

DEPLOYABLE FLOOD BARRIER INFORMATION SESSION

September 16, 2026



City of Boston
Climate Resilience



City of Boston
Emergency Management



City of Boston
Inspectional Services



City of Boston
Planning Department

AGENDA

1 Introductions

2

Environment Department / Planning Department

- Boston's Flood Risk
- Flood Mitigation Measures

3

Inspectional Services / Office of Emergency Management

- Deployables Day
- Flood Barrier Permitting
- Registration
- Deployment Procedures

4

Flood Barrier Company Overviews



CITY OF BOSTON PRESENTERS



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Project Manager*



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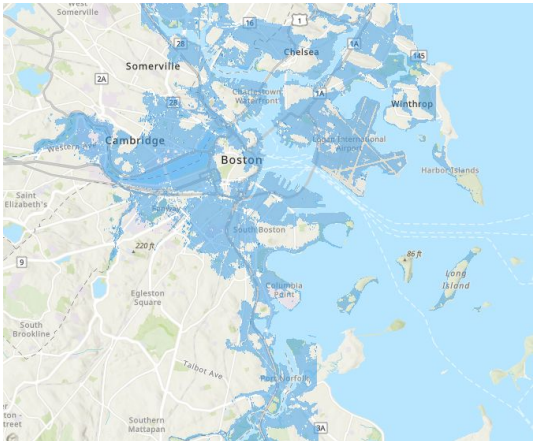
WHY NOW AND WHY USACE?

- The Coastal Storm Risk Management Study is a partnership between the City of Boston and USACE.
- USACE has a specific charge for proposing coastal resilience solutions that are **effective in mitigating risk to the Federal Interest**;
 - We have shared interest in **protecting homes, critical infrastructure, and evacuation corridors**;
- USACE **follows a specific process** in designing, evaluating and selecting projects.
 - They can provide **up to 65% of the cost** to build these structures.

WHERE ARE WE IN THE USACE PROCESS?

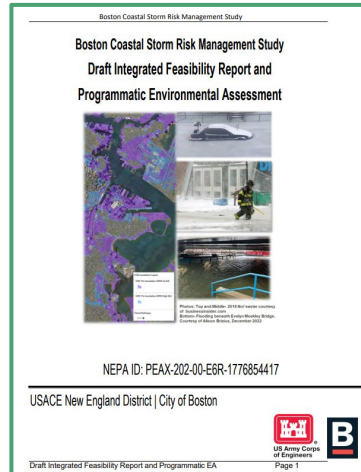
What We've Done (Before 2025)

Defined the risk of
inaction



Where We Are (2025 - 2027)

Define where and what
to build



What's Ahead (2028 & Beyond)

2028: Submit report to
Congress

2028+: Get Federal
funding for projects

2030+: Refine designs
and build

COASTAL RESILIENCE IMPLEMENTATION: THREE CONCURRENT STRATEGIES

TODAY'S STORMS

Key Goal:
Strengthen our response
to today's flooding

How?

Educate residents about emergency preparedness, strengthen protocols for preparing for and responding to extreme weather, and operationalize deployable barriers

Key City Agencies:

Office of Emergency Management
Office of Climate Resilience

THIS DECADE'S STORMS

Key Goal:
Address 2030 flood
pathways

How?

Advance near-term priority projects identified in coastal resilience plans from conceptual design to construction

Key City Agencies:

Office of Climate Resilience
Planning Department
Parks & Recreation Department

BEYOND 2030

Key Goal:
Transform our 47 miles
of coastline

How?

Through an ongoing partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, advance mid- and long-term priority projects from conceptual design to construction

Key City Agencies:

Office of Climate Resilience,
Planning Department,
Boston Water & Sewer
Commission, and many more!

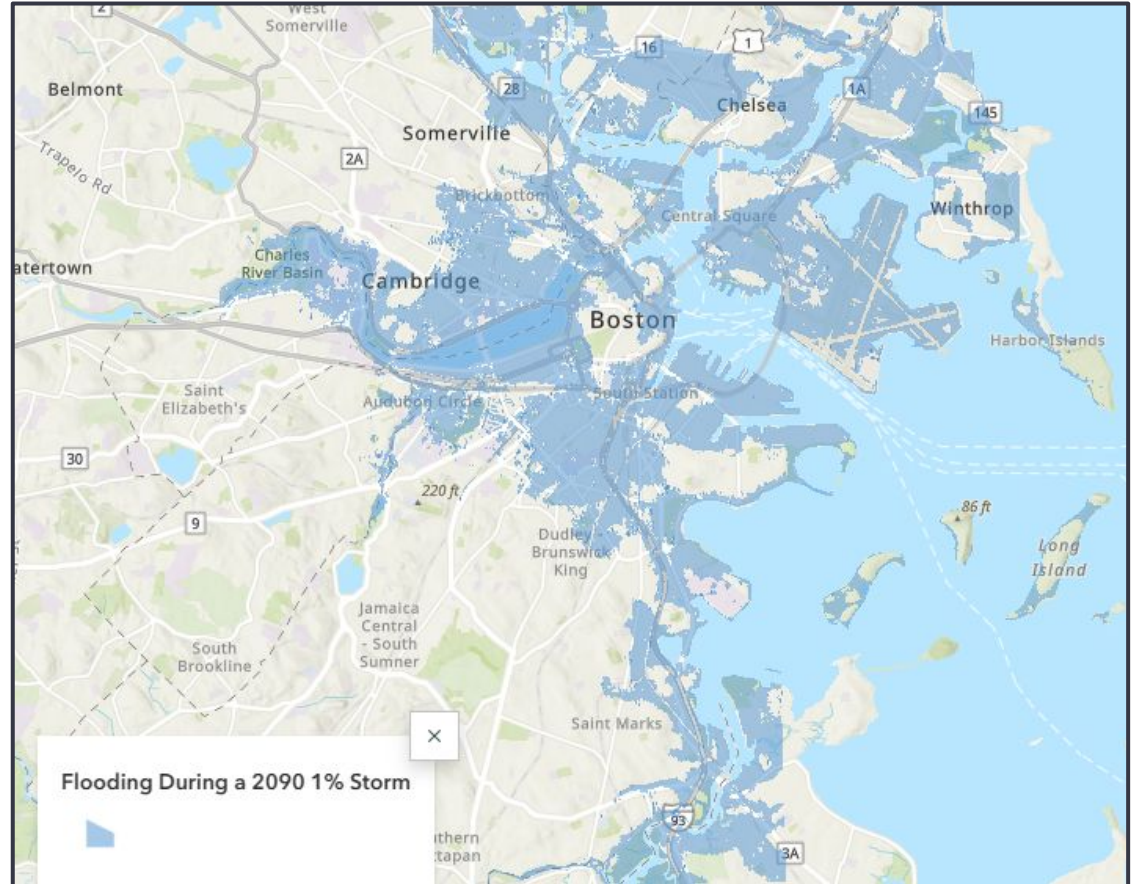
BOSTON'S FLOOD RISK

By the year 2090, relative sea level change in Boston could be as high as four feet.

A major storm could flood 20,000 or more structures. This includes important public services like the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) transit system and historic city buildings.

Over time, the cost of damage from flooding could accumulate to over \$54B

44% percent of Boston residents live in areas that are at risk of coastal flooding



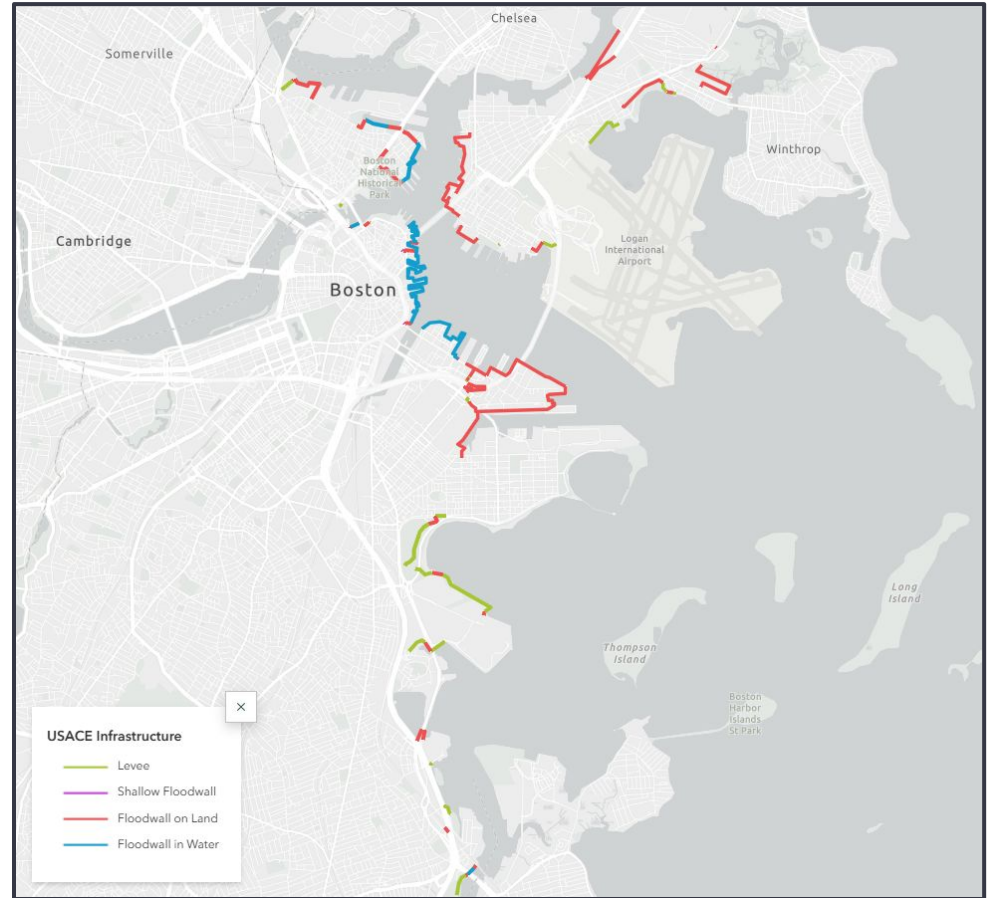
FLOOD MITIGATION: STRATEGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

To prevent long term flooding the USACE has proposed 16 miles of coastal infrastructure across 5 neighborhoods: East Boston, Charlestown, Downtown/North End and South Boston.

The USACE estimates that these flood infrastructure projects could cost between \$9 and \$10.5 billion.

Luckily for Boston the USACE predicts the draft plan would prevent about \$41 billion in damage.

In other words, every \$1 spent on these projects saves residents, businesses, and the government about \$4.



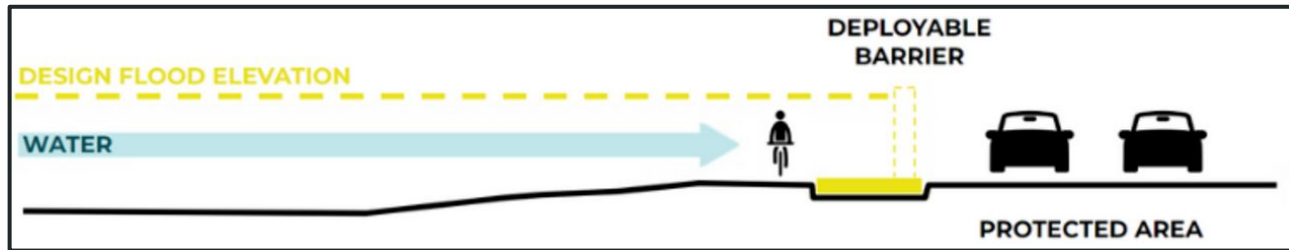
THE USACE COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY

To learn more about the USACE Study and the USACE's proposed flood protection visit:

[Boston.gov/Flood-Prevention](https://www.boston.gov/flood-prevention)

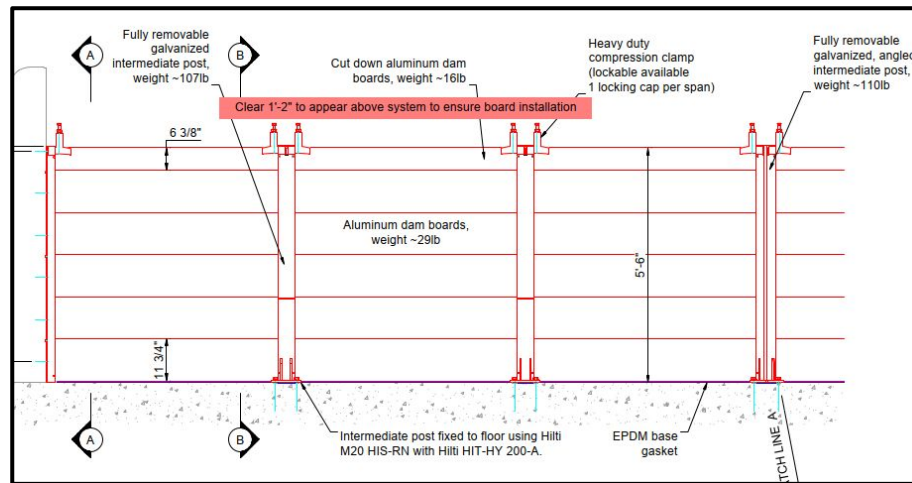


FLOOD MITIGATION: NEIGHBORHOOD-SCALE DEPLOYABLES



Aquafence system first commissioned for use in 2018 in East Boston

- Each “deployable” flood barrier system protects multiple properties in near-term flooding (2030 100-year storm event)
- The City is finishing construction on 2nd and 3rd project of this type
- 2 additional locations designed and funded

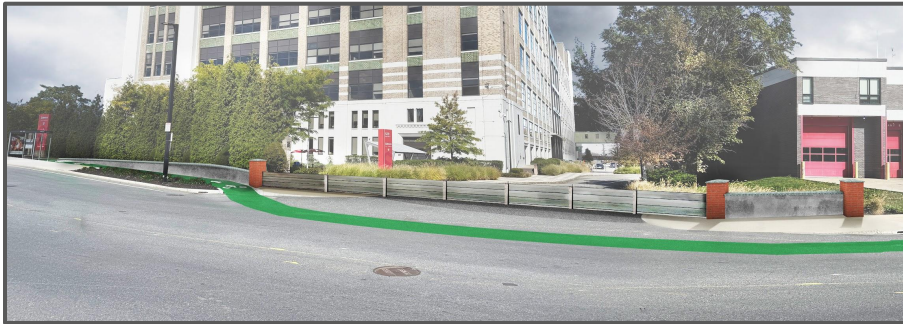


Sectional drawing of “Stop Log” system

NEIGHBORHOOD-SCALE DEPLOYABLES: CHARLESTOWN MAIN ST.

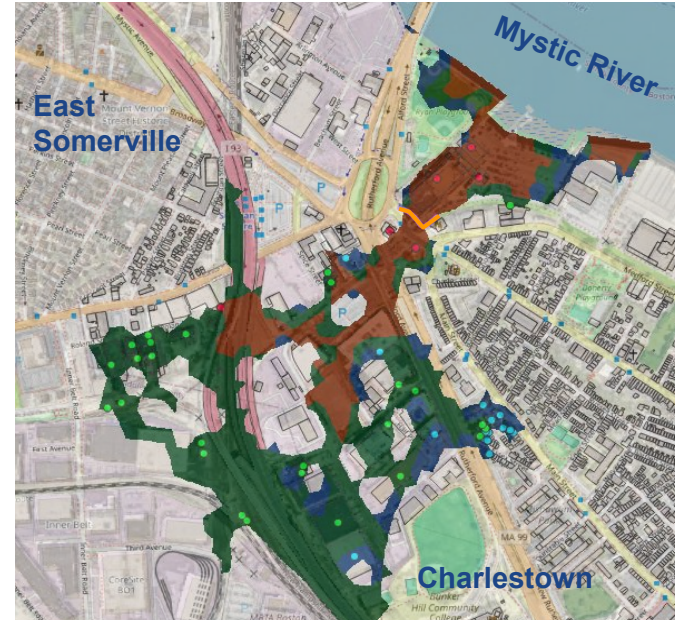
2030 Storm Scenario Impact Reductions

Building	Flood Extent
	 5% chance storm (once in 20 years)
	 2% chance storm (once in 50 years)
	 1% chance storm (once in 100 years)



Source: Weston and Sampson

Expected appearance when deployed



Source: Mystic River Watershed Association

✓ Location and shape of project alignment

NEIGHBORHOOD-SCALE DEPLOYABLES: CHARLESTOWN MAIN ST.



Source: Weston and Sampson

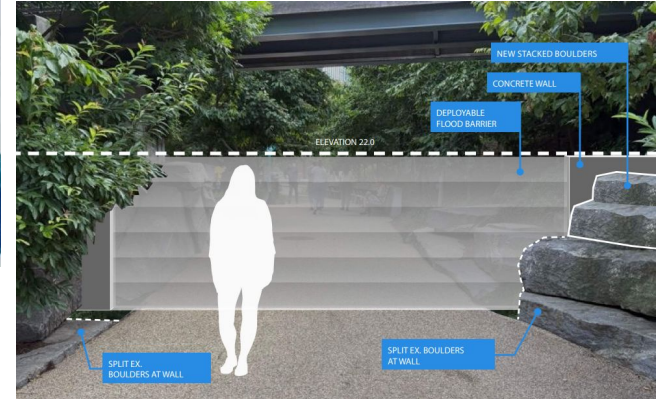
Project Components

- Extends up to 3' above ground level
- Spans three properties



Mid-construction

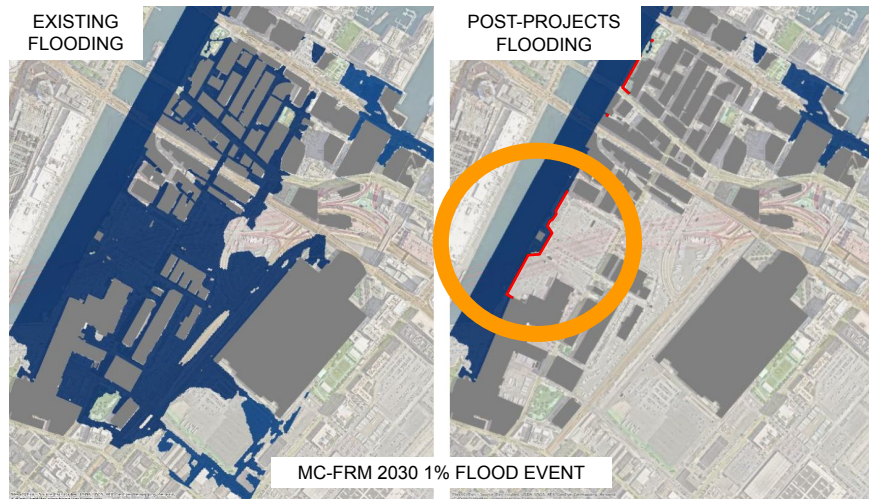
NEIGHBORHOOD-SCALE DEPLOYABLES: MARTIN'S PARK



Source: Weston and Sampson

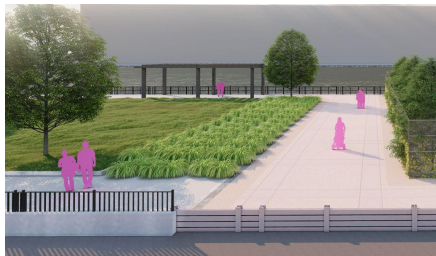
- Extends up to 4' above ground level
- Completed this month

NEIGHBORHOOD-SCALE DEPLOYABLES: RESILIENT FORT POINT CHANNEL



Source: Woods Hole Group

- Pivots from prior FEMA-funded berm
- Extends up to 4' above ground level
- Spans three properties



Source: Weston and Sampson



DEPLOYABLES DAY

A citywide training exercise to empower property owners and raise public awareness of interim flood barriers that can be deployed during flood events.

- September 30, 2026
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Property owners practice deploying their barriers.
- The city tests its [Temporary Deployable Flood Barrier Procedures](#)
- A walking tour led by City climate leadership shares information about flood risk and mitigation initiatives.
- Visit boston.gov/deployables-day to learn more and register for the walking tour on September 30th at 11am.



FLOOD BARRIER PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS

1

DEVELOP PLANS

Engage an architect or engineer to plan for your barrier(s).

2

APPLY FOR A BUILDING PERMIT

[Online portal](#);

Email ISDPermits@boston.gov;

Call (617) 635-5300; or

Visit the Inspectional Services Department at 1010 Massachusetts Avenue

3

INQUIRE ABOUT ADDITIONAL PERMITTING

There may be additional permitting / licensing requirements if your barrier:

- Impacts the right of way (pic@boston.gov);
- Is located in a conservation area (cc@boston.gov); or
- Is part of a CFROD project (amber.galko@boston.gov)

SMALL PROJECT / EXISTING BUILDING

- Simpler review process @ ISD
- Registration / deployment requirements (OEM)

NEW BUILDING / SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT

- Detailed review by Floodplain Administrator
- Dry Floodproofing Certificate and Emergency Operations Plan required
- Registration / deployment requirements (OEM)

NEW BUILDINGS & SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS / REPAIRS IN THE FLOOD ZONE

1

MUST MEET DESIGN REQUIREMENTS OF THE BUILDING CODE

Deployable flood barriers typically used for openings below the design flood elevation (windows; doors).

Other design considerations:

- Flood barriers may not be used to dry-floodproof residential areas
- Sump pumps and backflow valves
- Adequate egress / emergency escape during flood

2

MUST INCLUDE AN EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

- Who; when; how to deploy flood barriers
- Evacuation plan for all personnel, including those with disabilities
- Annual inspections & deployment drills
- Acknowledgement from building owner. Responsibilities passed on as necessary

Boston's Floodplain Administrator is available to help. Email ISDFlood@boston.gov

FLOOD BARRIER REGISTRATION & DEPLOYMENT



BARRIER REGISTRATION

[Register](#) your barrier with the Office of Emergency Management.

Update annually.

OEM@boston.gov



DEPLOYMENT & DEMobilIZATION

Notify Boston Police Department Operations at least 24 hours prior to deployment at [617-343-4680](tel:617-343-4680).



SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Evacuate the building.

Maintain accessible egress routes for authorized personnel.

Ensure emergency plans account for barriers.

RESOURCES

2026 DEPLOYABLES DAY DRILL & WALKING TOUR

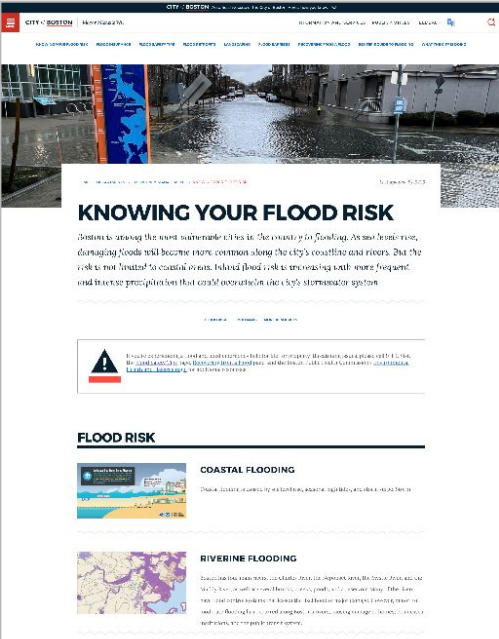
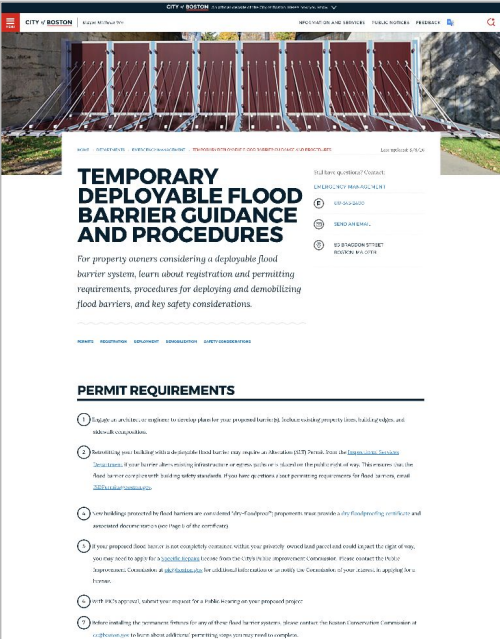
[Boston.gov/Deployables-Day](https://boston.gov/deployables-day)

FLOOD BARRIER REQUIREMENTS

[Boston.gov/Flood-Barrier-Procedures](https://boston.gov/flood-barrier-procedures)

FLOOD GUIDANCE (flood risk, mitigation, safety, etc.)

[Boston.gov/Flood](https://boston.gov/flood)



DEPLOYABLE FLOOD BARRIER COMPANY PRESENTERS



AIRE Environmental: Brendan Nefzger, Environmental Sales Manager



Aquafence: Ben Liptak, Senior Vice President of Sales



Floodbreak: Victor Althoff, Sales



Floodproofing: Sam Anderson, Flood Mitigation Specialist New England



Flood Risk America: Stacey Sellers, Sales Specialist



Garrison Flood Control: Arnon Rosan, President & CEO and Josh Brownfeld, Director of Marketing



PS Industries: Daniel Smith, Sales



Quick Dam: Allyson Cote, Vice President of Sales and Carlos Garcia, National Account Manager, Absorbent Specialty Products



United Barrier Technology: Phillip DeLaine, President

THANK YOU! QUESTIONS?



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