

Adapting to Rising Tides

The **Adapting to Rising Tides (ART)** assessment of vulnerability and risk of San Francisco Bay Area shoreline and community resources to sea level rise and storm events has revealed a number of overarching vulnerabilities. These fall into five themes: population characteristics, certain land uses, emergency preparedness and response, information gaps and networked infrastructure.

Population Characteristics

Certain factors can increase community members' sensitivity to sea level rise and storm impacts or reduce their capacity to adapt to these impacts. Past disasters demonstrate the importance of factoring the specific needs of these individuals into planning and policy making.

Community members most likely to be vulnerable include those with the following characteristics:

- The elderly
- Young children
- Caretakers of young children or the elderly
- Linguistically isolated households
- Low income households
- People with mobility or medical needs
- People without automobiles
- People without insurance
- Renter-occupied households
- Pet owners and other caretakers of animals



Example Adaptation Actions

Assess specific community characteristics and needs, and revise emergency response policies, procedures and trainings to include strategies such as purchasing specialized equipment or developing appropriate evacuation procedures.

Identify and **address critical gaps in information needed by decision-makers to understand and respond to community needs during and after an emergency**, such as the level of financial and technical assistance required to offset the burden of job loss and housing relocation.

Form or expand partnerships that include community-based, non-profit, and faith-based organizations to build the capacity to address the needs of community members during a disaster or emergency.

