

FLOOD HAZARDS IN LAUDERHILL – *What you should know (KEEP THIS!)*

There are parts of Lauderhill still located within a Special Flood Hazard Area as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). And tropical storms and hurricanes will continue to be way of life here in South Florida. In June of 2017, a storm event equivalent to a 100-year, 3-day storm event affected the City of Lauderhill and produced a total rainfall of approximately 16 inches. Although that intensity for a rain event is rare occurrence, it is safe to assume it will happen again. With the printing of this brochure, we have now experienced Hurricane Irma and a number of unnamed high intensity rain events. Therefore, it is important to know that homeowners insurance or renter's Insurance won't pay for damage caused by flooding. Flood insurance is necessary for homeowners, businesses and renters. The threat of flooding is real.

Flood Safety

Practice these tips to ensure safety during a flood:

1. *Pay attention to evacuation routes.* Local radio and TV stations will broadcast forecasts and emergency warnings. Have an emergency evacuation plan in place for you and your family.
2. *Do not drive through a flooded area.* Watch for road barriers and do not drive around them. They are there for your protection; the bridge may be washed out.
3. *Do not walk through flowing water.* Six inches of water if moving fast enough, can knock you off your feet. Currents can be deceptive.
4. *Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.* Water carries electrical current. Report downed power lines to Florida Power & Light at 1-800-4OUTAGE (1-800-468-8243). Teach your kids about the hidden dangers of electricity.
5. *Have the power company turn off your electricity.* Some appliances, like TVs, keep electrical charges even after they've been unplugged. They will need to be taken apart, cleaned, and dried before it will be safe to use again.
6. *Look before you step.* Broken glass, nails, bottles, stairs covered with mud after a flood are hazardous and can be very slippery.
7. *Be alert for gas leaks.* Inspect any damage with a flash light instead of candles, lanterns, or open flames. Be sure that the gas has been shut off and the area has been ventilated.

Flood Insurance

The City of Lauderhill participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). That allows local insurance agents to sell a NFIP flood insurance policy to homeowners or renters under rules and standard rates set by the federal government. Any house in Lauderhill can be covered by a flood insurance policy. We are now a Class 7 community which means you get a 15% discount on your flood insurance premium if you are in a Special Flood Hazard Area. Don't wait for the next flood to buy insurance. Most of the time there is a waiting period before the policy goes into effect. New flood maps have gone into effect as of August 18, 2014. Just because your property has been moved to a low-risk area, you should still carry flood insurance. Renters should carry contents only coverage. To find out more about the map changes and get a Flood Determination Letter, call the Engineering Division at (954) 730-3055. You can also contact the FEMA Map Information Exchange at 1-877-336-2627.

Property Protection Measures

There are several ways that you can help to protect your property from damage by a flood before it happens. If there is a definite threat, you can take these emergency measures to help mitigate that damage:

1. Place sandbags or plastic sheeting in front of doorways and other low points around your home.
2. Elevate furniture.
3. Move the most valuable items to a higher level.
4. Create floodway openings in areas not be lived in such as the garage doors.
5. Seal off sewer lines to the home to prevent the backflow of sewer waters.

More permanent changes can be made to a building as well:

1. Re-grade the lot to keep the water away from the structure.
2. Build a berm with dirt or small floodwall around your property.
3. If your house has a crawlspace, move all items subject to damage out of harm's way so water can flow into the crawlspace without causing problems (wet flood proofing)
4. Elevate electrical boxes, water heaters, washers and dryers, and air conditioners.
5. Install backflow preventers.
6. Install professionally made storm shutters that are rated to withstand hurricane winds.

[The time to prepare is now](#)

Pet Safety Tips

Service animals are permitted in General Population Shelters so long as the pet [meets the requirements under Federal law](#). However, pet-friendly shelters are available for residents owning pets, not considered a service animal and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 954-359-1313 for specific locations. A pet-friendly shelter is not a General Population shelter and staying with family, friends or at a pet-friendly hotel outside an evacuation zone should be your first and best option. Pets accepted include: Dogs, Cats, domestic Birds, Rabbits, Gerbils, Guinea Pigs, Mice and Hamsters. All pets must be in a carrier/crate and all

dogs must have a collar with leash. Evacuees must show proof of rabies certificate for dogs and cats. Residents should also be prepared to show their pet's Broward County Registration Tag. Evacuees should bring necessary care supplies for a week such as, supply of food and water, food/water bowls, cat litter and litter box, medicine, cleaning supplies, etc. Plan ahead. Be responsible. Do not leave your pet home during a hurricane. A secure room with food and water do not necessarily mean your pet will be safe. Many families came back to their homes after Hurricane Wilma to find their pets were gone. Keep a current picture of your pet to help identify it. After the storm, be careful when letting your pet go outside. Familiar smells and landmarks may have disappears and your pet may become confused or lost. The same precautions for you and your family apply to your pets. Downed power lines, gas leaks, flooded roads are just as dangerous for them. Be careful with their food and water to make sure it has not been contaminated.

Natural and beneficial functions of our floodplain

Flooding from hurricanes and storms is essential and a natural occurrence. The State protects these natural areas to help reduce the risks associated with flooding. The flooding we experience increases soil fertility, creates wetland, promotes aquatic habitat, creates fish habitat and bank stability, and promotes plant establishment. The seasonal rains we experience are a part of the normal function of the floodplain zone. The water flow is critical to maintaining vegetation when it moves sediment and nutrients from rivers, ocean or lakes onto the connecting floodplain. The vegetation that grows along our canals help stabilize the banks and provide habitat for wildlife. It also helps control erosion and sedimentation. It improves water quality by filtering pollutants. Lauderhill's 238 acres of parks are not only for recreation but they play an important role in helping drain waters through to the aquifer that replenishes South Florida's water. It is very important that we maintain our floodplain.

Flood Warning System

Flood warnings are forecasts of impending storms and are broadcast to the public by the NOAA Weather Radio (www.noaa.gov), commercial radio, TV stations, and local emergency agencies. Our hurricane season runs from June 1st through November 30th. The following radio and TV stations carry advisories for our area:

	<u>TV</u>		<u>RADIO</u>		<u>NOAA Weather Radio</u>
WSVN Ch. 7	WLRN, Ch. 2	WQFL 1630 AM	WAXY 790 AM	WDNA 88.9 FM	Frequency 162.550
WCBS Ch. 4	WPLG Ch. 10	WIOD 610 AM	WQBA 1140 AM	WAMR 107.5 FM	
WTVJ Ch. 6	WBFS Ch. 33	WINZ 940 AM	WRTO 98.3 FM		

Broward County provides a very comprehensive [Hurricane Preparedness Guide](#). By paying attention to weather alerts, you'll have enough warning time to protect your property or evacuate. You can sign up on the Broward County Vulnerable Population Registry for residents that were disabled, frail or bad health to help first responders get to you faster. You can register online or by calling 311 in Broward or 954-831-4000 (TTY 954-831-3940). The [Vulnerable Population Registry](#) **does not** automatically register you for a special needs shelter or evacuation transportation. You must register yourself and anyone else that may need additional assistance.

Floodplain Development Permit Requirement including Substantial Improvement/Damage Requirements

Our regulations require that a permit be pulled from the Building Department before you build on, alter, re-grade or fill on your property. It is needed to make sure that those projects do not cause drainage problems on the property. New buildings must meet the same criteria. Our building code requires that all substantial improvements to buildings meet the same requirements. That means that any combination of repair, reconstruction, or addition to a home must have a permit. If you see building or filling without a City permit posted, contact the Building Department at (954) 730-3060.

Drainage System Maintenance

Our City's drainage system is routinely maintained by our Storm Water Division. This means that all storm drains and canals are cleared of debris and sprayed for weeds. A drainage system consists of storm drains, canals, and storm water pipes. This system is designed to move water during a storm and help prevent flooding. Dumping debris, soil erosion and overgrowth of vegetation can prevent the system from functioning as it should. **Do not dump or throw anything into ditches, storm drains, canals or lakes.** This is illegal. If you see someone dumping anything into a storm drain or water body, call the Engineering Division at (954) 730-3055 or the Florida Department of Environmental Protection at (850) 245-2118.

Flood Zone Maps and Elevation Certificates

To find out what flood zone your property is located in, contact the Engineering Division at (954) 730-3055. Copies of elevation certificates and Letters of Map Amendments can be obtained from there as well as the [website](#). If you have a flooding or drainage problem, the City will investigate it. Call (954) 730-3055 with any questions. [FEMA](#) can be reached at (800) FLOODSMART.GOV (1-888-379-9531) for any additional questions.