

FLOOD SAFETY



The force of water is easily underestimated. Here are some ways you can decrease the potential of injury due to flooding:

1. Stay alert to bulletins that warn of flooding.
2. Do not walk through flood waters. Six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. Drowning is the Number 1 cause of flood-related deaths.
3. "Turn Around, Don't Drown." More people drown in cars than anywhere else.
4. Do not drive through flood waters.
5. Do not drive around barriers: the road or bridge may be washed out.
6. Stay away from power and electrical lines. Electrical currents can travel through water.
7. Turn off electric circuits. Have the power company turn off your electricity.
8. Read and follow manufacturer's safety and operating manual before using a generator.
9. Shut off gas valves. Be alert for gas leaks. Don't smoke or use open flames unless you know that all gas has been ventilated.
10. Close shutters or cover windows.
11. If you are on the waterfront or in an area prone to flooding, plan to leave.
12. Know your evacuation route and have a flood plan ready.
13. Clean gutters and drains, so stormwater can drain to canals.

PROTECT THE FLOODPLAIN

Floodplains are a valuable resource. Properly maintained, they can provide storage for storm water, minimize the risk of flooding, provide habitat for wildlife, and improve water quality.

Dumping chemicals such as oil, paint, and pesticides can pollute storm water and destroy plants, endanger wildlife, and contaminate drinking water. **NEVER dump chemicals into storm drains or drainage canals.**

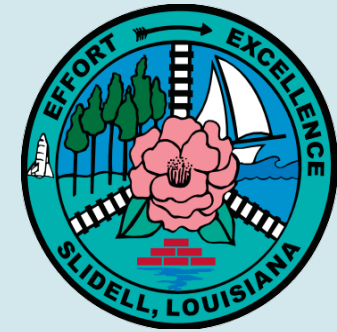
Slidell maintains an extensive storm drainage system that moves stormwater efficiently away from your property. **It is illegal to impede the flow of water into and along roadside ditches and canals.** Debris, leaves, and even grass clippings can obstruct the flow of water and cause flood water to collect on streets and cause backwater flooding into yards.



Before making any site changes that may impact drainage, consult with the Engineering Department.

Report any action that affects the drainage system to Public Operations at 985-646-4258.

Report any illegal dumping of debris into ditches or any situation that impedes drainage to Code Enforcement at 985-646-6134.



Slidell Flood Safety

2022 Brochure

Know Your Local Flood Hazard

You are receiving this brochure because your property is in or near an area that may flood.

The City of Slidell is subject to flooding from hurricane storm surge, backwater flooding of Bayou Bonfouca, inundation of Lake Pontchartrain, and localized drainage challenges during heavy rain events.

Flooding can occur during any season of the year. Because much of the land located in the City is both low lying and flat, all properties are potentially at risk; wherein drainage systems can become overwhelmed, causing streets and yards to flood with little or no warning.

KNOW YOUR FLOOD ZONE

Contact the City Floodplain Administrator in the Department of Building Safety at 985-646-4323 to find out your property's flood zone, projected flood depth during storm events, history of flooding, and its proximity to any wetlands.

The City's Certified Floodplain Manager can provide advice on flood-proofing and retrofitting structures, answer questions, and conduct site visits to discuss flood prevention activities you can take.

PROTECT PEOPLE! STAY ALERT!



A flood warning system is activated during a flood. The National Weather Service and the Parish Emergency Management Offices provide flood warning and evacuation data on local radio (WWL 870 AM) and television stations (WWL, WDSU, WVUE, and WGNO). The parish's public information channel is Channel 10.

To sign up for Emergency Notifications, go to stpgov.org/departments/hsep and click on:

“Sign Up for Alert St. Tammany.”

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY BY BUILDING RESPONSIBLY: GET A PERMIT!

Slidell has a Flood-Hazard Prevention ordinance that meets Federal and State standards. A permit is required for any development, including new construction, substantial improvements, demolitions, and excavations.

Check with the Building Safety Department before you build, grade, or put fill on your property. Individuals who illegally fill, dump, or excavate land or drainageways are subject to penalties and may have to remove the material and return the land to its pre-incident state at their own cost. Flood maps and publications are available in the Engineering and Building Safety Departments.

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY WITH FLOOD INSURANCE



Standard property insurance policies will not cover damage caused by flooding. A separate flood policy from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is required to cover damage caused by surface water flooding. Flood insurance is available to property owners or renters. Costs vary depending on how much insurance is purchased, what it covers, and the property's flood risk.

To purchase a flood policy, contact a local insurance provider who is authorized to sell NFIP flood policies. Policies provide coverage for buildings and contents; however, you should discuss insuring personal property with your insurance agent.

CONSIDERING FLOOD INSURANCE? DON'T WAIT!

There is typically a 30-day waiting period for new flood insurance policies to take effect, and no new policy can be initiated once a named storm has entered or formed within the Gulf of Mexico. If you purchase a new home, the 30-day waiting period does not apply; your flood insurance is effective as soon as your application is approved by the Flood Insurance Administrator after you have “closed” on the sale. For more information, contact an insurance agent or the NFIP at 888-379-9531 or www.floodsmart.gov.

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY WITH GRANT ASSISTANCE

The Federal Government, through the City, offers grants for **Repetitive Loss** and **Severe Repetitive Loss structures** to be mitigated through targeted assistance after a disaster. Grants can include funds for elevations; acquisition and demolition of a building; or acquisition and relocation of a building.

If you would like to find out more about what financial assistance may be available for mitigation and retrofitting options, such as elevating, or dry-proofing your home or business, please contact the City's Floodplain Administrator at 985-646-4323.

A **Repetitive Loss Structure** is one that has had two or more claims of more than \$1,000; each paid by the NFIP; and during a rolling 10-year period.

A **Severe Repetitive Structure** is one that has either:

1. Four NFIP claim payments where each claim exceeds \$5,000; or
2. The cumulative amount of all four claims exceeds \$20,000; or
3. At least two separate claim payments whose cumulative amount of the building portion exceeds the market value of the building.

Contact Slidell's Finance Department at 985-646-4228 to find out more about available grant opportunities.

