MAJOR STORM EVENTS IMPACTING THE BOROUGH OF MANTOLOKING

1920  Sleet Storm of February 1920. Little development, photographed a few days later as the earliest use of aerial coastal photography. An extensive dune scarp was cut into the dunes across the entire municipal beachfront.

1929  Northeast Storm producing extensive damage in Bay Head where development had proceeded along the oceanfront. Dunes in Mantoloking heavily scarped.
1938  Hurricane passage to impact in Rhode Island, wave erosion along the NJ shoreline.

1944  Hurricane passage by the NJ shoreline, close, but no eye impact.

The tracks paralleled a wide avenue from Seaside Park to Point Pleasant where train passengers saw some cars marooned and others navigating through two feet of water. Brown observed “all manner of objects floating, boards, trees, chairs. At Normandy Beach, there was still light enough to see; at this point, the strip of land separating bay from ocean is only about 200 yards wide and the ocean was breaking though the dunes and rushing down the streets into the bay. We saw what appeared to be a small tidal wave break through, and sweeping a fence before it, come charging in our direction. For the next several miles, the water was level with the bottom steps of our train, and it was difficult to know whether we were on land or sea. By the time we reached Mantoloking, all lights were out of commission. We were thankful to reach Point Pleasant only 25 minutes late”. One and a half miles of Bay Head’s boardwalk washed two blocks west.

This a quote from a train passenger who commuted home from Camden to Point Pleasant via Toms River, to Seaside Park, then up the beach to Point Pleasant passing through Mantoloking during the 1944 hurricane’s impact on the shoreline. Great Storms of the Jersey Shore  Larry Savadove & Margaret Thomas Buchholz, 1993
1962 “Good Friday” Northeaster. This 5-day storm produced the most damage ever recorded along the NJ shoreline (250,000,000 in 1962 dollars)

1992 Northeast Storm cut a 12-foot vertical scarp in the dunes resulting in the institution of the 1992 dune scarp building set back ordinance. A number of homes showed their seaward foundation footings on the beach. This was the last State-wide Federal Disaster Declaration.