

How vulnerable is Cape Cod?

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Vulnerability to a hurricane's destructive forces depends on where the property is located. The nearer to water, the lower the elevation, the higher the risk of damage.

Hurricanes destroy and kill not just with winds, but even more with the storm surge that accompanies the storm. If a hurricane arrives at high tide, the storm surge will be worse, since it rides on top of the tide level.

The surge can be 50-100 miles wide, sweeping across the coastline in front of the area where a hurricane makes landfall. The higher the normal astronomical tide, the higher the storm surge and the worse the damage.

Each town on Cape Cod has a special map, called "SLOSH" - short for Sea, Lake, Overland Surges from Hurricane - maps.

People can check the location of their property, and see how vulnerable their homes may be in the event of a hurricane. The map will show inundation areas for different categories of hurricanes traveling at different speeds.

Pay attention to evacuation orders from emergency management officials and police. If asked to leave, do so before the storm's winds and waters arrive, making rescue difficult, if not impossible.

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