

# **KENT COUNTY, DELAWARE**

## ***REFERENCE TIDE GAUGE - LEWES (BREAKWATER HARBOR)***

There is no National Ocean Service tide gauge in Kent County. As a result, the Lewes tide gauge is being used as the reference for the county. The gauge is located on the bay side of Cape Henlopen in Breakwater Harbor.

High tides along Kent County's bay shore occur later than the high tides at Lewes. The time differences range from about 25 minutes in the southern part of the county to around 1½ hours in the northern part of the county. Low tides range from about 50 minutes later in the south to around 2¼ hours later in the north.

The marshes in Kent County act like back bays during prolonged periods of onshore flow. If the water is not allowed to drain out of the marshes, any tidal flooding will either persist or worsen.

## ***Data Acquisition***

In order to access data from the Lewes 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.

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

- 9.2 FT — March 6, 1962.
- 8.8 FT — January 4, 1992.
- 8.6 FT — January 28, 1998.
- 8.5 FT — February 5, 1998.
- 8.0 FT — SEVERE TIDAL FLOODING BEGINS.**  
September 27, 1985 (Hurricane Gloria) and March 3, 1994.
- 7.9 FT — October 25, 1980 and March 29, 1984.
- 7.8 FT — December 12, 1992 and January 7, 1996.
- 7.7 FT — May 12, 2008.
- 7.6 FT — October 14, 1977 and February 17, 2003.
- 7.5 FT — October 31, 1991.
- 7.4 FT — December 22, 1972; January 2, 1987; November 14, 1997; January 25, 2000 and October 7, 2006.
- 7.3 FT — December 9, 1973 and October 8, 1996.
- 7.2 FT — September 25, 1992 and May 25, 2005.
- 7.1 FT — January 31, 2006.
- 7.0 FT — MODERATE TIDAL FLOODING BEGINS.**  
February 26, 1979; November 15, 1981; December 2, 1986; October 19, 1989 and January 3, 2003.
- 6.9 FT — DE Route 9 in Leipsic floods in the vicinity of the Leipsic River.  
Flooding occurs in Milford along the Mispillion River.
- 6.7 FT — DE Route 9 (Main Street) in Little Creek floods.
- 6.3 FT — DE Route 6 into Woodland Beach floods.  
Kent County Route 89 into Port Mahon floods.  
Kent County Route 349 into Pickering Beach floods.  
Kent County Route 68 into Kitts Hummock floods.  
Kent County Route 107 near Barkers Landing floods.  
Kent County Route 18 into Bowers Beach floods.  
Kent County Route 121 into Webb Landing and South Bowers floods.  
Kent County Route 124 into Big Stone Beach floods.
- 6.0 FT — MINOR TIDAL FLOODING BEGINS.**
- 1.8 FT — BLOWOUT TIDE.**
- 4.2 FT — January 10, 1978.

UPDATED AUGUST 2009