

# Flood Safety: Emergency Management Terms and Resources

## NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FLOOD FORECAST



NWS map showing coastal flood watch (dark green) and warnings (light green) issued for Long Island.

The National Weather Service uses terms to describe levels of flood risk and flooding so residents can respond appropriately. Emergency managers can use the following terms and messages to communicate flood risk with community members.

**Take Precautions! Flood Advisory:** Issued when flooding is not expected to be severe enough to issue a flood warning, but it may cause significant inconvenience if caution is not exercised.

**Get Prepared! Flood Watch:** Issued when conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding will definitely occur, but it is possible.

**Take Action! Flood Warning:** Issued when a flood event is imminent or occurring. A flash flood warning may be issued if a flash flood is imminent or occurring, this is a sudden event that can occur where it is not directly raining. If you are in a flood-prone area, move to higher ground.

## NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE COASTAL FLOOD THRESHOLDS

**Inundation:** *water covering normally dry land*

**Minor, Coastal Flood Advisory:** Issued when 1-2 feet of inundation may occur along the shoreline and in vulnerable areas. There is a low threat of property damage and no direct threat to life.

**Moderate, Coastal Flood Warning:** Issued when 2-3 feet of inundation may occur along the shoreline and in vulnerable areas. There is an elevated threat of property damage and a risk to life, if one places themselves in unnecessary danger.

**Major, Coastal Flood Warning:** Issued when 3-5+ feet of inundation may occur along the shoreline and in vulnerable areas. There is a significant threat to life and property.

## NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER STORM SURGE PRODUCTS

Tropical cyclone advisories are issued by the National Hurricane Center:  
<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

**Storm Surge Watch:** Defined as the possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland from the shoreline somewhere within the specified area, generally within 48 hours, in association with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone.

**Storm Surge Warning:** Defined as the danger of life-threatening inundation from rising water

moving inland from the shoreline within the specified area, generally within 36 hours, in association with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone.

**Peak Storm Surge Forecast Graphic:** When a storm surge watch and/or warning is issued, an associated graphic will highlight expected inundation somewhere within the specified areas along the immediate coast from storm surge and tides.

**Potential Storm Surge Flooding Map:** A storm- or hurricane-specific flooding map will be

released with a storm surge watch and/or warning that shows geographical areas where inundation from storm surge could occur and how high above ground the water could reach in those areas.

**National Storm Surge Risk Maps:** A national depiction of storm surge flooding vulnerability to help people living in hurricane-prone coastal areas understand the risk of storm surge extends many miles inland from the immediate coastline.

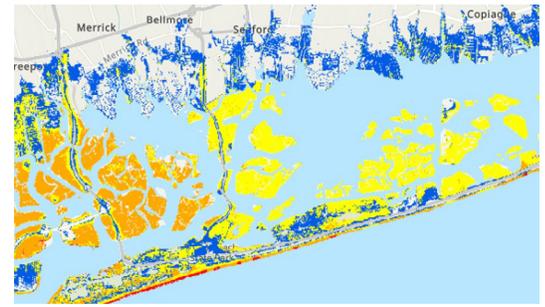
## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FLOOD SAFETY TIPS

Below are some tips and messages that can be shared with your community if a flooding event is imminent.

- If rising water is approaching, leave.
- Travel may be difficult in certain areas experiencing flooding, know your evacuation routes - please exercise caution, reduce travel speeds, and DO NOT drive, bike, or walk in standing water. Strong currents or unseen washouts can sweep you away.
- If you are in a flood-prone area, move belongings from a basement and/or first floor to a higher floor and consider moving your car from low-lying areas.
- Check your insurance coverage now and take photos of important belongings for the claims process.
- Turn off your home's circuit breaker before evacuating, if you can do so safely.
- If your home has been flooded, have a licensed electrician inspect your home before returning or turning the power back on.
- Contact your local floodplain administrator to address flood damages beyond emergency action.

## STAY INFORMED

The following resources can be used and shared with your community to receive real time emergency information, recommendations, and instructions relevant to your area. Encourage



NHC risk map for Jones Beach Island. The map can be accessed any time of year at: [www.nhc.gov/nationalsurge/](http://www.nhc.gov/nationalsurge/)

residents to sign up for your local emergency alerts.

- **NY-Alert:** <https://alert.ny.gov/>
- Road closures due to flooding: <https://511ny.org/>
- Shelters in your area: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help> > Find an Open Shelter
- Power outages: <https://mypowermap.psegliny.com>

## NWS NY, NY (OKX) Resources

Flooding and weather forecasts: <https://www.weather.gov/okx/>

Coastal flooding webpage: <https://www.weather.gov/okx/coastalflood>

Submit a Storm Report: <https://www.weather.gov/okx/SubmitStormReport>

## MYCOAST NEW YORK

MyCoast NY is a free app and website for documenting local flood and storm impacts through photos. Photos are placed on a map on a public website and linked to environmental conditions to create reports that can help emergency managers, local planners, residents, and state agencies understand our changing environment and make informed decisions. [www.mycoast.org/ny](http://www.mycoast.org/ny)

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