

TOWN OF HALLWOOD

TOWN PROFILE

Hallwood is located near the central spine of the Eastern Shore in the northern portion of Accomack County and encompasses approximately 234 acres. The Town, like a number of other Eastern Shore towns, developed around the construction of the railroad in 1884. The Town's primary commercial activity in the 18th and 19th centuries was timber harvesting. A canning factory became a prominent feature in Town around the beginning of the 20th century. Hallwood has evolved primarily into a residential community since rail service began to decline in the early 1960s (*Hallwood Town Plan, 2001*).

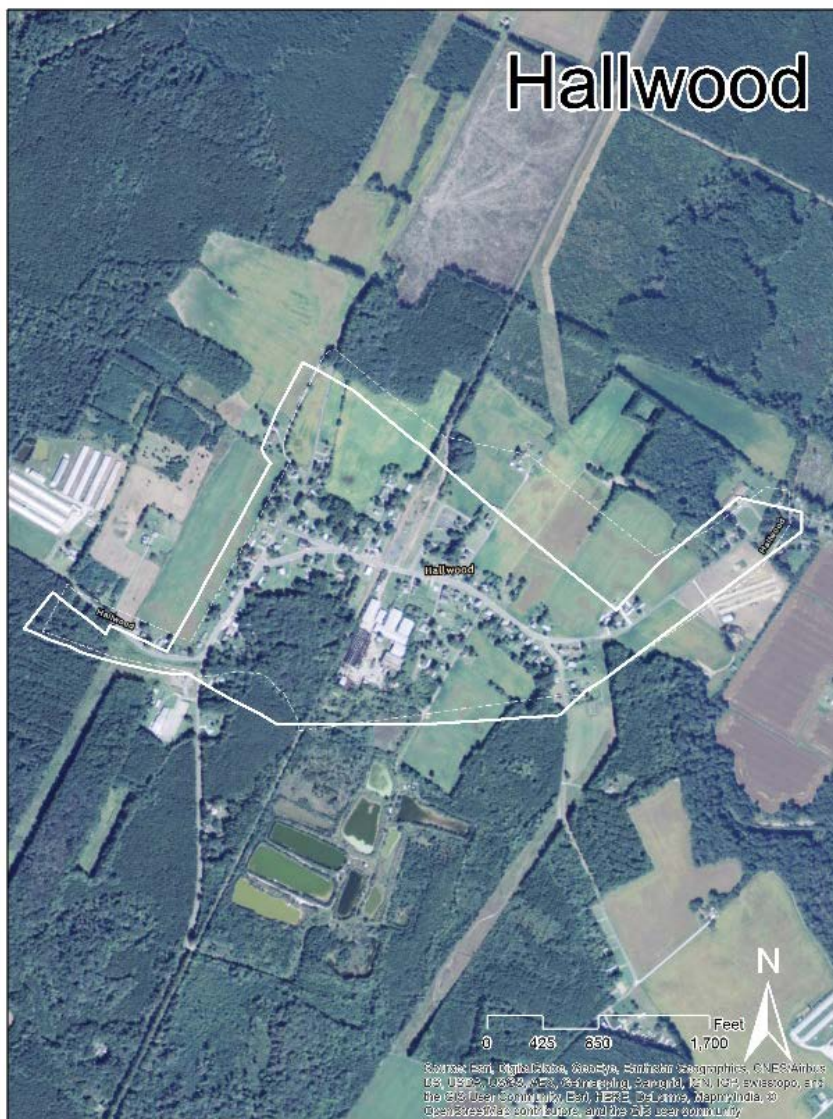


Figure 1 : Hallwood Satellite Imagery

SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Part of assessing hazards in relation to their risk is understanding the people affected. Not all people are affected equally. Some are affected by the factors that relating to their ability to understand risks posed by hazards, and some by their ability to remove themselves from harm’s way. Those factors include age, mobility, income and the languages individuals speak and the languages in which individuals are able to access information.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The 2010 Census indicated the Town had a population of 206, which is a 29.0% decline from the 290 people that lived in the Town during the 2000 Census. The new populations as estimated by the American Community Survey are almost double the 2000 Census figures. The Town Council indicated that the population is most likely about the same as it was in 2010 (Town Council, personal communication, June 2, 2016). The median age for residents in Hallwood in 2014 was 34.0 years. This signifies a younger age than the county, state, and national average. According to the American Community Survey 5-year estimates for 2014, almost 50% of the households in Hallwood have one or more people under 18 and almost 40% with one or more people 60 years and over. Typically younger populations are lower risk populations during a hazardous event, however this low median age seems to be indicative of a large number of children, who require additional aid and attention during emergency situations.

Table 1 : Hallwood Demographic Information

	2010*	2000**
Population	206	290
Median Age (Years)	40.5	32.0
Disability	NA	NA
Income		
Median Household Income	\$21,250	\$29,861
Poverty Level	53.6%	NA
Language		
Only English	91.4%	NA
Other	8.6%	NA
Spanish	4.6%	NA
Ind-Euro	0.4%	NA
Asian	3.5%	NA

* U.S. Census 2010, ** U.S. Census 2000

WORK FORCE

Employment patterns are important to examine for two reasons. They can help to identify concentrations of people for hazard information dissemination or hazard rescue and evacuation. Additionally, they can identify where disruptions in employment and income might occur in the aftermath of a disaster.

The Town is primarily a residential community with the majority of employed residents commuting out of Town to work. Several major employers are located near Hallwood including NASA, Accomack County Public Schools, and Tyson and Perdue poultry processing plants. There are also some agricultural lands, but the small fisheries operation just outside of the Town’s corporate limits is no longer operating (Town Council, personal communications, June 2, 2016).

Table 2 : Hallwood Workforce

Civilian Employed Population						
Industry	2014*		2010*		2000**	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Agriculture, forestry, fishing/hunting, or mining	5	4.7%	4	2.9%	14	10.6%
Construction	10	9.3%	5	3.7%	4	3.0%
Manufacturing	18	16.8%	41	30.1%	22	16.7%
Wholesale trade	6	5.6%	3	2.2%	10	7.6%
Retail trade	16	15.0%	12	8.8%	16	12.1%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	3	2.8%	3	2.2%	7	5.3%
Information	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	9	6.8%
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rentals	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	1.5%
Professional, scientific, waste management	16	15.0%	11	8.1%	10	7.6%
Educational and health care services	17	15.9%	30	22.1%	20	15.2%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, food	2	1.9%	8	5.9%	6	4.5%
Public Admin	2	1.9%	11	8.1%	2	1.5%
Other	12	11.2%	8	5.9%	10	7.6%
TOTAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYED POPULATION	107	-	136	-	136	-

Source: * American Community Survey, 2010 – 2014; ** U.S. Census 2000

BUSINESSES

Business data provides basic information used in projecting potential economic losses from business and employment disruption, along with wage losses to employees. It can also serve as an indicator of community recovery resources. Finally, it can help to prioritize restoration of utility and infrastructure functions following a high-intensity hazard.

According to Table 3, the Town has seen a steadily declining business presence over the last five years, but the number of employees has remained somewhat constant. Due to its residential nature, most businesses in the town focus on retail and health care. Economic activity within the Town includes a post office, a small grocery store, a pool hall, and a wedding shop (*Hallwood Town Plan, 2001*).

Table 3 : Hallwood Business Types

Industry Code Description	Total Establishments		
	2013	2011	2009
Construction	1	2	3
Retail Trade	2	1	1
Transportation and warehousing	0	0	1
Finance and insurance	0	0	1
Health Care and Social Assistance	1	2	2
Other Services (Except Public Admin)	1	1	1
Total, All Establishments	5	6	9
Total Employees	39	32	35

Source: Census Zip Code Business Patterns, 2013

BUILT INFRASTRUCTURE

Housing units, community facilities, and transportation are all important factors when considering hazard resiliency. They provide the social services necessary during hazardous scenarios, safe cover for those wanting to stay, and a way to leave towards safety.

HOUSING UNITS

Knowledge of a community’s housing base contributes to hazard and vulnerability analysis by identifying how many homes are at risk. Vehicles available to households is one indicator of a household’s ability to evacuate when necessary.

The new estimates of housing units from the American Community Survey should be ignored as gross over estimates. Town representatives indicated that there are 86 liveable structures, only about 3 of which are unoccupied (Town Council, personal communications, June 2, 2016). The Town does have some dilapidated structures, and has expressed interest in their removal, however, neither the Town nor residents have the resources necessary to do so (Town Council, personal communication, June 2, 2016). Often unoccupied houses are not properly maintained and can cause additional debris hazards during high wind events.

Table 4: Hallwood Housing

	2014*	2010**	2000***
Total Housing Units	170	108	121
Occupied	130	74	100
Vacant	40	34	21
Owner-Occupied	87	49	75
Renter-Occupied	43	25	25
Median Housing Value	104,800	NA	NA

Source: * American Community Survey, 2010 – 2014, ** U.S. Census 2010, *** U.S. Census 2000

TRANSPORTATION

State Route 692 provides east-west access, and State Route 779 provides north-south access to the Town, which is located less than two miles west of U.S. Route 13. The Eastern Shore Railroad runs through Town twice daily, once in each direction. A railroad siding owned by the Railroad Company is located within Hallwood’s corporate limits (*Hallwood Town Plan*, 2001). Although it does not have a stop within Town limits, it poses a potential hazard risk as it transports propane or could serve as an aid in evacuating residents during or following an emergency.

Table 5: Hallwood Vehicles Available per Households

Vehicles Available	2014*	2010**	2000***
None	3	11	6
One	51	95	43
Two	47	41	37
Three or more	29	17	18

* American Community Survey, 2010 – 2014, ** American Community Survey, 2006-2010, *** U.S. Census 2000

The measure of vehicles available to households is one indicator of a household’s ability to evacuate when necessary. As of 2014, it is estimated that only about 2% of the Town’s occupied residences are without a vehicle,

while Town representatives estimate that all housing units have at least one vehicle (Town Council, personal communication, June 2, 2016). Stop number 21 for Star Transit’s Orange Line southbound and Silver Line northbound is the Hallwood Post Office, which provides additional transportation options for residents of the Town.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Community facilities support the services and functions provided by the Town government or in coordination with other public and private entities. These facilities enhance the overall quality of life for the Town and its citizens. It is important to note what facilities are available in case of a hazard, and it is important to make an inventory of facilities that could be affected by a hazard. Community facilities include a public recreation facility, The Hallwood Town Park. There is also a Town Hall and Post Office (*Hallwood Town Plan, 2001*).

PUBLIC SAFETY

There are no public safety facilities in the Town. The Bloxom Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection for the Town, and the Bloxom Rescue squad provides ambulance service. The Accomack County Sheriff’s Department and the Virginia State Police provide police protection (*Hallwood Town Plan, 2001*). The Fire Department is equipped with two full-time employees, many active volunteers, three trucks (two large sprayers and one high truck), brush truck, and two ambulances (Bloxom Mayor Scott Callander, Personal Communication, January 25, 2016).

PARKS AND RECREATION

The Hallwood Town Park was built in 1984 and includes a picnic pavilion and tennis courts and is the only public recreational facility in the Town (*Hallwood Town Plan, 2001*).

WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER

Residents rely on private wells and septic systems for their water supply and wastewater disposal (*Hallwood Town Plan, 2001*). In the past, poor soils limited development on vacant parcels of land in Hallwood, but above-ground septic technologies have made some previously undevelopable parcels available for development. Hallwood is located in Wellhead Protection Area B – Tysons Foods Area. Major water withdrawers from this area are Tyson Foods and the NASA Wallops Flight Facility. This wellhead protection area contains Accomack County’s Northern Landfill and an unlined septage lagoon, which constitute the greatest visible contamination threats (*Hallwood Town Plan, 2001*).

SOLID WASTE

There are no solid waste facilities in the Town. The Town contracts with Davis Disposal for weekly residential trash collection, which is transported to a county landfill.

POWER AND COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

The electric power substation just south of Town and the northern location of Hallwood may contribute the very low occurrences of power outages and the fast response of repair efforts. The longest recent outage recollected was during Hurricane Sandy, but only affected a small number of homes and only last about four hours. (Town Council, personal communication, June 2, 2016)

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

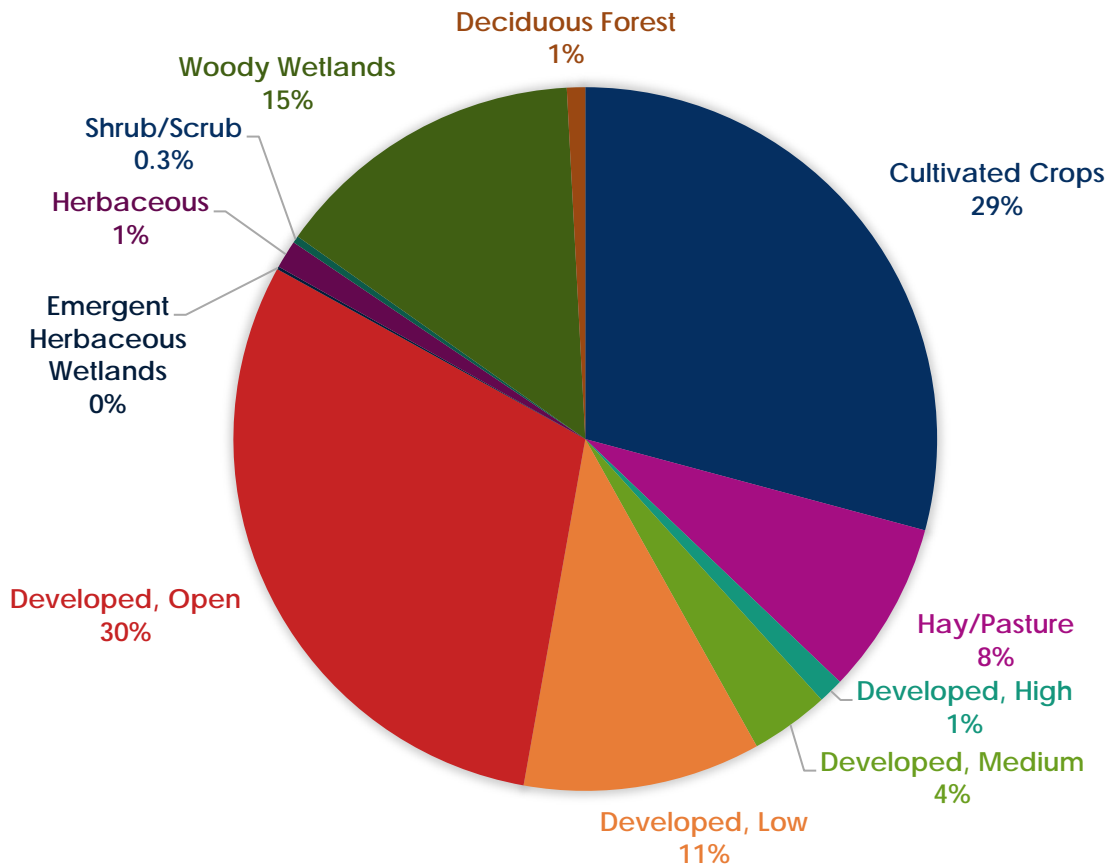
Town of Hallwood

Hallwood is relatively flat with the elevation ranging from 15 feet above mean sea level to 25 feet above mean sea level with a general downward slope from east to west. Slopes are under 2% for the majority of the Town, which can lead to flooding problems due to poor drainage. Adding to these flooding problems are the presence of hydric soils which are characteristically wet and poorly drained. The soils are not suitable for septic systems due to the hydric, highly permeable soils and have a shallow to ground water table, between 0 – 18 inches (*Hallwood Town Plan, 2001*).

LAND USE LAND COVER

The total land area of Hallwood is 234 acres, with the majority of development being residential. Developed areas are scattered throughout the Town. Agricultural land use is prevalent in the north and northeast parts of the Town. Cultivated crops include tomatoes, soybeans, grains, and cover crops. Land adjacent to the Town is predominantly agricultural (*Hallwood Town Plan, 2001*).

Figure 2: Hallwood Land Use Land Cover Percentages



Source: USGS, National Land Cover Dataset, 2011

HAZARD PREPAREDNESS & COMMUNITY CAPABILITIES

PREVIOUS HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

Hallwood has participated in the hazard mitigation planning process since 2011. The Town’s primary risk is associated with storm water flooding. Hallwood’s comprehensive plan has not received a major update since 2001, and the zoning ordinance was adopted in 1993. The comprehensive plan further emphasizes the need for storm water management practices, and also emphasizes a concern for failing septic systems, underground and aboveground storage tanks, and contamination of wells.

Table 6: Hallwood Hazard Mitigation Resources

	Ordinances, Plans, & Publications														Resources, Committees				
Authority	Building Code	Chesapeake Bay Act	SWMP	Hazard Mitigation Plan	Comprehensive Plan	Zoning Ordinance	Storm Water Regulations	Transportation Infrastructure Inundation Vulnerability Report	All Hazards Preparedness	Emergency Operations Plans	Mutual Aid	Neighborhood Emergency Help	Virginia Hurricane Evacuation	Oil & HazMat Response Plan; HazMat Commodity Flow	Ground Water Committee	Navigable Waterways Committee	Climate Adaptation Working Group	ES Disaster Preparedness Coalition	
Local					*	*													
County	*		*																
Regional								*	*	*	*		*		*	*	*	*	
State		*				*						*							
Federal	*																		

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM & HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

NFIP

The July 2003 NFIP insurance report showed that there were 6 A zone policies within the Town and no claims for flood damage had been made. These 6 policyholders were probably paying more than they should for flood insurance since they are no longer in an A zone. In 2016, Hallwood had only 1 NFIP policy, for a property not located within a flood zone, totaling \$350,000.00 in coverage (FEMA NFIP Insurance Report, 2016). The Town has had only one claim that was rewarded \$4,293 since joining the NFIP in 2000 (FEMA NFIP Insurance Report, January 2016). This claim was the result of storm water flooding as a result of thunderstorm in 2003. The Town does not participate in the Community Ranking System (CRS).

Table 7: Summary of Hallwood's Past NFIP participation

	HMP 2006	HMP 2011	HMP 2016
Date Joined	May 1, 2001	May 1, 2001	May 1, 2001
Policies	6	2	1
Policy Dollar Amount	Overcharged	\$364,400	\$350,000
Claims	NA	1	1
Claims Dollar Amount	NA	\$4,923	\$4,923

Source: The Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2016, 2011, 2006

HMGP

The Town has not participated in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

HAZARD PROFILE

Storm water flooding has the greatest and most frequent impact on the Town.

HIGH WIND

No parts of the Town lie in the wind borne debris hazard area. This area extends 1-mile inland from the shoreline. The Town lies in the 110 – 120 mph design wind zone (Accomack County Building Code).

Most of the residential areas are older and have mature trees in and around the homes. During a high wind event, falling branches or trees may damage structures or power lines. Figure 3 below shows the 2016 Hazus® estimates by Census block for wind damages during a 100-year storm. Total losses from buildings, contents, wages, incomes, rentals, and inventories is estimated to be about \$166,000, the vast majority of this sum being derived from the building and content damages.

During a high wind event, abandoned dilapidated buildings pose a threat, as they add to the debris that can become wind-borne and inflict severe property damages. Town representatives estimate that the rusty, no-longer used water tower on the property of the old fishery canning facility is over 75 years old, and thus poses an additional hazard (Town Council, personal communication, June 2, 2016).

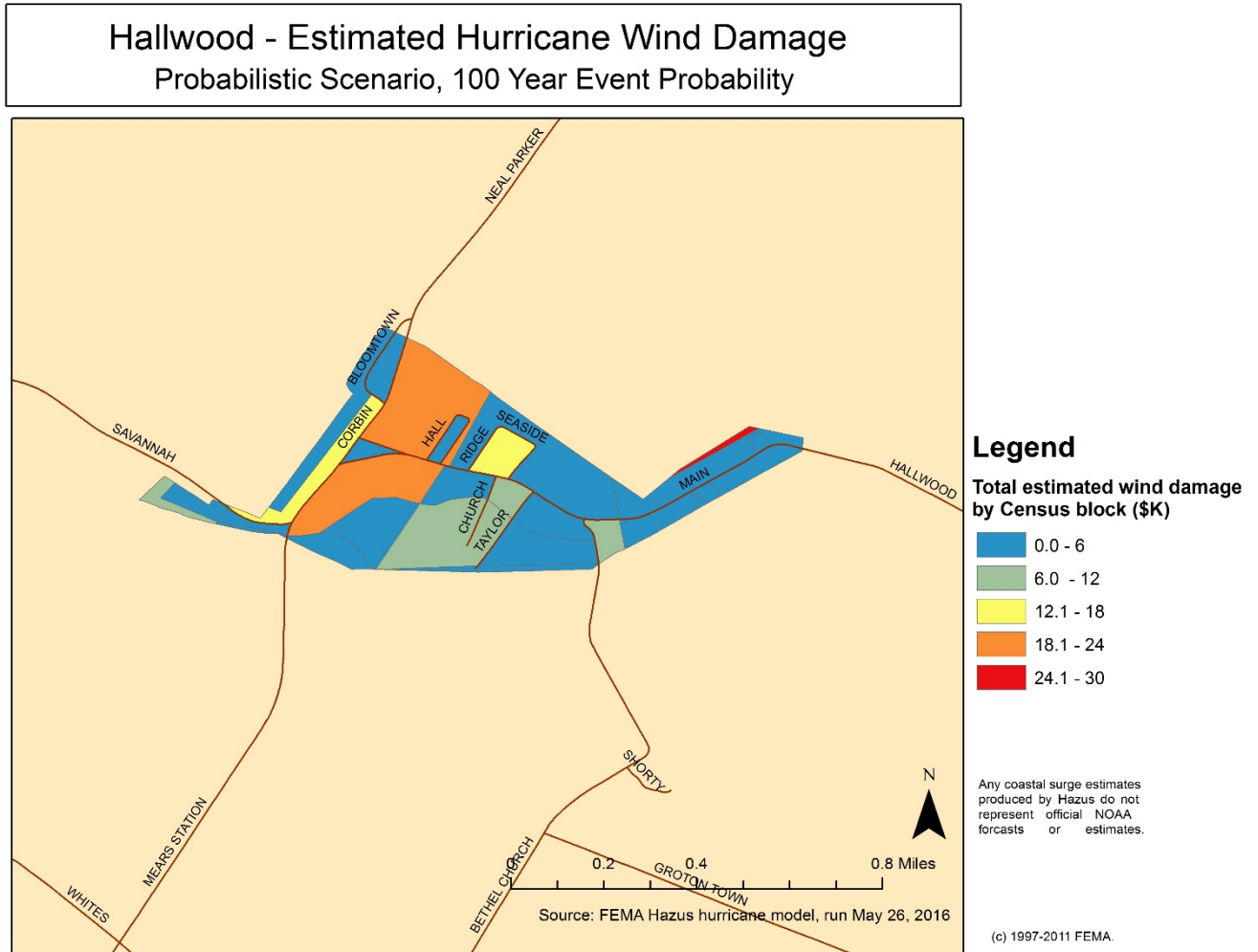


Figure 3 : Hallwood Estimated Hurricane Wind Damage

COASTAL EROSION

No structures or areas within the Town are at immediate risk to coastal erosion.

COASTAL FLOODING

No portions of the Town lie within a Special Flood Hazard Area. One very small area in the southwestern corner of the Town is located within the 500-year floodplain (FEMA FIRMs, 2015). Previous FIRMs included the western two-thirds of the Town within the 500-year floodplain. While a significant portion of the Town is no longer included in the 500-year floodplain according to the 2015 FIRMs, the threat of coastal flooding is still considered to be minimal.

STORM WATER FLOODING

Storm water flooding has the greatest and most frequent impact on the Town. The Town on poorly drained soils which retain rainwater. During heavy rains the Town’s roads are often flooded and floodwaters have historically rushed down the main street in Town causing damaged to property (*Hallwood Town Plan, 2001*). The Town relies

Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan

on VDOT for the maintenance of ditches along roadways throughout the Town, but Town representatives indicated that there has been no maintenance of any of the ditches or culverts in many years (Town Council, personal communications, June 2, 2016). During Hurricane Sandy, one home at the junction of Fitzgerald and Main suffered from storm water flooding to the extent that the furnace was ruined.

Educating residents about the risks associated with storm water flooding and standing water, such as septic contaminants and mosquito-borne illnesses, is an important step in mitigating potential negative impacts to the Town residents.

Table 8: Hallwood Storm Water Flooding Tracking

	HMP 2006	HMP 2011	HMP 2016
Cause of Hazard	NA	Unsuitable soil for drainage and retains rainwater	Culverts running beneath VDOT roadways are too small; Soil type
Where is the flooding?	NA	Throughout the Town	Adjacent to the RxR, past Bethel Church Road, particularly on Main Street

HAZARDS OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

The residential wells in the Town are also potentially at risk of contamination from aboveground and underground petroleum storage tanks (AST and UST). Most homes in the Town are heated by oil, which is stored in these tanks. If not properly maintained, ASTs and USTs can pose a significant water quality risk to the Town. In addition, residential water supplies can also be threatened by failing septic systems, which the majority of residences operate for waste disposal.

Winter snow and ice storms have historically had adverse impacts on the Town including damage to trees and power lines and making roads impassable. A winter storm struck in late December 2010 creating blizzard-like whiteout conditions and extensive snow drifting that blocked roadways and prevented accessibility to and from the Town.

The Town does not have a fire department and relies on the fire departments of neighboring communities. This puts the Town at greater risk for fire damage. Specifically, there are numerous fields in the vicinity of the Town that are prone to catching fire, especially during droughts. These fires have the potential of spreading to residences in the Town.

CRITICAL FACILITIES

The following table lists the critical facilities and their relative importance to the Town.

Table 9 : Critical Town Facilities in Hallwood

Facility	Hazards	No of People Affected	Loss potential	Relocation Potential	Retrofit Potential
Town Hall	Storm Water Flooding Wind	206	Major Disruption	No	Yes
Post Office	Storm Water Flooding	206	Major Disruption	No	Yes

Town of Hallwood

	Wind				
Town Park	Wind	206	Inconvenience	No	No

FINDINGS

1. The hazards expected to have the greatest impact on Hallwood are storm water flooding and high wind events, which have been experienced throughout the Town’s history. Other significant hazards facing the Town are ground water contamination, fires, snow or ice storms.
2. Hallwood’s residential areas are typically older and contain older construction and many mature trees around homes and churches in the Town. In addition there are some dilapidated buildings and water tower that are no longer in use. High wind events bringing down branches and trees pose a significant threat in the form of secondary wind damage and power outages and unmaintained structures provide a source of wind-borne debris.
3. Undersized drainage pipes exist within Town that regularly cause storm water to back up causing flood damages to structures within Town.