

# **CAPE MAY COUNTY**

## ***REFERENCE TIDE GAUGE - CAPE MAY FERRY TERMINAL***

The Cape May Ferry Terminal tide gauge is located along the Cape May Canal near the outlet to Delaware Bay.

### ***Oceanfront***

High and low tides on the oceanfront occur up to around 1 hour earlier than the high and low tides at the ferry terminal.

### ***Back bays***

The larger back bays of Cape May County (from north to south) include Great Egg Harbor Bay, Peck Bay, Ludlum Bay, Townsend Sound, Stites Sound, Great Sound, Jenkins Sound, Grassy Sound, Richardson Sound, Jarvis Sound and Cape May Harbor. There are a number of smaller bays and channels within and behind the barrier islands.

High tides on the back bays of Cape May County occur up to 1 hour earlier than those at the ferry terminal. Low tides occur anywhere from 45 minutes before to 45 minutes after those at the ferry terminal.

The back bays present a problem during prolonged periods of onshore flow. For each successive tide cycle that the back bays are not allowed to drain, the water levels increase.

### ***Delaware Bay***

For the Delaware Bay shoreline in Cape May County the high tides occur up to about ½ hour later at the north end of the county than at the ferry terminal. Low tides occur up to around 1 hour later.

### ***Data Acquisition***

In order to access data from the Cape May Ferry Terminal gauge, use the National Ocean Service web site at <http://tidesonline.nos.noaa.gov/> or the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service site at <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=phi>.

## ***REFERENCE TIDE GAUGE - CAPE MAY FERRY TERMINAL***

The tide heights from actual events referenced in the following table are those that were verified by the National Ocean Service.

In the table an asterisk (\*) indicates that location experiences back bay type flooding. Being that the reference gauge is on Delaware Bay, the tide level associated with that particular location may vary somewhat from event to event based on the number of tide cycles during which there is an onshore flow.

THE PERIOD OF RECORD FOR THE CAPE MAY GAUGE BEGINS IN OCTOBER 1965. PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE GAPS WITHIN THE PERIOD OF RECORD DUE TO EQUIPMENT OUTAGES AND/OR DATA AVAILABILITY.

ALL HEIGHTS ARE IN MEAN LOWER LOW WATER (**MLLW**).

- 9.0 FT — January 23, 2016
- 8.9 FT — October 29, 2012 (Post Tropical Cyclone Sandy)
- 8.8 FT — September 27, 1985 (Hurricane Gloria)
- 8.7 FT — MAJOR TIDAL FLOODING BEGINS.**

At this level, flooding starts to become severe enough to begin causing structural damage along with widespread flooding of roadways. Vulnerable homes and businesses may be severely damaged or destroyed as water levels rise further above this threshold. Numerous roads become impassable and some neighborhoods may be isolated. The flood waters become a danger to anyone who attempts to cross on foot or in a vehicle.

October 25, 1980

October 29, 2011

- 8.6 FT — December 11, 1992
- 8.5 FT — January 4, 1992
- March 3, 1994
- 8.4 FT — August 27, 2011 (Hurricane Irene)
- 8.3 FT — October 14, 1977
- 8.2 FT — December 22, 1972
- October 31, 1991
- February 5, 1998
- June 4, 2012
- 8.1 FT — March 29, 1984
- October 17, 2009
- November 13, 2009
- February 9, 2016
- 8.0 FT — January 28, 1998
- October 7, 2006
- May 12, 2008
- October 2, 2015

- 7.9 FT — December 2, 1974  
January 2, 1987  
March 19, 1996  
January 25, 2000  
May 25, 2005  
January 31, 2006
- 7.8 FT — December 14, 1993  
April 18, 2007  
December 9, 2014

**7.7 FT — MODERATE TIDAL FLOODING BEGINS.**

At this level, widespread flooding of roadways begins due to high water and/or wave action with many roads becoming impassable. Lives may be at risk when people put themselves in harm's way. Some damage to vulnerable structures may begin to occur.

- December 9, 1973  
November 15, 1981  
December 13, 1996  
November 14, 1997  
January 3, 1999  
June 13, 2007  
June 22, 2009  
April 16, 2011  
January 10, 2016
- 7.5 FT — Flooding begins on the access roads to the Longport - Ocean City bridge.  
Flooding begins along Bay Avenue on the north end of Ocean City and along the NJ Route 52 causeway\*.  
Flooding begins on the access roads to the 34<sup>th</sup> Street bridge in Ocean City (Cape May County Route 623)\*.  
Flooding begins in Ocean City\* from 34<sup>th</sup> Street to 55<sup>th</sup> Street.  
Flooding begins in Strathmere.  
Flooding begins on Sea Isle Boulevard (Cape May County Route 625) leading into Sea Isle City and on Central Avenue in Sea Isle City\*.  
Flooding begins on Avalon Boulevard (Cape May County Route 601) near Garden State Parkway Interchange 13\*.  
Flooding begins on the access roads to the NJ Route 147 bridge into North Wildwood\* (including Spruce Avenue).  
Flooding begins on the access roads to the Ocean Drive bridge between Wildwood Crest and Cape May (Cape May County Route 621)\*.  
Flooding begins on Beach Avenue and New Jersey Avenue in Cape May.  
Flooding begins around the Leaming Avenue - Elmira Street bridge between West Cape May and Cape May.

- Flooding begins along Dennis Creek around NJ Route 47 in Dennis Township.
- 7.3 FT — Flooding begins along Landis Avenue in Sea Isle City (around 29<sup>th</sup> Street)\*.  
 Flooding begins around the Townsends Inlet Bridge (Cape May County Route 619) between Sea Isle City and Avalon.  
 Flooding begins in Avalon along Ocean Drive and Dune Drive\*.  
 Flooding begins around 96<sup>th</sup> Street in Stone Harbor\*.  
 Flooding begins along Park Boulevard in Wildwood Crest\*.  
 Flooding begins around Yacht Avenue in Cape May\*.
- 7.1 FT — Flooding begins on the access roads to the 9<sup>th</sup> Street bridge into Ocean City (NJ Route 52)\*.  
 Flooding begins in the Haven Avenue Basin area of Ocean City (24<sup>th</sup> Street through 34<sup>th</sup> Street)\*.  
 Flooding begins along Ocean Drive (Cape May County Route 619) between Ocean City and Strathmere\*.  
 Flooding begins in North Wildwood and West Wildwood\*.
- 7.0 FT — COASTAL FLOOD ADVISORY THRESHOLD.**
- 6.9 FT — Flooding begins along the Delaware Bay shoreline from Reeds Beach to North Cape May.
- 6.7 FT — MINOR TIDAL FLOODING BEGINS.**  
 Flooding begins on the access roads to the NJ Route 47 bridge into Wildwood (including Rio Grande Avenue)\*.
- 6.5 FT — Flooding begins at the boat ramp in North Wildwood\* (the bay end of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue).
- 2.0 FT — LOW WATER ADVISORY THRESHOLD.**
- 3.0 FT — January 27, 1971