



Department of Health
Agency of Human Services



Caution urged on flooded waterways

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Media Contact: Vermont Emergency Management, Vermont Department of Health, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
802-951-2708

Waters unaffected by flooding are still safe for recreation

BURLINGTON – Vermont residents and visitors are urged to stay out of rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and reservoirs in areas affected by extensive flooding, especially in the southern part of the state.

The great force of floodwaters makes drowning a greater risk than usual. Reports of floating and unseen debris – including trees, propane tanks, building materials and the like – makes swimming and boating at any speed an extreme danger.

Rivers and streams may carry harmful bacteria and chemicals due to discharges from wastewater treatment facilities and failed septic systems.

The force of floodwaters has also changed the course and features of many waterways once familiar to boaters, canoeists and kayakers. In areas of damage, road construction and river course restoration will be ongoing for weeks and months to come.

Many waterways in the state were not affected and are open for recreation this holiday weekend.

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Vermont Department of Health | 108 Cherry Street | Burlington, VT 05402
Voice: 802-863-7200 | In Vermont 800-464-4343 | Fax: 802-865-7754 | TTY/TDD: Dial 711 first
Health Care Provider Infectious Disease Reporting: 802-863-7240 or 800-640-4374
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