

NCSP-LDC Water Level criteria for operating safety patrols

Water Levels – Water height is highly relevant in the Lower Delaware section of the river for three reasons:

1. High water can inundate the riverbanks and islands where flooded trees and vegetation can create what are known as “strainers”. Strainers are very, very dangerous and can trap boats and people under water.
2. High water changes the characteristics of the rapids on the Delaware. Some “wash out” while others become more dangerous.
3. The quantity of water hazards such as large trees, lumber, logs, parts of man made objects such as docks float down the river at a faster rate making it difficult to see and/or navigate around. This floating debris can create a very dangerous situation.

Measurement from Delaware River at Tocks Island NJ gauge ([USGS 01440200](#))

1. At **average** water levels between 4-6 ft (or below) – NCSP-LDC will provide safety patrols.
2. At water: 7-feet and above (or trending toward 7 feet), The NCSP-LDC will not provide safety patrols.

(It is especially important to note that high water rescues endanger the people making the rescue).