



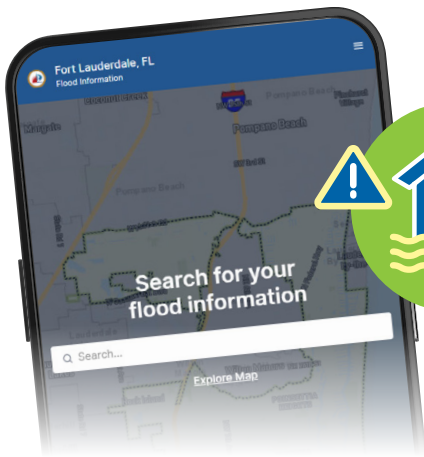
BE PREPARED FOR FLOODING

10 STEPS TO REDUCE YOUR FLOOD RISK

**Important information about
flood risk, preparedness and
resources available**



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE



1. KNOW YOUR FLOOD HAZARD

Regulated floodplains, including Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), are illustrated on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). SFHAs represent areas subject to flooding from the 1% annual chance flood. Properties located outside the SFHA are not guaranteed to be safe from flooding.

FIRMs are available for free public viewing online at fortlauderdalefl.withforerunner.com. The City's Floodplain Team provides free flood zone determinations for properties located within the city.

Email floodinfo@fortlauderdale.gov or call 954-828-6520 for more information.

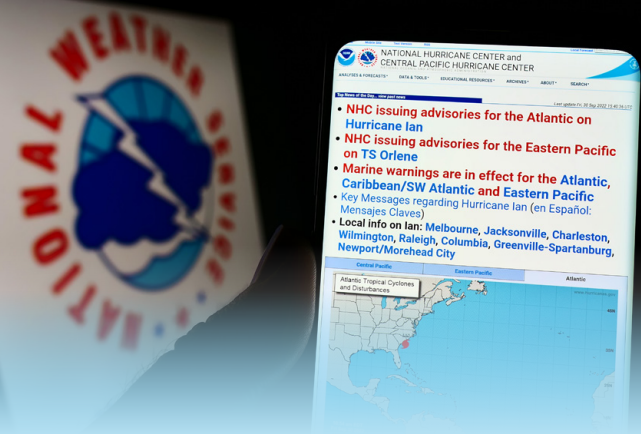


2. INSURE YOUR PROPERTY

Flooding is not covered by a standard homeowner's insurance policy.

Flood insurance is available to anyone. Homeowners can get up to \$250,000 of coverage and business owners can get up to \$500,000. Renters are encouraged to purchase flood insurance for the contents of their home and can obtain up to \$100,000 of coverage.

There is a 30-day waiting period before coverage goes into effect. Contact your insurance agent today for more information. Visit www.FloodSmart.gov or call 1-888-379-9531 for more information or help purchasing flood insurance.



3. PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY



Fort Lauderdale and Broward County Emergency Management receive weather notifications from the National Weather Service (NWS). If necessary, the Emergency Alert System will be activated. Take the following actions to ensure you receive alerts:

- Tune into local radio stations WIOD 610 AM or WFTL 850 AM
- Watch TV emergency broadcasts on Channel 4 (CBS), Channel 6 (NBC), Channel 7 (FOX), or Channel 10 (ABC).

Monitor city information via Cable Channel 78 (Comcast), Channel 99 (U-Verse), 1610 AM radio, and www.fortlauderdale.gov.

Stay safe during a flood:

- Turn off the power in your house at the main breaker. If you lose power, turn off all major appliances.
- Turn off gas and be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Do not smoke or use candles or open flames.
- Avoid low-lying areas. Seek shelter in the highest areas possible.
- Never attempt to drive through flooded streets. When driving, you don't know how deep the water is. As little as two feet of moving water can carry away most vehicles.



4. PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

There are many ways to minimize flooding.

- Move valuables, furniture, utilities, and appliances to higher floors or elevate them to minimize damage.
- If a flood is imminent, place sandbags in areas vulnerable to the entry of water.
- Consider elevating your structure if the first finished floor is lower than the Base Flood Elevation (BFE).
- Elevate electrical and mechanical equipment above the BFE.

If you need assistance, the City of Fort Lauderdale Floodplain Team will make a site visit to your property to provide advice regarding flooding and drainage issues and to recommend property protection techniques.

5. BUILD RESPONSIBLY



Work on private property may require a permit. Before you build on, alter, fill or re-grade on any portion of your property, check permitting requirements with the Development Services Department.

Report any suspected permit violations to the Building Services Division.

As part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), local code requires that if your structure is damaged or improved to an amount of 50% or more of the structure's market value, it must meet the construction requirements for a new building. This means all new and substantially improved buildings must be built with the lowest floor, including basement, elevated no lower than the BFE.

For more information, contact the Development Services Department at 954-828-6520.

6. PROTECT NATURAL FLOODPLAIN FUNCTIONS



Floodplains do more than enhance our natural surroundings. They absorb rain and floodwater, helping reduce the frequency and severity of flooding while managing stormwater runoff and minimizing water pollution.

Protect our floodplains and our drainage system. It is illegal to dump anything in the City's canals, ponds or lakes. Dumping materials, including yard waste, into our canals or drains pollutes our waterways and clogs the stormwater system. For questions or to report obstructions or violations, contact the City of Fort Lauderdale Customer Support Center at 954-828-8000.

7. GENERAL PREPAREDNESS



- Inventory and photograph your home's contents and store important papers and insurance policies in a safe place.
- Keep an emergency supply of non-perishable food, water, batteries, flashlights, a manual can opener and a battery-operated radio.
- Discuss your family emergency plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes. Make sure you know how you will contact one another, how you will reunite, and what you will do in case of an emergency or an evacuation order.

Visit www.Ready.gov/Plan for more flood preparedness resources.

8. HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Prepare for hurricane season.

- Know what to do in the event of a hurricane watch or warning.
- Prepare your home before a storm to reduce potential damage.
- Know what to do during an evacuation order, including your evacuation route and the locations of evacuation centers. Plan ahead for your pets.

Broward County Emergency Management will order or advise evacuations if conditions warrant this action. If evacuations are called for, it is imperative that you follow instructions in the time frame noted.

Visit fortlauderdale.gov/stormready for information on flood evacuation, hurricane preparedness, and to sign up for Alert FTL.





9. DON'T DRIVE THROUGH FLOODED STREETS

It is never safe to drive through floodwaters. Over half of flood-related deaths in the U.S. occur when vehicles are driven into floodwaters. Turn around, don't drown.

Fort Lauderdale has many unprotected canals, which can be indistinguishable from adjacent roadways when they are flooded. Floodwaters can also conceal drainage ditches, potholes, road damage, debris, and downed power lines.

If your car stalls in floodwater, get out of your vehicle and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. Just one foot of water can lift most cars, and two feet of water can carry away most vehicles, including large SUVs and pickup trucks.

Even in slow-moving or still water, driving through flooded streets pushes waves of water toward adjacent property, causing damage to nearby properties.

10. REDUCE STORMWATER RUNOFF

Install Low Impact Development (LID) techniques to help manage stormwater on site instead of allowing it to run off into the stormwater drainage system. LID techniques, such as rain barrels and permeable pavers, help reduce stormwater and flooding.

For more information about stormwater management techniques you can implement on your property, contact the Development Services Department at 954-828-6520.





CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

LEARN MORE

For more information about flood safety or the NFIP, please visit:

www.floodsmart.gov
www.ready.gov/floods
www.fema.gov

954-828-6520

If you would like this publication in an alternate format, please call (954) 828-4755 or email strategiccommunications@fortlauderdale.gov.