



## Mattapoissett, Massachusetts

### How one community prepares for extreme weather by learning about its past

#### Lessons Learned and Recommendations:

- Projects are successful when town leaders provide vision and support.
- Interviewing stakeholders about past catastrophic events can help to prepare for the future.
- Creative communication projects including interactive story maps effectively communicate project results.

#### What they did, and why:

In 2016, the U.S. EPA engaged community stakeholders when they started a project to assess the vulnerability of Mattapoissett's drinking water systems to salt water intrusion from sea level rise and storm surge. Communication became a major theme and the following efforts contributed to the success of the project.

The Town created a Weather Ready logo to identify the project.

A Boy Scout installed flood markers on utility poles representing the water depth of the historic 1938 Hurricane and Hurricane Bob in 1990 for his Eagle Scout project.

The local TV station created videos of residents and their recollections of the impacts of those storms and videos of town leaders on how to prepare for the next storm. Background photos and video footage for these movies were collected from local residents.



#### What they did, and why: con't

Weather Ready Mattapoissett created a library display using google images of the '38 Hurricane impacts as compared to the current conditions at the same locations to create a library display and a story map.

EPA created interactive maps showing where flooding would occur with a Category 2 and 4 storm.

All of these resources were incorporated into an [interactive story map](#) and are available on the town's [Weather Ready Mattapoissett](#) web page.

#### For more information:

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“Hopefully people take this information and use it so they can protect themselves and their property and their loved ones.”

Robert Chiarito,  
ORCTV Director