

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://storms.nos.noaa.gov/>.

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The tide heights from actual events referenced in the following table are those that were verified by the National Ocean Service. They may vary slightly from figures found in National Weather Service publications.

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.

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

Note: The Cape May Ferry Terminal gauge was not in operation during the March 1962 Storm.

- 8.8 FT — September 27, 1985 (Hurricane Gloria).
- 8.7 FT — SEVERE TIDAL FLOODING BEGINS.**
October 25, 1980.
- 8.6 FT — December 11, 1992.
- 8.5 FT — January 4, 1992 and March 3, 1994.
- 8.3 FT — October 14, 1977.
- 8.2 FT — December 22, 1972; October 31, 1991 and February 5, 1998.
- 8.1 FT — March 29, 1984.
- 8.0 FT — January 28, 1998; October 7, 2006 and May 12, 2008.
Flooding occurs along Dennis Creek around the NJ Route 47 bridge in Dennis Township.
Flooding occurs on Avalon Boulevard (Cape May County Route 601) near Garden State Parkway Interchange 13*.
- 7.9 FT — December 2, 1974; January 2, 1987; March 19, 1996; January 25, 2000; May 25, 2005 and January 31, 2006.
- 7.8 FT — December 14, 1993 and April 18, 2007.
- 7.7 FT — MODERATE TIDAL FLOODING BEGINS.**
December 9, 1973; November 15, 1981; December 13, 1996; November 14, 1997; January 3, 1999; June 13, 2007 and June 22, 2009.
Flooding occurs on the access roads to the Longport - Ocean City bridge.
Flooding occurs along Bay Avenue on the north end of Ocean City and along the NJ Route 52 causeway*.
Flooding occurs on the access roads to the 34th Street bridge in Ocean City (Cape May County Route 623)*.
Flooding occurs in Ocean City* from 34th Street to 55th Street.
Flooding occurs on Sea Isle Boulevard (Cape May County Route 625) leading into Sea Isle City*.
Flooding occurs on the access roads to the Ocean Drive bridge between Wildwood Crest and Cape May (Cape May County Route 621)*.
Flooding occurs along Beach Avenue and New Jersey Avenue in Cape May.
Flooding occurs around the Leaming Avenue - Elmira Street bridge between West Cape May and Cape May.
- 7.5 FT — Flooding begins in Strathmere.
Flooding occurs along Landis Avenue in Sea Isle City (around 29th Street)*.
Flooding occurs on the access roads to the NJ Route 147 bridge into North Wildwood* (including Spruce Avenue).
- 7.3 FT — Flooding occurs in Avalon along Ocean Drive and Dune Drive*.
Flooding occurs around 96th Street in Stone Harbor*.
Flooding occurs along Park Boulevard in Wildwood Crest*.
Flooding occurs around Yacht Avenue in Cape May*.
- 7.1 FT — Flooding occurs on the access roads to the 9th Street bridge into Ocean City (NJ Route 52)*.
Flooding occurs in the Haven Avenue Basin area of Ocean City (24th Street through 34th Street)*.
Flooding occurs along Ocean Drive (Cape May County Route 619) between Ocean City and Strathmere*.
Flooding begins in West Wildwood*.
- 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 occurs on the access roads to the NJ Route 47 bridge into Wildwood (including Rio Grande Avenue)*.
- 6.5 FT — Flooding occurs at the boat ramp in North Wildwood* (the bay end of 5th Avenue).
- 1.8 FT — BLOWOUT TIDE.**
- 2.8 FT — January 31, 1966.
- 3.0 FT — January 28, 1971.

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