

# Hazardous Materials and Adapting to Rising Tides

Contra Costa Health Services, Hazardous Materials Programs (CCHSHMP) has been participating in the Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) program which is a collaborative planning project to identify how current and future flooding will affect communities, infrastructure, ecosystems and the economy. ART has completed a Contra Costa County specific project and is now developing a transportation project for the Bay Area.

The locally refined ART maps depict the potential depth and extent of inundation from increases in sea level of 0 to 66 inches in combination with different extreme tides ranging from the 1-year to the 100-year event. The importance of this knowledge is its ability to help shape our resilience and planning for the future.

What can you do?

- 1. Maintain a high standard for environmental and safety compliance**

Make sure your facility is in compliance with basic hazardous material storage requirements. Keep drums closed when not in use and store them in safe locations. Practice good housekeeping and educate your workers.

- 2. Find out if you are at risk**

Many studies, including the ART project, have data available to see if your facility will be located in the projected flood zones. This information is important to know for future flood planning.

- 3. Prepare a flood plan**

Have an emergency response contingency plan that addresses protective actions and critical contacts during an emergency. Also, consider implementing additional protective measures, such as storing your hazardous materials in raised areas or installing one-way drain valves if you are in an area already prone to flooding.

- 4. Staff training**

Include flood safety procedures as part of already existing training for staff regarding hazardous materials. This will help your employees to act quickly and efficiently to protect your business.

- 5. Future planning**

Consider sea level rise and flooding in future planning for your facility. This information should be kept in mind when deciding on secondary containment, hazardous materials/waste storage areas, how much material you store on-site, and the addition or removal of assets on your property.

CCHSHMP will continue to be committed in helping to create a safe community for Contra Costa residents. Hazardous materials are an important subject of discussion when it comes to these environmental impacts and we will continue to be engaged in developing solutions that support our industries.

**For more information about the Adapting to Rising Tides Program please visit:**  
<http://www.adaptingtorisingtides.org/>  
<http://cchealth.org/hazmat/adapting-to-rising-tides/>