



### **Sea Isle City's Flood Warning Sign System**

When Sea Isle City's Flood Warning Sign System was first installed in March 2019, the goal was to quickly and efficiently alert residents and visitors about the potential for flooding in specific parts of town without the need to constantly install and remove mobile signs or cumbersome road-block systems.

Flooding is a complicated issue, and some areas flood differently at different times depending on conditions. For example, tidal flooding can be different from rain event flooding. The moon and weather conditions also play a role in flooding.

While many of Sea Isle's "year round" residents know how to avoid the hazards of flood waters, some property owners and residents are not as knowledgeable about the challenges of flooded streets – and how to react ahead of time if flooding is a possibility. Additionally, a great many of Sea Isle City's seasonal visitors and tourists are either new to town or have never dealt with the threat of flooded streets.

Our Flood Warning Sign System is designed to raise awareness and assist all of our residents, visitors and their guests – and help prevent damage to vehicles, personal property, and most importantly people. The system has proven to be effective, however "education is the key" to understanding its functionality.

#### ***Useful information about Sea Isle City's Flood Warning Sign System:***

- There are five (5) "zones" in Sea Isle City that occasionally flood and have been included in the City's Flood Warning Sign System.
- There are approximately sixteen (16) signs in each zone, including one (1) "Mother Pole" that is equipped with a flood sensor that detects when water is entering the street. Each Mother Pole is also equipped with flashing yellow lights, a camera that relays real-time images to the Police Dispatch Office, and a solar panel that powers the system. The remainder of the signs in each zone are also equipped with flashing yellow lights and individual solar panels.
- The Mother Pole is positioned in the lowest (or near the lowest) part of its zone.
- Each zone spans several blocks (east-and-west and north-and-south). Therefore, it's important to remember that each sign is part of a larger network of signs in a particular zone.

- Since the Mother Pole is the only pole in each zone that has a flood sensor, you may see signs flashing in one part of a zone that has no water in the street. However, because the Mother Pole has detected water in its zone, the flashing lights on each sign in that zone are activated. If the signs are flashing and you don't see water in the street, there is a possibility that water will soon appear in the street.
- The City's Flood Warning Sign System is being continually monitored and improved. For example, the system's original sensors (on each Mother Pole) have already been replaced with new "pressure sensors" that are better designed for salt water conditions. Also, two of the system's Mother Poles (in Zones 3 and 4) are being relocated to improve effectiveness.
- The majority of the signs in Sea Isle City's Flood Warning Sign System are located along Landis Avenue. Because Landis Avenue is a County road, those particular signs were paid for by Cape May County. The signs on all other streets were purchased by the City.
- The Flood Warning Sign System's flashing lights can be activated manually by Police Dispatch or remotely by Senior Officers.
- The system operates with the use of radio waves (similar to a cell phone) and occasionally signals can be temporarily dropped, at which time the Mother Pole continues to search for a signal as it alerts Police Dispatch that a signal was lost.
- When the signs are flashing, motorists should consider moving vehicles to higher ground.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** As always, when in doubt, turnabout – and NEVER drive through flooded streets. Not only can water (especially salt water) damage or destroy your vehicle, it can leave you stranded and in need of emergency assistance. There's usually a way to get around the water, even if it takes you blocks out of your way. Also, the wake your vehicle creates can damage garage doors and other private property – and it can knock pedestrians off of their feet even in very shallow water. To protect yourself, your vehicle and others, please do not drive through flooded streets.

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