

Somerset County Bridge Flood Damage Assessment Tropical Storm Ida

Various Locations | Somerset County, NJ



In the days 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. The Van Cleef team performed inspections of 157 bridges and culverts over 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.

Following the conclusion of the initial emergency inspections, Somerset County again 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 NJ, and is one of less than 20 of this construction left in the US. The bridge has been closed to traffic since the flooding, due to the heavy amount of flood debris which collected on the bridge deck and was entangled in the below deck superstructure members. Van Cleef made two site visits to the bridge, documenting damage to the bridge members, 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

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PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- ☞ County Client
- ☞ 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