

Hi All,

I am writing this in support of the USAR request for \$750k. On July 10, 2024 the USAR was requested to come to Ludlow for flooding. Task Force One responded as a swift water rescue team. They came with trucks, boats, equipment and trained personal. They just didn't rescue people that day they saved lives. I worked and supported them for the 2 days they spent here in our town keeping people safe. They had rescued a truck driver who left his truck as it floated away and got in a hot tub stuck in a tree 10 feet in the air. Without this team available and trained and outfitted as needed we would have lost people that day. These men and women are true heroes. We need to support them so they can continue their mission.

This last December before Christmas we received a lot of rain and with the warm temperatures all our snow melted quickly causing the Black River to flood again. The USAR was again requested to come to Ludlow which they did. They walked through knee deep water to check on people in the trailer park. Then they deployed their boat on Rublee Lane to reach a 22unit apartment complex to check on them for they were cut off by the rise in water and unable to leave. Again, these Men and women did the work as they are trained to do.

This type of work requires special equipment and training. I ask you to please support them and fund them as they are requesting. We need them! With climate change here they will be called upon more and will protect Vermonters.

Thank you for your time and service that you do.

Sincerely,
Fran Kissell
Deputy Fire Deputy