

Storm Surge Flooding

Storm surge is the abnormal rise of water generated by a storm, over and above the predicted astronomical tides. The storm tide is the height of water relative to a reference level or datum that includes storm surge and astronomical tide. The combination of storm surge flooding and battering waves can be very destructive as seen with Hurricanes Ike (2008), Carla (1961), the 1900 Galveston Hurricane and many others.

When a hurricane or strong tropical storm approaches, the National Weather Service (NWS) will produce two maps to convey the storm surge flood threat. The first is the storm surge watch and warning map showing areas at risk for life threatening surge. See example to the right.

The other type of map is the Potential Storm Surge Flooding map. It shows the reasonable worst case scenario for depth of water above ground due to storm surge flooding for a given storm. See an example on the lower right.

See the links below to learn more about storm surge flooding and to assess our risk to this hazard.

All about storm surge:
<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/surge/>

Hazard Risk Maps. Check out to gauge your risk/vulnerability.
<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/nationalsurge/>

