

## Flood Risk Information

At the January 29, 2014 public meeting on the Cambridge Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, requests were made to provide links to maps that depict flood risks in Cambridge. At the public meeting, information drawn from the Hurricane Inundation Maps for Cambridge prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was used for a group exercise. While the Army Corps' maps show their assessment of flood risks from various sized hurricanes, they are not being used in the City's final vulnerability assessment. The City is conducting its own assessment of flood risks from coastal storms using methodologies that will take into account the complex topography between the ocean and the city and use a more powerful model called ADCIRC that will integrate a range of variables including sea level rise. The Hurricane Inundation Map information was used to help participants visualize situations to elicit observations and thoughts about how the community might be impacted and respond to flooding to inform the vulnerability assessment. The results of the City's coastal flood assessment will be shared when the analysis is completed, which is expected in the fall of 2014.

The two existing maps that depict flood risks in Cambridge are the Hurricane Inundation Maps and the federal Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Neither considers future sea level rise. The Hurricane Inundation Maps are based on scenarios that consider what might happen if a storm takes a certain path and hits at high tide and other factors. The probability of the storm is not presented. The Flood Insurance Rate Maps are based on the historical return period of storms and reflect the 100 (1% chance of happening in any given year) and 500 year (0.2% chance of happening in any given year) storms. These maps can be found at the following links:

### Hurricane Inundation Maps

An interactive map view is available at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/hurricane-inundation-maps.html>. The webpage includes links to information that explains how the maps were produced. PDFs of maps for most coastal communities in Massachusetts, including Cambridge, are also posted at <https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B5nTDI9asWH1bFJfTTBzc2lY2c&usp=sharing>. The information provided here is more comprehensive than the information used for the vulnerability assessment public meeting exercise.

### Flood Insurance Rate Maps

The most recent Flood Insurance Rate Maps that cover Cambridge went into effect on June 4, 2010. The links to these maps are posted on the Public Works Department website with some explanatory information at <http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/ourservices/stormwatermanagement/stormwaterresources/fe-mafloodmappingupdate.aspx>.

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