Lessons Learned from Irene
And Sandy, and the Lebanon Flooding, and ...

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It Happened Here

• Irene
• We got lucky and Sandy missed us
• But there was flooding in Lebanon

• What does this tell us?
Local Matters

• In the response stage communities can really be on their own
• As time progresses, more outside resources may...or may not...be available...with strings.
• The power to recover effectively comes from local people and organizations
• Disasters like Lebanon bring fewer outside resources so local really matters
Communicate, Communicate, Communicate

• Radios are important in response
• Establishing these networks pre-disaster pays off – Lebanon Flooding is an example
• Communicating through media to get resources is also key
• People may act quickly and make uninformed decisions if there isn’t good communication.
Community Connections

• In recovery, it’s networks of people that can mobilize people and resources to get things done
• Managing volunteers during recovery takes expertise – it doesn’t just happen like magic
• Resources and planning ahead are required to make that happen. Websites, fundraising links, shovels, email lists, etc....
While Big Picture Thinking is Important

- Don’t forget the practical things we learned
- Propane tanks, hay bales and mobile homes float
- 4 Wheelers and Horses can go places cars can’t
- Having simple paper forms to gather information works when there’s no power
- Mad River and Roaring Brook were named that for a reason.
A well coordinated recovery makes a difference to people.

Thanks to All The Helping Hands.
Thank you!