
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301 • (603) 271-3503 • www.des.nh.gov

WD-WEB-24

2013

Flood Risk for New Hampshire Wastewater Treatment Facilities

Flood Risk Rating

New Hampshire has seen an increase in the frequency and intensity of flooding events over the past few decades. This change is consistent with a number of other observations relating to climate change. Being prepared for flooding events and protecting assets from flood damage is an important part of climate change adaptation. One such method to prepare for climate change is to assign a flood risk rating. This rating is a description (e.g., high, medium, low) of the overall threat posed by flooding over the next 25 years. Flood risk rating for WWTFs and collection systems is one step of conducting a very important vulnerability assessment. When assigning a flood risk level to your WWTF or any portion of your collection system, consider historical flooding events as well as the elevation of your facilities.

High Flood Risk: There is a strong potential for a flood of major proportions during the next 25 years; or history suggests the occurrence of multiple floods of moderate proportions during the next 25 years. The threat is significant enough to warrant a major program effort to prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate against this flooding hazard. This flooding hazard should be a major focus of the municipality's emergency management training and planning program.

Medium Flood Risk: There is a moderate potential for a flood of less than major proportions during the next 25 years. The threat is great enough to warrant modest effort to prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate against this flooding hazard. This flooding hazard should be included in the municipality's emergency management training and planning program.

Low Flood Risk: There is little potential for a flood during the next 25 years. The threat warrants no special effort to prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate against this flooding hazard. This flooding hazard does not need to be specifically addressed in the municipality's emergency management training and planning program, except as generally dealt with during flood awareness training.

Questions to Consider

If you have facilities or equipment with a high or medium risk rating, what will prompt action? Does your emergency response plan include a plan of action for these facilities? Do you know what that plan is? Is that plan adequate?

You may also contact Sharon Rivard, P.E. NHDES WWEB at (603) 271-2508 or sharon.rivard@des.nh.gov with questions regarding climate change adaptation for WWTFs.