

Superintendents face a big job in picking up after Hurricane Irene.



NEWS WITH A HOOK

Off The Fringe



Hurricane Irene Slams Golf Courses

Although Hurricane Irene was just a Category 1 when it hit New England and was quickly downgraded to a tropical storm, it caused massive damage to golf courses throughout the region. While many areas were not hit as hard as forecasters predicted, the effects of Irene were felt on golf courses far and wide.

No area was more affected than central Vermont, where record rainfall led to unprecedented flooding.

Montague Golf Club in Randolph, Vt. lost the fairway and green of its par-3 10th hole to the swollen Third Branch of the White River. According to the club's website, only seven holes were playable after the storm. The greens on the third and fourth holes were new, as was the tee on the sixth.

Also in Vermont, the 36-hole Quechee Club suffered severe damage from the waters of the raging Ottauquechee River. On the Highland Course, the third green and short game practice green were washed away, as were numerous bunkers. The Lakeland Course suffered terrible damage to fairways and bunkers and portions of the courses were left with an eight-inch layer of mud as waters receded.

The club was in the midst of a renovation of all of its 36 greens under the guidance of architect Brian Silva. Ken Lallier, CGCS, oversees the two courses.

Courses on the eastern side of Irene, such as Metacomet

NEW ENGLAND GOLF COURSES GET HIT HARD

BY ANTHONY PIOPPPI

Country Club in East Providence, R.I., received little more than an inch of rain, but the winds did extensive damage.

Superintendent Paul Jamrog said that Metacomet will lose between 20 and 22 trees as a result, and the clubhouse roof suffered such severe damage it must be replaced.

"There is so much debris, it's going to take a week to clean up," Jamrog said.

In Farmington, Conn., the Farmington River overflowed its west bank, flooding 30 of the 45 holes on the Tunxis Plantation Course. Water that crested the east bank covered parts or all of holes five through 13 at the Country Club of Farmington.

The Farms Country Club in Wallingford received five inches of rain, and heavy winds left the course strewn with debris. Altogether, it was enough to cause havoc with the Connecticut Mid-Amateur Championship that superintendent Paul Sabino hosted.

"We had the place set in anticipation of 10 inches of rain, we only received five inches. We were surprisingly dry 36 hours later," Sabino said. "I'd just lost my three summer help people, so you can imagine the clean-up we were faced with. But by the end of it all, we still had the greens rolling at 10-and-a-half."

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The **Golfdom Daily**

Poll: Do you accept the explanation that a change in dew point caused the brushes to fall off the greens mowers at the PGA Championship?

I dew not!
95%

I dew **5%**

PHOTOS COURTESY: PAUL SABINO