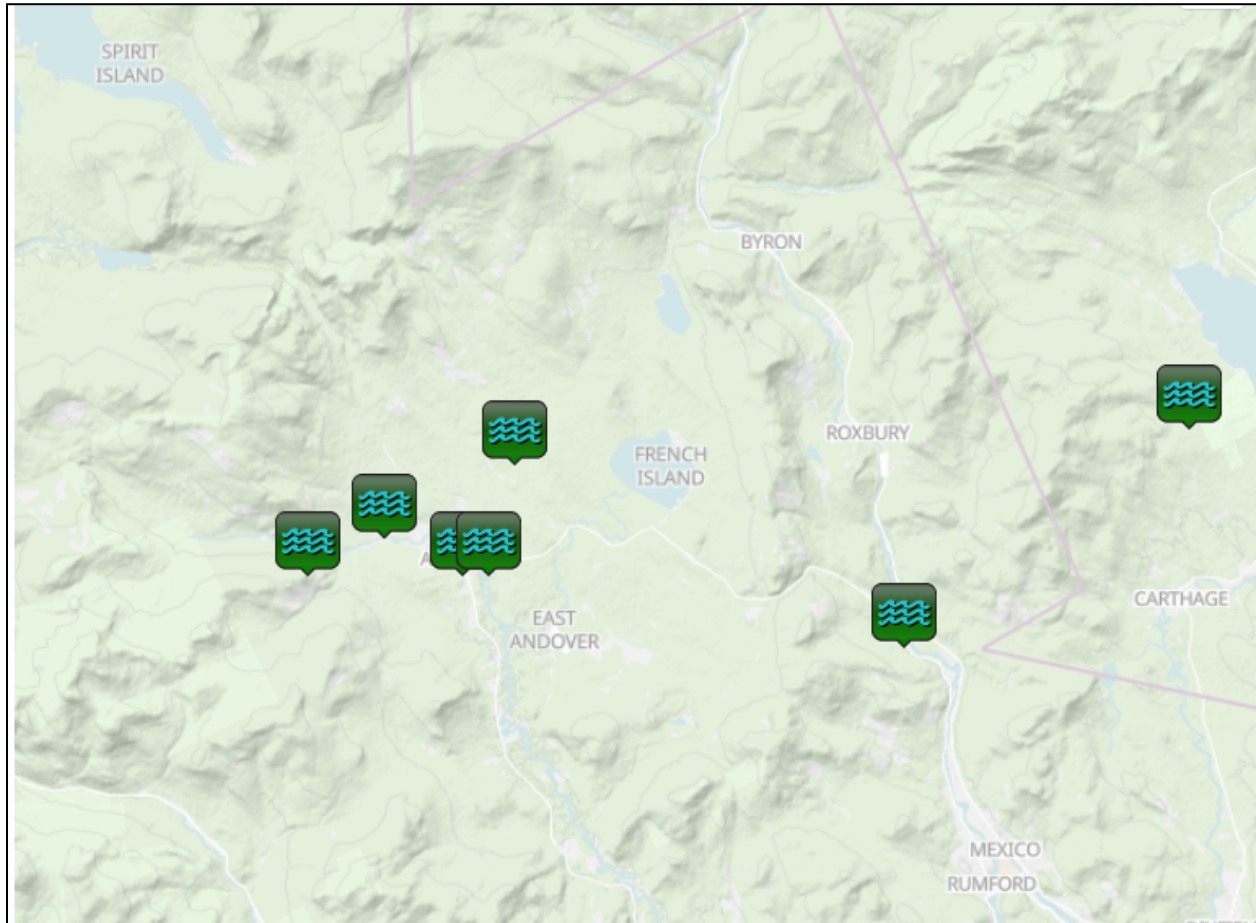
Slow moving showers and thunderstorms associated with a broad area of low pressure moved across western Maine through the night of June 25th and into the morning of June 26th. Showers and thunderstorms repeatedly developed over the hills and mountains surrounding Andover and Byron in Oxford County, Maine. Localized heavy rain occurred in this area with considerable flash flooding being reported.



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Damage Reports:

The extreme rainfall rates in hilly and mountainous terrain led to rapid run-off on multiple streams in the region. This caused considerable flood damage on multiple town roads with washed out culverts, bridges and even permanently re-routing of a local stream down a town road in Andover. There was also one water rescue in Andover as a vehicle got stuck in the flood waters. Additional flooding was reported in the Byron and Roxbury area.



Jun 26, 2023 Preliminary Flash Flood Damage Reports ([A Link to This Data Can Be Found Here](#))



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County	Location	Rainfall Total (inches)
Cumberland	Naples	2.13 in
	Sebago 2.4 ESE	2.00 in
	5 S Bridgton	1.53 in
Oxford	Andover 3.8 W	5.95 in
	3 N Porter	1.72 in
York	Parsonsfield	2.20 in
	Acton	2.11 in

Jun 26, 2023 Observed Preliminary Rainfall Total Reports

County	Location	Date/Time	Summary
Oxford	3 N Porter	2023/06/26 2:30 AM	Driveway washout and minor road flooding.
Oxford	Andover	2023/06/26 8:10 AM	Water rescue on Elm Street in Andover.
Oxford	Andover	2023/06/26 8:16 AM	Andover Route 120 is closed due to flooding from Route 5 to Roxbury Pond Road.
Oxford	3 S Roxbury	2023/06/26 8:45 AM	State Route 17 is closed in Roxbury due to flooding from Frye Crossover Road to Black Ridge Road.
Oxford	2 WNW Andover	2023/06/26 9:30 AM	Wyman Hill Road bridge is washed out along with culvert washouts on nearby Cross Road in Andover.
Oxford	3 NNE Andover	2023/06/26 9:30 AM	South Arm Rd is closed due to a major wash out in Andover.
Oxford	3 W Andover	2023/06/26 9:30 AM	Multiple areas of East B Hill Road partially washed out with road damage in Andover.
Franklin	2 WSW Weld	2023/06/26 10:00 AM	West Side Road near the intersection of Webb Bear Road is closed due to flooding in Weld.



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Cumberland	5 E Hiram	2023/06/26 04:30 AM	Multiple partial road washouts in Hiram.
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Jun 26, 2023 Local Storm Reports for flooding and flash flooding

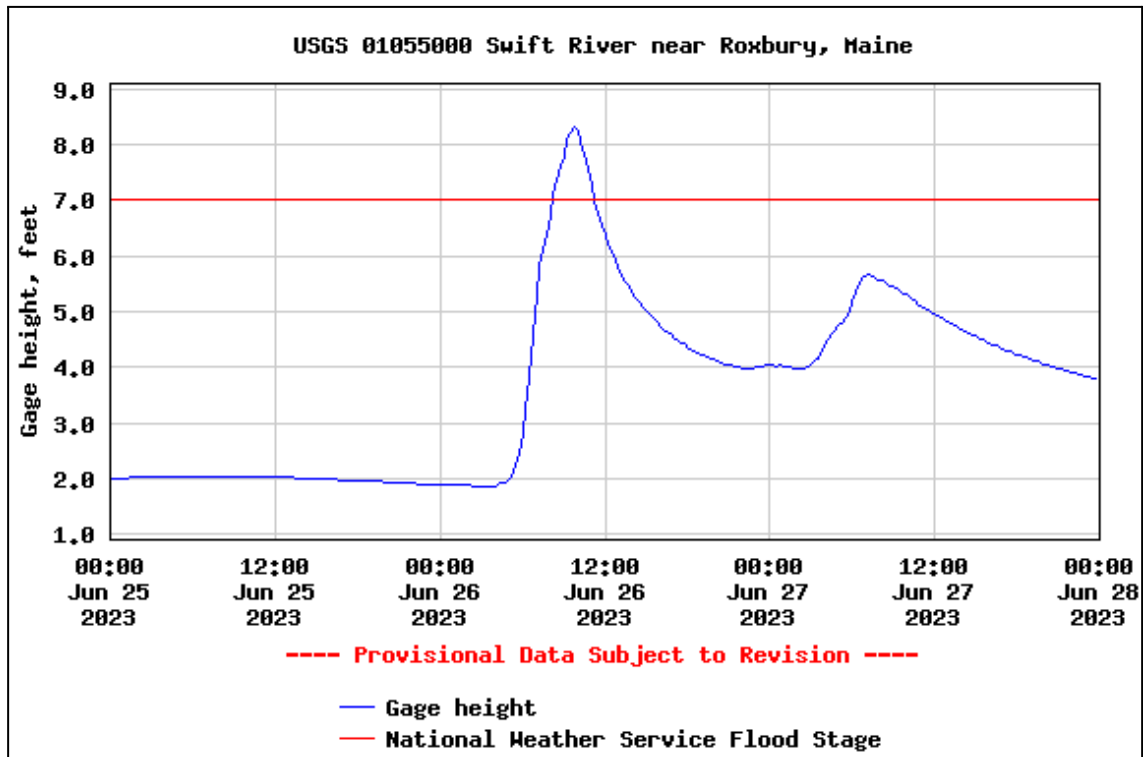


Jun 26, 2023 damage on Wyman Hill Rd in Andover, ME



River Flooding:

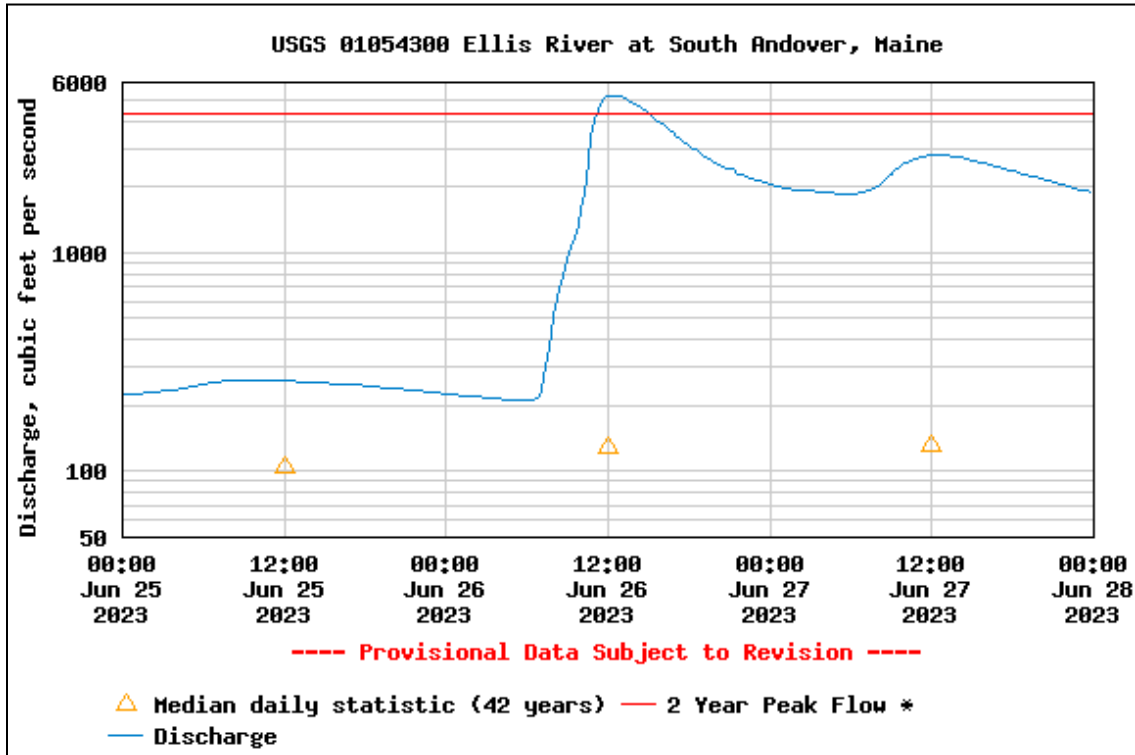
Rapid runoff in the mountainous terrain quickly led to rapid river rises on both the Swift and Ellis Rivers during the morning hours of June 26th. The Swift River crested at 8.2 ft by mid-morning on June 26th, which is 1.2 ft above flood stage. Route 17 was temporarily closed due to flooding from the river. The Swift River quickly dropped back below flood stage by noon. The next river basin to the west of the Swift River is the Ellis River that flows through Andover. This headwater river also had a rapid rise through the morning of June 26th before cresting at noon. The river slowly receded through the afternoon and evening hours. No flood stage was established at this river gauge but the river crested above a 2 year peak flow.



Hydrograph of the Swift River at Roxbury Flood Crest



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Hydrograph of the Ellis River at South Andover Flood Crest

Jamison, Dumont, Arnott, Lulofs

National Weather Service Forecast
 Office Portland-Gray Maine

Wichrowski, Sukup, Silverman,
 Doody, Manning

Emergency Response Meteorologists
 NWS Eastern Region Headquarters