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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Newly Updated Handbook Assisting Massachusetts Residents Prepare for Coastal Hazards Is Released

Second Edition of Guide Offers Info on Threats, Practical Tips To Keep Safe & Minimize Damage

*Woods Hole, MA* – An updated version of the popular Massachusetts Homeowner’s Handbook to Prepare for Coastal Hazards is now available, offering information on a wide range of issues faced by property owners and residents, as well as tips on handling coastal storms such as the nor’easters common this time of year.

The resource also provides information about flooding and hurricanes, in addition to guiding residents on practical measures that can keep them safe and minimize damage to homes and property. Updates from the original edition in 2013 include additional or updated websites and references, details on flood insurance regulations and changes and information garnered following Hurricane Sandy.

While it is never possible to eliminate all potential damage from a natural hazard, homeowners can take action and implement many small and cost-effective steps that could significantly lower their risk. Nature can be intense - families and homes deserve protection that only individuals can provide.

The handbook was developed collaboratively with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Barnstable County, and the two Massachusetts Sea Grant programs, Woods Hole Sea Grant (WHSG) and MIT Sea Grant. A key priority of this project partnership is increasing the resiliency of coastal communities to coastal hazards. One major component of strong communities is enhancing individual resilience and recognizing that adjustments to day-to-day living are necessary. This book is designed to promote individual resilience, thereby creating a fortified community, and specifically to help homeowners prepare for coastal hazards to reduce risks to family and property.

Free hard copies are available, while supplies last, at all town offices on the Cape and Islands. A limited number of books can be ordered by emailing [gberman@whoi.edu](mailto:gberman@whoi.edu). It is also available as a PDF at the following websites:

- [www.whoi.edu/seagrant](http://www.whoi.edu/seagrant)
- <http://seagrant.mit.edu>
- [www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/publications-and-reports.html](http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/publications-and-reports.html).

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