

THE CITY OF NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE MAYOR NEW YORK, NY 10007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 8, 2016 CONTACT: pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov, (212) 788-2958

WITH STORM SYSTEMS OFF SHORE, MAYOR DE BLASIO ADVISES RESIDENTS IN COASTAL NEIGHBORHOODS OF POTENTIAL FOR COASTAL FLOODING

Minor to moderate coastal flooding expected through Wednesday AM

NEW YORK With two storm systems off the coast of the eastern seaboard and high tides due to the new moon, Mayor de Blasio today advised New Yorkers that there is a significant chance of moderate coastal flooding through Wednesday morning. According to the National Weather Service, the Tuesday morning and Wednesday morning high tide cycles may bring the strongest risks of moderate levels of coastal flooding.

Some areas of the city saw moderate levels of coastal flooding on Monday morning, including parts of southern Queens where roadways were flooded, said **Mayor de Blasio**. We expect similar levels of flooding tomorrow and Wednesday mornings some local roadways may flood during high tide.

The National Weather Service has issued a Coastal Flood Warning in effect through 11PM Monday and from 7AM-11AM on Tuesday for areas along the southern shores of Queens and Brooklyn.

During a Coastal Flood Warning, widespread moderate flooding is expected, resulting in beach erosion and flooding of vulnerable shore roads and/or properties. Coastal residents in the warned area should be alert for rising water and take appropriate action to protect life and property.

In the Bronx, a National Weather Service Coastal Flood Advisory is in effect Tuesday from 9AM-1PM for areas along Long Island Sound. In Staten Island, a Coastal Flood Advisory is in effect through 11PM tonight, and again on Tuesday from 7AM-10AM for areas near the coastline.

During a Coastal Flood Advisory, minor flooding of the most vulnerable shore roads and/or properties is possible. Coastal residents should be alert for updates and take action to protect property.

NYC residents living in coastal areas expected to experience minor or moderate coastal flooding should take the following preparedness steps:

- Prepare a Go Bag that you can grab in case you need to leave your home in a hurry.
- Learn the safest route from your home or workplace to safe, high ground in case you have to evacuate. This should be part of your household emergency plan.
- If you live in a flood-prone area, keep materials such as sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber on hand to help protect your home.

- Stay informed. Before and during an emergency, the City will send emergency alerts and updates to New Yorkers through various channels, including Notify NYC. You can sign up for Notify NYC by visiting <u>www.nyc.gov/NotifyNYC</u> or following @NotifyNYC on Twitter.
- Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters.
- When outside, avoid walking and driving through flooded areas. As few as six inches of moving water can knock a person over. Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control and possible stalling. One or two feet of water can carry away a vehicle.

New York City has taken a number of measures to mitigate and protect against the risks of coastal flooding. The City is heavily investing in climate resiliency through a \$20 billion OneNYC plan underway around across the five boroughs. That includes short term measures already in place, such as 4.2 million cubic yards of sand in Coney Island and on the Rockaway peninsula; 9.8 miles of dunes across the Rockaway peninsula and in Staten Island; and 10,500 linear feet of bulkheads around the city. The Parks Department also deployed additional protections ahead of Jonas that remain in place. Combined, these measures mitigated some of the flood impacts this morning.

Billions more in large-scale resiliency investments are underway, including a massive upgrade of green infrastructure, extensive efforts to enhance shorelines and build out bulkheads, and large flood protection systems, across the five boroughs.

Earlier today, NYC Emergency Management conducted an interagency conference call with operating agencies to discuss Monday (s) flooding condition and mitigation actions for upcoming high tides, which include:

- NYC Emergency Management Department deployed Citywide Interagency Coordinators to coastal locations to facilitate coordination and information collection. They will be deployed in coastal communities during high tide cycles through Wednesday.
- The Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Transportation, and Department of Sanitation regularly target recurring flood locations for catch basin cleaning and maintenance prior to major weather events.
- From Monday through Wednesday, DEP will have crews in coastal areas to address any catch basin issues that may arise during high tide cycles.
- DSNY has and will continue to salt the roads that experience flooding to prevent icing conditions as temperatures drop below freezing.
- During coastal flooding events, DEP patrols highways to identify and clear catch basin grates when possible.

###