

Somerset County Bridge Flood Damage Assessment Tropical Storm Ida

Various Locations | Somerset County, NJ



Following the record flooding due to the remnants of Hurricane Ida, Somerset County contacted the Van Cleef to perform emergency inspections of County bridges and culverts. Van Cleef performed inspections of 157 bridges and culverts over the next two weeks. The crews discovered numerous sites with large amounts of flood debris blocking the waterways, washed out embankments which threatened roadways, and washout of streambed material through bridge openings with exposed bridge foundations. Close coordination with the County was performed by the team leaders to notify them of them of critical findings which required the immediate attention of County repair crews. The field inspections were followed up with the team members preparing reports to document the flood related damage, repair quantities and photos of the sites for the County to identify and prioritize repairs and clean up work.

Somerset County then contacted Van Cleef to provide a team to conduct a more in-depth inspection of the historic Elm Street Bridge in Hillsborough and Branchburg Townships. The bridge is a 282 foot long, two span lenticular through truss structure over the South Branch of the Raritan River and is within the Neshanic Station Historic District. Considered to be a contributing element to the historic district, the bridge is documented as part of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The bridge is the last lenticular truss in New Jersey and is one of less than 20 of this construction left in the United States. The bridge has been closed to traffic since the flooding, due to the heavy amount of flood debris. Van Cleef made two site visits to the bridge, documenting damage, and making repair recommendations for the County to begin the process of ordering members to repair this historic bridge so it can be opened to traffic.

CLIENT CONTACT

Somerset County
Division of Engineering
Somerville, NJ

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Multiple Inspection Teams, with NBIS Qualified Team Leaders
- Emergency Inspections, with Rapid Turn Around and Coordination with Client
- Detail Repair Recommendations, Including Priority Repairs
- List Repair Quantities for Client to use for Financial Aid Request