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FLOODING IN NEW HANOVER COUNTY

You are receiving this brochure because land you own or rent is in or near a Special 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 Planning (910) 798-7165

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 Areas is on the back of this brochure. This area has a 1% chance of flooding in any given year.

In addition to Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS), the Planning Department has the following information available for review: elevation certificates, additional FIRM information, identification of problem areas not shown on the map, special flood-related hazards, historical flood information, flood depth data, information regarding the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and other flood education materials. For more information please call 910-798-7165.

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 & animals as well as provide historical, scientific, recreational, & 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, flood-proofing 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 and dryers, and furnaces and 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 & is against the law. 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, battery-operated radio, 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!



