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FLOODING IN NEW HANOVER COUNTY

You are receiving this brochure because land you own or rent is in or near the flood hazard area as mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



EMERGENCY PREPARATION & EVACUATION
New Hanover County Emergency Management
(910) 798-6900



Numerous materials concerning flooding, flood-proofing and construction techniques can be found **at the reference desk of the County's main library, 201 Chestnut Street (910) 798-6301**



FLOOD MAPS & BUILDING IN THE FLOODPLAIN
New Hanover County Inspections
(910) 798-7118

Flood hazard areas are typically low-lying properties near streams, creeks, rivers and/or estuarine areas that have the potential for flooding. A map of New Hanover County's Special Flood Hazard Area is on the back of this brochure. This area has a *1% chance* of flooding in any given year.

The Benefits of Floodplains

Floodplains naturally store and convey floodwaters and regulate water flows into rivers and lakes. They also maintain water quality and recharge groundwater aquifers. Floodplains can support large, diverse populations of plants and animals as well as provide historical, scientific, recreational, and economic benefits to communities.

I LIVE IN A FLOODPLAIN — DO CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS DIFFER FROM PROPERTIES NOT IN A FLOODPLAIN?

County building regulations require additional construction standards for new structures or substantial improvements to existing structures in floodplains. Some construction standards include raising the lowest enclosed floor above flood levels, floodproofing and anchoring. Please remember that any type of development in a floodplain, including land filling and excavation, may require a permit. This is to ensure that drainage is maintained and wetlands are preserved.

DO I NEED SPECIAL INSURANCE IF MY PROPERTY IS IN THE FLOODPLAIN?

In order to obtain financing to buy, build, or improve property in the floodplain, *Federal law requires that you obtain flood insurance.* Damage caused by flooding IS NOT covered by normal homeowner's insurance.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY HOME FROM FLOODING?

Make sure the main electric switchbox, electric outlets and switches, washers & dryers, & furnaces & water heaters are located at least 2' above the base flood elevation. Make sure any fuel tanks are anchored securely to the floor. Install sewer backflow valves to prevent sewage backups. Add waterproof veneer to exterior walls.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SEE SOMEONE DUMPING DEBRIS IN DITCHES OR STREAMS?

Dumping debris in ditches or streams impedes drainage and is *punishable by fine or imprisonment.* All violations should be reported to the **County Engineering Department at (910) 798-7139.** Violations involving forestry practices should be reported to the **N.C. Division of Forest Resources at (910) 251-5750.**

REMEMBER—PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM FLOODING SAVES LIVES AND MONEY!

BE PREPARED FOR A STORM

Have disaster supplies like flashlights, a battery-operated radio, a first aid kit, emergency food and water on hand. Bring outdoor belongings indoors. Have an emergency action plan. Stay tuned to local TV and radio stations. WAAV 980 AM
WMNX 97.3 FM
NOAA weather station KH31 162.55 MHZ
EVACUATE if asked to do so.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE IN A FLOOD

If indoors:

If told to evacuate, do so. If you cannot evacuate, go to the highest floor.

If outdoors:

Climb to high ground and stay there until help arrives. Avoid walking through floodwaters as they may sweep you off your feet.

If in a car:

If you approach a flooded area, turn around & go another way. If your car stalls in flood waters, abandon the car & immediately climb to higher ground.

REMEMBER: Flash floods can occur in minutes!

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230 Government Center Drive
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403
www.nhcgov.com

