



City of Jacksonville Information

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For Immediate Release

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Flood Protection & Hurricane Safety

Hurricane Season Began June 1 – Prepare Now

This document is part of a public information **OUTREACH PROJECT** sponsored by the City of Jacksonville. The purpose is to raise public awareness of the local flood risk and to educate the public as to measures they can implement to reduce flood losses.

The citizens of Jacksonville are at the greatest flood threat risk from hurricanes, seasonal storms and the tides generated by these storms. Jacksonville is a low lying coastal city bordering the New River and many properties within Jacksonville are subject to flooding. During storms, low lying areas along the New River and other tributaries are inundated by the rising river levels. The downtown area along the New River is especially prone to this type of flooding. Other areas of Jacksonville are extremely flat and as a result, subject to flash flooding during heavy rainfall events. The northern and eastern sections of the City are at risk to this type of flooding.

Floodplain Development Permits

Many properties within the corporate limits of Jacksonville are located within designated flood zones. The City maintains flood zone maps that are used to determine the flood zone designation of a particular property. Any development work in a flood hazard area needs a local permit to ensure the work will not worsen the effects of flooding and that the structure is protected from flood hazards. Development projects subject to permits include, but are not limited to: new structures, changes to existing structures, grading, filling, etc. For more information regarding permits, please call the City of Jacksonville Engineering Division at (910) 938-5249.



Flood Warning System

Flood warnings are broadcast to warn residents of impending flooding conditions. In this area, warning is available from: Local Radio Stations • Local TV Stations • NOAA Weather Radio.

Flood Insurance

Properties located within the designated 1% flood zone and subject to federally supported mortgages are required to be protected with flood insurance. Owners of properties free of encumbrances should also strongly consider having this valuable protection. **It is important to know that a standard homeowner's policy does not cover flood losses and there is a 30-day waiting period for flood insurance policies to become effective.** Property owners considering flood insurance should consult their local insurance agents or brokers for details regarding qualification requirements, coverage and cost. Acquiring or having available a current elevation certificate properly prepared by a Professional Land Surveyor and on approved FEMA certificate form is an essential element of the application process. This form should also be maintained on record with the City of Jacksonville Engineering Division.

The following chart lists the amounts of maximum coverage available to property owners:

Building Coverage		Contents Coverage	
Single Family	\$250,000	Residential	\$100,000
Other Residential	\$250,000		
Non-Residential	\$500,000	Non-Residential	\$500,000
Small Business	\$500,000	Small Business	\$500,000

Flood Safety

The following information and suggested activities are important to you if you either own property or are a resident living within the corporate limits of Jacksonville or surrounding area:

- ✓ Review your insurance policies and coverage. Are you protected against flooding?
- ✓ Inventory and store all personal property in a waterproof container. Prepare a list, description and take photos of items of value.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with local media stations for forecasts and emergency instructions. Be knowledgeable of evacuation routes and shelters available to you and have plans for all family members as to how to evacuate and where to meet if split up during an emergency.
- ✓ Be prepared to perform simple first aid techniques if required to in an emergency situation and have adequate first aid supplies available.
- ✓ Be sure that your preparation includes: non-preparatory/non-perishable food supplies, personal medication, battery operated lights and radios, battery supplies, sanitary supplies, fresh bottled drinking water, sleeping bags/blankets and wet/cold weather clothing. Keep your car serviced and full of gas. Make arrangements for pet care.
- ✓ If evacuation becomes necessary, be sure that you turn off all utility services at the main connection.
- ✓ Avoid flooded areas. Do not try to drive or walk through flooded roads or paths. If your car becomes stalled in a flooded area, abandon it and seek high ground immediately.
- ✓ If you are forced to a shelter facility, be sure to take along your own supplies and necessities and important documents. Be willing to assist shelter workers as needed. Do your part to maintain the cleanliness and sanitation of the facility.

Drainage System Maintenance

A community can lose a portion of its drainage system carrying or storage capacity due to dumping of debris, sedimentation or an over growth of vegetation. When this happens, flooding is more likely. To minimize risk, the City enforces regulations that prevent illegal dumping of materials in drainage systems. Furthermore, City forces periodically inspect and maintain the drainage system to prevent blockages. To report illegal dumping or to request storm system maintenance, please call the City's Streets Division at (910) 938-5333.

Property Protection Measures

Every year, flooding causes more property damage in the United States than any other type of natural disaster. While recent construction practices and regulations have made new homes less prone to flooding, many existing structures remain susceptible. Throughout the country there is growing interest from property owners to develop practical and cost effective methods for reducing or eliminating exposures to flooding. Several effective ways include acquisition and relocation of a building to a site not subject to flooding, construction of a levee, reservoir or dam to keep water away from the property or retrofitting. Retrofitting is a different approach from the other methods because the property itself remains subject to flooding while the building is modified to prevent or minimize damage to the habitable space.

There are several approaches to retrofitting.

- Elevation of the structure above flood level.
- Construction of barriers (floodwalls, berms. etc.)
- Dry floodproofing (water tight floor and wall systems.)
- Wet floodproofing (constructing the flood prone areas so as to permit entry and passage of flood waters with minimal damage).

In the event of pending flood threats, it is always advisable to take the following emergency actions:

- Sand bagging to reduce erosion or scouring.
- Elevate furniture above anticipated flood levels.
- Create floodway openings in non-habitable areas such as garages.
- Seal off sewer lines to the dwelling to prevent the backflow of wastewater.

For More Information please contact:
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