

# Sea Level Rise and Delaware's Public Safety and Infrastructure

## Emergency Services

- More than 150 police stations, fire and rescue stations and emergency medical service stations ensure public safety across Delaware.
- Five police stations, eight fire and rescue stations and two EMS stations are within areas that could be inundated by 4.9 feet (1.5 meters) of sea level rise.
- Citizens living within these service areas could be significantly impacted by reductions in service or longer travel times for emergency calls.



Bowers Beach Fire Station

Bonnie Arvey / Delaware Coastal Programs



Looking west on Route 18 during a coastal storm

Bonnie Arvey / Delaware Coastal Programs

## Highways and Bridges

- Many of Delaware's roadways, including important evacuation routes like Routes 13 and 9, already experience chronic flooding during storm events and extreme high tides.
- Four percent of the State's nearly 9,000 miles of road are within areas that could be inundated by 3.3 feet (1.0 meters) of sea level rise.
- Inundation of even a small segment of a roadway can cause detours and increase congestion problems miles from the flooded area.

## Dams, Dikes and Levees

- A system of dams, dikes, and levees provides flood protection for roads, homes, businesses and wildlife areas throughout the state.
- Several important dikes that protect developed areas from tidal flooding are in poor condition as a result of erosion, animal burrows and overgrowth.
- In their current condition, almost 75% of the dikes in Delaware could be overtopped by 3.3 feet (1.0 meter) of sea level rise.



Tide gate on dike near Port Penn

Delaware Coastal Programs



Pumping Station in Bowers Beach during a coastal storm

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## Wastewater Infrastructure

- Central sewer systems provide wastewater disposal for suburban and urban homes and businesses.
- Four public wastewater treatment facilities are in areas that could be inundated by 4.9 feet (1.5 meters) of sea level rise.
- Inundation of these facilities could result in reduced treatment capacity, sewer line overflows, sewer backups into homes, increased operating costs and impaired water quality.

## Port of Wilmington

- The Port of Wilmington is a major economic and transportation hub that could be significantly impacted by sea level rise.
- Over 30% of the Port's docks, cargo transfer areas and warehouses could be inundated by 1.6 feet (0.5 meters) of sea level rise.
- Transportation of cargo from the port could also be affected by inundation of several local roads and without action, these impacts could mean reduction in port traffic, cargo, and would eventually result in reductions to the job force.



Port of Wilmington

Google Maps

### Additional Resources Analyzed

Ambulance & Paramedic Stations  
 Fire & Rescue Stations  
 Police Stations  
 Evacuation Routes & Emergency Shelters  
 Emergency Operations Centers  
 Roads and Railroads  
 Public Transportation

Ports  
 Utilities  
 Wastewater Facilities  
 Drinking Water  
 Adult & Child Care Facilities  
 Correctional facilities  
 Cemeteries

Hospitals  
 Government Buildings  
 Schools  
 Hazardous Waste Sites  
 Manufacturing and Industrial Sites  
 Salvage Yards & Landfills  
 Dams, Dikes and Tide Gates