FLOOD PROTECTION INFORMATION

Office of Emergency Management
Division of Emergency Services
Department of Public Safety

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History of flooding in Atlantic City.

Flood hazards in the City of Atlantic City are due to storm related tidal flooding and tidal flooding due to phases of the moon and wind direction.

Storm related tidal flooding is due to a combination of rainwater and high tides that are unable to recede due to wind direction. A significant easterly or northeast wind will hold a high tide in the Back Bay and each subsequent high tide as in a northeast storm will pile more water on top of an already flooded Back Bay which occurred in the 1962, 1982, 1984, 1992 and 1996 storms of note. Hurricanes such as Sandy also flood the City from both beach and bay. Unlike northeast storms, while hurricanes can be more devastating in terms of property loss, they move forward quickly in cooler waters of the Atlantic Ocean adjacent to the Jersey shore. This is not the case with northeast storms that may not be as damaging to property but can stall and remain a flood hazard and negatively affect vehicular transportation and hence commence for days.

Tidal flooding can be caused by the phases of the moon accompanied by easterly or northeast winds. A new or full moon during a period of even moderate winds can cause Back Bay flooding impinging on some city streets and roads close to the waterway. This also causes some difficulties with land transportation in the City.
What should you do before a flood?

Determine if your property is located in an area subjected to flooding. The map page 6 shows areas of the City that have been impacted by flooding. A property located within a flood zone does not necessarily have flooding problems. If you neighborhood is not shown, your property may still be within a flood zone, as designed by FEMA maps. To find out what the base flood elevation for your property is, you can go to the following website:


You can also visit the City's Division of Construction, 1301 Bacharach Blvd., Suite 101, 609-347-5660 to view the flood maps. Most of Atlantic City falls within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) “A” Zone, which has been determined to have the potential for flooding caused by a 100-year storm.

The Division of Construction also maintains elevation certificates for many properties within Atlantic City which are available for review.
Flood Safety: The safety of your family is of the utmost importance. To be well informed about an approaching storm, keep a battery powered radio tuned to one of the following local radio stations:

WFPG-AM 1450, WMID-AM 1340, WOND-AM 1400

Information can be obtained from channels, 3, 6 & 10 and weather radios and weather channels. Also, you can also follow Atlantic City Emergency Management on Twitter at @AtlanticCityOEM and the Atlantic City Police Department on Facebook for storm related information. Residents can sign up to receive emergency notifications by going to the CODE RED link on the City of Atlantic City website:

www.cityofatlanticcity.org.

Prepare for flooding:

• Know how to shut off the electricity and gas to your house when a flood comes.
• Make a list of emergency numbers and identify a safe place to go.
• Make a household inventory, especially basement contents.
• Put insurance policies, valuable papers, medicine, etc. in a safe place.
• Collect and put cleaning supplies, camera, waterproof boots, etc. in an accessible location.
• Develop a disaster response plan. Go to the below Red Cross website for help:

http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/be-red-cross-ready/make-a-plan
Property Protection: There are many ways in which you can protect your property from flood waters. Information on retrofitting techniques such as relocation, elevation, flood proofing, and selecting a qualified contractor is available through the City’s Division of Construction, City Hall, Suite 101, 609-347-5660. Please note that substantially improving a structure that is located in the floodplain requires that not only the addition be elevated, but that the original structure be elevated as well. Substantial improvement means any repairs, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition or improvement of a structure, the cost of which exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure, not including the value of the land. Funds are available through the National Flood Insurance Program’s ICC Increase Cost of Compliance Benefit. If it has been determined that your property is “substantially damaged” you can receive $30,000 to elevate or demolish your property.

Flood Insurance and Maps: It is important to note that your homeowners insurance policy does not cover damage caused by flooding. The City’s participation in the National Flood Insurance Program gives property owners a 5% discount on their flood insurance. The City is actively working to increase compliance so that homeowners will receive a higher discount on their flood insurance. For more information on flood insurance go to:

https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/

In addition to the City’s NFIP Firm Maps, the City has an map showing flood prone neighborhoods.
Map of Flood Prone Areas:

Shaded areas are neighborhoods in the City that are prone to flooding.
**Flood Warning Procedures:** The City of Atlantic City is serviced by the Atlantic County Office of Emergency Management and does not have a specific flood warning system.

Notice of possible flooding and other weather events are sent directly Atlantic City Office of Emergency Management and the City’s Communication Division. Flood threat recognition is monitored 24 hours a day 365 days of the year through the City’s Communications Division Operation Center personnel. This is in addition to what is received in the Emergency Management office during normal work hours. The City’s Communication Division also receives NAWAS notices from Atlantic County OEM.

When a notification of possible flooding is receive, the threat level of such an event in categorized into immediate, 12 hours, 16 hours or 24 hours. If these notices are received out of normal working hours for Emergency Management staff, the EMC and Deputy EMC are notified for the action necessary to mitigate the situation. The SOP in Communications simply states “When notification of the threat of imminent flooding is received from the NWS the EMC and Deputy EMC are to be notified outside of normal working hours if the notice is labeled “Flood Warning.”
The City of Atlantic City has a State approved Emergency Operating Plan which includes an Alert, Warning and Communications Annex that addresses responses to flooding or any natural or technological events. The annex and the approval letter from the State approving the City’s EOP are on file in the Office of Emergency Management.

When the Office of Emergency Management receives notification of Atlantic County OEM or the National Weather Service of pending weather event, the City’s OEM staff starts to monitor the event. OEM will send notices to all key partners alerting them of the pending weather event. Notices are sent via email to over 200 key partners in the City.

When it has been determined that a potential storm will impact Atlantic City, the City will meet with all key partners. The City has an agreement with Atlanticare which is designated as the City’s Emergency Operation Center and a Mutual Aid Agreement with Atlantic County Office of Emergency Management.

The order to evacuate is given only when the best efforts of local and county Emergency Management Coordinators have evaluated the projections of storm headings and all other storm related information.
Atlantic City’s Evacuation Plans

The City to be divided into the following four zones:

- **The Marina Zone** – Includes Venice Park and Lagoon Bay to Adriatic Ave. to Maine Ave. Evacuate on Route 30 until flooding, then the AC Expressway.

- **The Uptown Zone** – Adriatic Avenue to the Ocean, Maine Ave. to Dr. Martin L. King Blvd. Evacuate on Route 30 until flooding, then the AC Expressway.

- **The Center City Zone** - Dr. Martin L. King Blvd. to Iowa Avenue, Bay to Ocean. Evacuate on the AC Expressway.

- **The Downtown Zone** - Iowa Avenue to Jackson Avenue including Chelsea Heights, Bay to Ocean. Evacuate Route 40 until flooding, then AC Expressway
Transportation Plan:

• Police Traffic Division will set routes and patterns for evacuation.

• Reverse Lanes on Atlantic City Expressway to be set by NJSP

• The schools will be the staging areas for bus transportation to shelters for civilians without transportation.

Locations of Schools:

1. Uptown Complex (323 Madison Ave.)
2. New Jersey Ave. School (35 N. New Jersey Ave.)
3. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Complex (1700 Marmora Ave.)
4. Venice Park School (1601 N. Penrose Ave.)
5. Texas Avenue School (2523 Arctic Ave.)
6. New York Avenue School (411 N. New York Ave.)
7. Sovereign Avenue School (3223 Arctic Ave.)
8. Brighton Avenue School (30 N. Brighton Ave.)
9. Chelsea Heights School (4101 Filbert Ave.)
10. Atlantic City High School (1400 Albany Ave.)
11. Richmond Avenue School (4115 Ventnor Ave.)
12. Our Lady Star of the Sea School (15 N. California Ave.)
**Shelters** – If it has been determined by the City’s Emergency Management Coordinator, in conjunction with the Atlantic County Emergency Management Coordinator, that a shelter should be opened the City has the following Red Cross approved shelters:

1. Pennsylvania Avenue School, 201 N. Pennsylvania Avenue

2. Atlantic City High School, 1400 N. Albany Avenue

3. All Wars Memorial Building, 1510 Adriatic Avenue