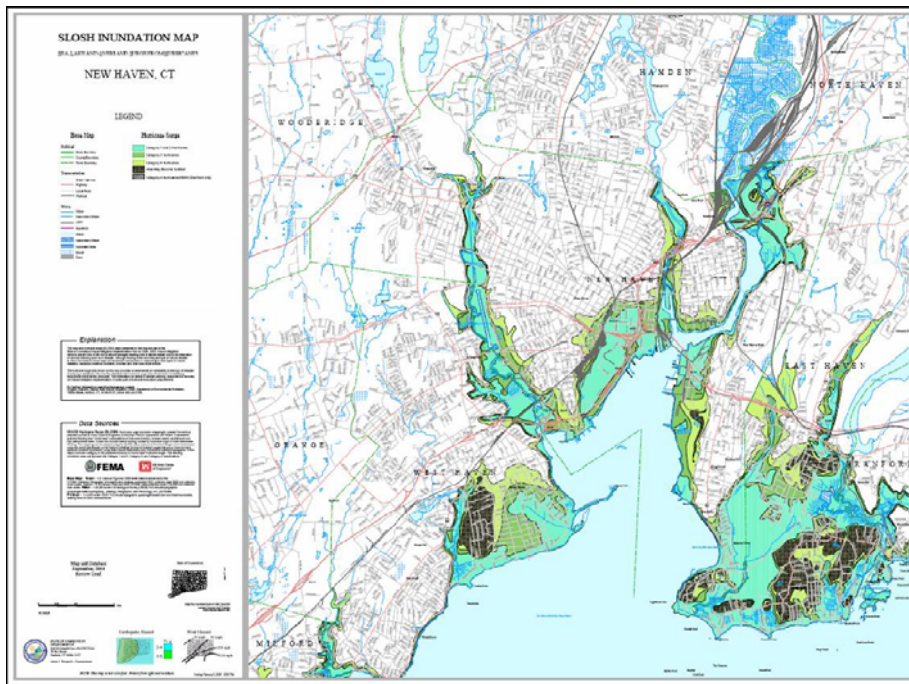


SEA, LAKE, AND OVERLAND SURGES FROM HURRICANES

SLOSH MAPS

SLOSH is a computerized model run by the National Weather Service to estimate storm surge heights resulting from historical, hypothetical, or predicted hurricanes. The model creates its estimates by assessing the pressure, size, forward speed, track, and wind data from a storm. Graphical output from the model displays color-coded storm surge heights for a particular area. The calculations are applied to a specific locale's shoreline, incorporating the unique bay and river configurations, water depths, bridges, roads, and other physical features. Hurricanes are classified by categories according to the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale. The scale ranges from 1 to 5, with the "weakest" storms classified as category 1 (74 to 95 miles per hour sustained winds) and the strongest storms as category 5 (sustained winds greater than 155 miles per hour). The different storm



surge zone categories imply that flooding is possible for your area for a storm of that category OR HIGHER. For example, a category 3 storm surge zone would be most vulnerable to storms of category 3 and higher. Similarly, those people that live in

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category 1 storm surge zones are vulnerable to all categories of storm, from 1 up to 5. It is important to note that storm surge maps reflect the worst case hurricane storm surge inundation (including astronomical high tide), regardless of the point of where the center of the hurricane (or tropical storm) makes landfall. No single hurricane will necessarily cause all

of the flooding represented on the maps. It should also be noted that the data reflect only still-water saltwater flooding and do not take into account the effects of pounding waves that ride on top of the storm surge in locations exposed to wave action. Also, these maps do not show areas that may be flooded by excessive rainfall-they only depict flooding that would occur as a result of the ocean level rising (as well as estuaries and rivers that can be affected by hurricane storm surge) and inundating the color-coded areas.

STORM SURGE

Storm surge is simply water that is pushed toward the shore by the force of the winds swirling around a storm. This advancing surge combines with the normal tides to create the hurricane storm tide, which can increase the mean water level 15 feet or more. In addition, wind-driven waves are superimposed on the storm tide. This rise in water level can cause severe flooding in coastal areas, particularly when the storm tide coincides with the normal high tides. Because much of Connecticut's coastline is less than 10 feet above mean sea level, the danger from storm tides is tremendous. Storm tides, waves, and currents in confined harbors can severely damage ships, marinas, and pleasure boats.



For more information, please contact the City of New Haven Office of Emergency Management, 200 Orange Street, New Haven, CT 06510 203.946.8224 or jmoore@newhavenct.net