**COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SERIES** *SESSION HANDOUT*

| *DATA AND STORYTELLING MODULE*  In this module, community participants engage in a co-learning experience that supports community-led data analysis. Community participants are led through learning activities that facilitate their ability to interpret flood sensor data and communicate their findings through creative storytelling. | | | |
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**\*READ ME FIRST\***

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**Session Objectives**

At the end of this module, participants will be able to:

1. discuss, assess, and reflect on their personal experiences with flooding in their neighborhoods;
2. engage in quantitative data review and basic analysis;

**Key Vocabulary**

| Analysis\* | a detailed examination of anything complex in order to understand its nature or to determine its essential features : a thorough study |
| --- | --- |
| Data/Data collection\* | factual information (such as measurements or statistics) used as a basis for reasoning, discussion, or calculation |
| Depth\* | the perpendicular measurement downward from a surface |
| Flood\* | a rising and overflowing of a body of water especially onto normally dry land |
| Flood Sensor | a small device, mounted to a street sign or utility pole, that takes an ultrasonic distance measurement once per minute, used by FloodNet to quantify street level flood depth |
| Storytelling | “...how we learn about our world, about ethical living, about history, about ourselves.”\*\*  “Storytelling is taking the truth of the world, and wrapping it into an emotional, honest experience that the audience can relate to.”\*\*\* |

*\*“Merriam-Webster: America’s Most Trusted Dictionary.”*

*\*\*Ensign, Josephine. “Storytelling for Policy Advocacy.” JOSEPHINE ENSIGN (blog), May 11, 2014.* [*https://josephineensign.com/2014/05/10/storytelling-for-policy-advocacy/*](https://josephineensign.com/2014/05/10/storytelling-for-policy-advocacy/)*.*

*\*\*\*“Using Storytelling to Promote Public Health: A Webinar on Why It Works and How to Do It | CDC Foundation,” February 7, 2022.* [*https://www.cdcfoundation.org/blog/using-storytelling-promote-public-health-webinar-why-it-works-and-how-do-it*](https://www.cdcfoundation.org/blog/using-storytelling-promote-public-health-webinar-why-it-works-and-how-do-it)*.*

**Discussion Questions**

Check-in: What tools do you currently use to understand and learn about your neighborhood? What community resources do you know of that help you share news and information about neighborhood issues to others?

Group Activity 1: *Data Dashboard Scavenger Hunt*: Split into small groups and begin learning about the data dashboard and its features. Use your dashboard checklist to follow along and identify key features on the platform.

Group Reflection 1: Where were you during the rain event on September 29th, 2023? What do you remember?

Core Activity 1: In groups of 3-4, participants will review printouts of FloodNet dashboard data from a past flood event (that has also been covered in the media). Groups should expect to discuss the below questions and write down their ideas, thoughts, and questions. Share out.

1. What do you see on the data?
2. What does this information tell you about the conditions on the street in question?
3. Look up this event on your device. Does the data tell a story similar to what you have found in your online search?
4. How could you use this data to speak to your neighbors? Local politicians? Community groups?

Closing: Based on our discussion, review, and reflection, what are your final takeaways about the relationship between flooding, your experience, and research?

**Data Dashboard Checklist**

As part of Group Activity 1, use the following checklist to identify key features on the FloodNet data dashboard. What have you learned? What do you notice?

Key Dashboard Features

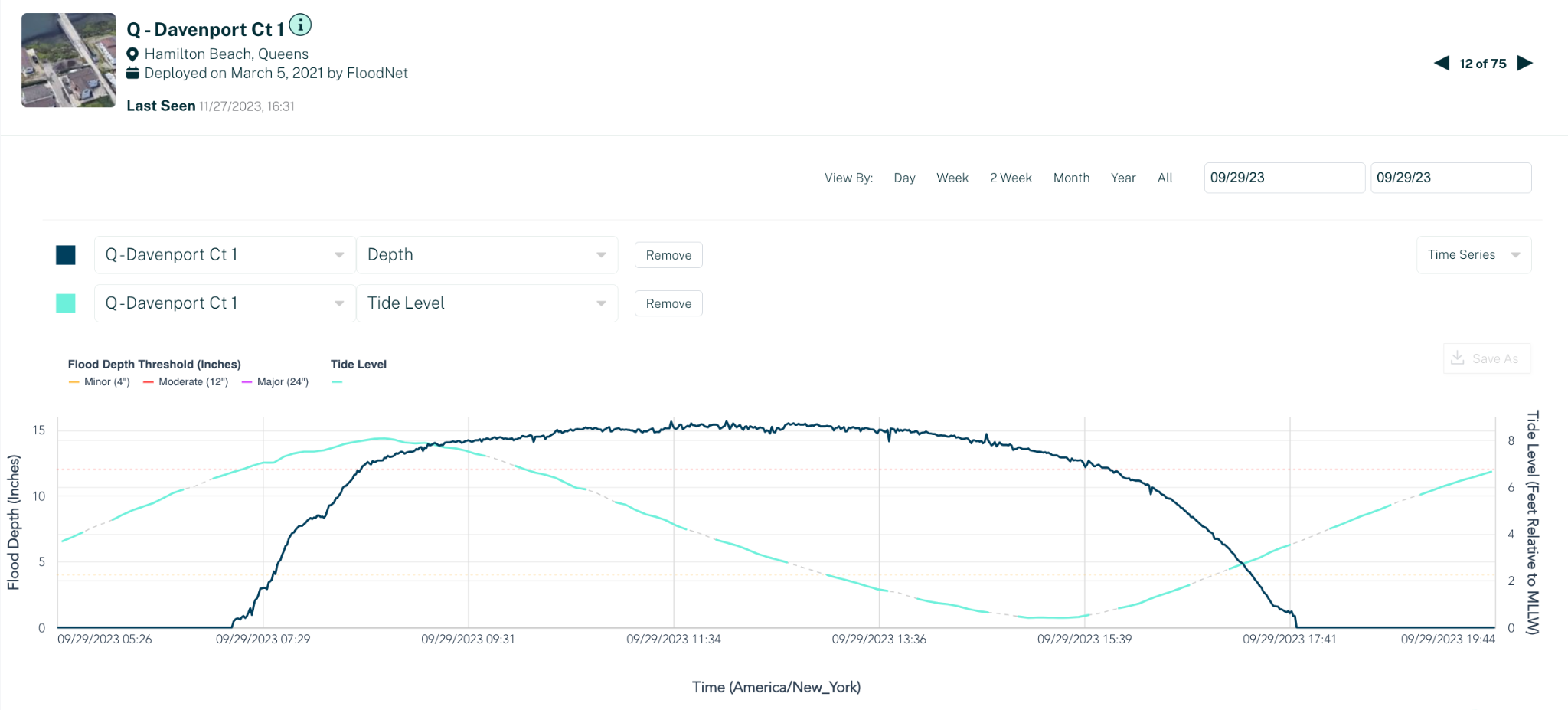
*Landing Page*

* Flood depth dashboard key
* An inactive sensor
* An active sensor
* A sensor with a nonzero reading
* Pop-up box to view sensor data from past two days
* Toggle for ‘List’ view
* Link to Community Flood Watch Project

*Dataview Page*

* Sensor name, location, and deployment date
* Events & Comments section of sensor profile
* Precipitation and/or tide data
* Sensor data from 9/29/23–was there a flood at this sensor?

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**Final Assessment (or Take-Home)**

Write a short story based on your understanding of the data you reviewed, group discussion, and your experience during the flood event in question. The goal is to convince a selected audience of a message of your choosing. Participants choose their own audience and use this to guide their writing and their tone.

Potential message(s):

* More engagement with weather
* Raising awareness about climate change
* Neighborhood level improvements
* Education about flooding and flood impacts
* Advocacy for more tools to respond to flooding
* Use of data in social media and other marketing

Potential audience(s):

* Parents and neighbor
* Your school principal
* Your local council member
* The DEP Commissioner and the NYC Mayor