

{Intro Jack}

JACK: URBAN FLOODING IS A RECURRING PROBLEM HERE IN THE OCEAN STATE. RESIDENTS ARE LOSING THEIR HOMES AND BUSINESS. EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE BUT WILL THEY BE ENOUGH?

****VO****

JACK: THE LOW COASTAL AREAS OF RHODE ISLAND ARE FLOODING. FOR MANY YEARS THIS FLOODING HAS BEEN AFFECTING RESIDENTS BORDERING THE COAST. ONE OF THE ISSUES RESIDENTS FACE IS POOR DRIVING CONDITIONS.

JACK: AT INDIA POINT PARK, PROVIDENCE RESIDENT, AYA ROTHWELL, EXPLAINS TO US THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH URBAN FLOODING IN THE CITY.

****SOT****

AYA ROTHWELL: THIS SUMMER I MOVED TO PROVIDENCE WHICH HAS WAY MORE CONCRETE ROADS AND THERE IS NOT AS MUCH WATER GOING INTO THE SOIL IMMEDIATELY COMPARED TO SOUTH KINGSTOWN WHERE I LIVED AND SO I WAS TRYING TO DRIVE THROUGH TO JUST GET OUT OF MY APARTMENT

SOMEWHERE. I WAS DRIVING THROUGH THIS HUGE PUDDLE AND I WAS LIKE, “IS MY CAR GOING TO BE OK?”.

****VO****

JACK: URBAN FLOODING IS AN ISSUE THAT IS CAUSED FROM MORE THAN JUST RAIN AND SEA LEVEL RISE. WATER THAT RESIDES IN THE GAPS OF SOIL CAN CREATE FLOODING FROM WITHIN THE GROUND. PHD CANDIDATE MAMOON ISMAIL EXPLAINS THIS ISSUE.

****SOT****

MAMOON: PART OF THE PARTICIPATION WE RECEIVE GOES INTO THE GROUNDWATER IN TERMS OF FREE CHARGE. IT INFILTRATES IT THROUGH THE SOIL AND THEN EVENTUALLY REACHES THE WATER TABLE AND THAT CAUSES THE WATER TABLE TO RISE.

JACK: AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND A COLLEAGUE OF ISMAIL USES A MODEL TO DEMONSTRATE HOW FLOODING AFFECTS URBAN AREAS.

JACK: IF THE WATER TABLE RISES WITHOUT AN EXTRACTION FROM THE
AQUIFER, THIS IS WHEN FLOODING CAN TAKE PLACE.

JACK: ENGINEER DARRELL MOORE EXPLAINS THIS PROCESS.

DARRELL MOORE: AQUIFERS ARE AT CAPACITY, SO WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE
GET A 5 TO 6 INCH RAINSTORM THAT COMES THROUGH. THERE'S NO WAY FOR
THAT TO GO BACK INTO THE GROUND, SO THE ONLY PLACE THAT IT CAN GO, ON
TOP OF WHAT'S THERE, AND THEN IT FOLLOWS GRAVITY AND FINDS ITS WAY TO
THE NEAREST WATERWAY AND OUT TO THE OCEAN.

JACK: IN ORDER TO ENACT CHANGE, HE DEEMS THIS NECESSARY

DARELL MOORE: COOPERATION BETWEEN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, STATE
GOVERNMENT, AND THE TOWNS.

JACK: WORKING IN THE FIELD, MOORE SEES THE REALITY OF THIS PROBLEM.

DARRELL MOORE: ANYBODY THAT GETS FLOODED, ANYBODY THAT CUTS CUT
OFF FROM EMERGENCY SERVICES. THEIR EMOTIONAL FEELING IN THAT
MOMENT IS "THIS IS BAD".

JACK: ANOTHER PROVIDENCE RESIDENT, GEORGE SITAMAL, SPEAKS ON THE EFFECTS OF URBAN FLOODING.

****SOT****

GEORGE SITAMAL: FLOODING HERE IN RHODE ISLAND ... IT DOES HAPPEN AND WHEN IT DOES IT USUALLY IS PRETTY BAD FOR TRAFFIC. OLNEY-VILLE ALWAYS GETS FLOODED EVERY SINGLE TIME THERE IS RAIN I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY.

****VO****

JACK: URBAN FLOODING IS IMPACTING THE LIVES OF MANY HERE IN RHODE ISLAND. TAKING STEPS LIKE DRAINING WATER FROM AQUIFERS AND IMPLEMENTING NEW ZONING AREAS MAY BE HOW WE DEAL WITH THIS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

{Outro Jack}

JACK: RHODE ISLAND IS MAKING EFFORTS TO HELP THIS PROBLEM. THE STATE INTRODUCED A BILL TO IMPROVE COASTAL RESILIENCY. WITH HIGH OCEAN RISE AND SEVERE RAIN STORMS BECOMING MORE FREQUENT. RHODE ISLAND WILL NEED TO DO MORE.