Vermont Mobile Home Parks: Information for Emergency Planners

Vermont Mobile Home Park Overview
Mobile home parks provide an important affordable housing option to many Vermonters. In 2010, there were 22,317 mobile homes in Vermont—7% of the total housing stock. Nearly one-third of Vermont’s mobile homes are sited in 248 parks where mobile home owners pay a monthly lease fee for the lot. The statewide average lot rent is $302 per month.

2011 Park Resident Disaster Resilience Survey
During the fall of 2011, UVM and the CVOEO Mobile Home Program conducted a statewide survey of park residents. We asked 363 households from 127 parks about their levels of disaster awareness and preparedness as well as demographic questions (see sidebar). There are a number of reasons why parks can be especially vulnerable to hazards: 1) physical location—many parks are sited in flood hazard areas; 2) structural characteristics of the mobile home unit; and 3) social and economic vulnerability of park residents.

Emergency Preparedness: Does your household have the following items?

- Food and Water for 72 Hours: 85%
- Battery Operated Emergency Radio: 61%
- Household Emergency Plan: 55%
- Household Disaster Kit: 72%

Resident Demographics:
- Average residency in park: 11 years
- Median household size: 2.36 persons
- 26% of households have at least one child under 18
- Compared to: 30% statewide in Vermont
- 37% of households had at least one person over 65
- Compared to: 24% statewide in Vermont
- 41% of households reported a person with a health condition or disability that would be a concern in an emergency situation

Employment
- 64% of households had at least one person employed
- 32% of households had at least one retired senior

Income
- Median income reported by mobile home park residents: $30,000
- State Median Income: $51,841

About Us:
The University of Vermont Department of Community Development and Applied Economics and the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity Mobile Home Program formed a research collaborative to increase knowledge of disaster vulnerabilities of Vermont’s mobile home parks and to engage park residents in emergency management planning. This three-year research project is funded by the USDA’s Disaster Resilience for Rural Communities Program. To learn more about this work, visit www.uvm.edu/~cdaemhp


Branches of government, fire service, health care service, public safety, public works and other.

Anchors and tie downs are two methods used to secure mobile homes to the ground. Their main function is to prevent flotation, collapse, or movement in high winds or flood conditions.