



FLOOD HAZARD INFORMATION

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FLOOD STAGES

Flood Warning Stage:

- Keep tuned to local stations for evacuation information.
- Avoid putting rescue workers at risk - obey evacuation orders.
- Store drinking water in sterile, covered containers.
- Move valuable objects higher. Place them on shelves, tables and counter tops.
- Fuel your vehicle and check oil and water.

During the Flood Stage:

- If flood waters threaten to enter your house, turn off electricity at main circuit box.
- Stay on higher ground.
- Do not drive on a flooded road.
- Do not attempt to wade in water above your knees.

After the Flood:

- Do not return to your home until officials give the "All Clear."
- Do not eat food that has come into contact with flood water. Use your non-perishable food.
- Drink only bottled or previously stored water.

- Stay away from disaster areas.
- Do not handle live electrical equipment.
- Report downed power lines.
- Keep tuned to local stations for emergency information.

FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM

The Tampa Bay area, including St. Petersburg, depends on the National Weather Service (NWS) for flood threat recognition. The NWS Tampa Bay Area (Ruskin, Florida) issues flood advisories for our area when expected rainfall could overflow drainage systems and cause isolation of structures due to ponding of flood waters. Local radio and television stations routinely broadcast flood threat advisories issued by the NWS. Radio station 100.7 WMTX-FM is the primary Emergency Alert System station for the Tampa Bay Area. Cable television systems of AOL/Time Warner and Verizon serve Pinellas County. Pinellas County Government Access television is Channel 615 on cable systems and at Channel 35 on the UHF television band. These government access channels may issue flood warning information in support of emergency operations that may be implemented.

FLOOD SAFETY

If you are advised to evacuate, turn off utilities at the main switches or valves. Disconnect electrical appliances, but do not touch any electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water. Avoid fast flowing water or unstable banks.

FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

All buildings under construction within the City of St. Petersburg require permits. Contact the Construction Services & Permitting Division at One Fourth Street North prior to any construction activities at (727) 893-7231.

SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT and DAMAGE REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

The City of St. Petersburg and the National Flood Insurance Program require that if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, additions, or other improvements to a building equals or exceeds 50% of the buildings market value, the building must meet the same construction requirements, including lowest floor elevations, as a new building. Substantially damaged buildings must also be brought up to the same standards.

[Substantial Improvement and Damage Review Application](#)

DRAINAGE SYSTEM

Proper drainage helps reduce the risk of flooding. It is illegal for any direct or indirect entry of any solid, liquid or gaseous matter into the drainage system. The City inspects the drainage system and removes blockages that are found or reported. If you live near areas where waters flow, you can help this process by keeping the banks clear of brush and debris. Violations should be reported to the Mayor's Action Center (727) 893-7111.

NATURAL AND BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS

St. Petersburg has designated/zoned approximately 1,965 acres as Environmental Preservation due to their vegetative, water table and 100-year floodplain characteristics. These natural areas are in public and private ownership and are protected from adverse impact and/or development by implementation of the Environmental Preservation section of the Land Development Regulations (i.e., Section 16.20.160) which requires that they be maintained free of nuisance exotic vegetation and any alteration or encroachment must first be approved by the City.

The undisturbed natural areas within St. Petersburg act as a natural storage area for flood waters, reducing the possibility of flooding to nearby residences while helping to recharge the groundwater aquifer. Please help keep these areas natural and beautiful by reporting any illegal dumping to the Sanitation Department at 727-893-7398. To report encroachment of nuisance exotic vegetation or clearing activities, contact the Mayor's Action Center at 727-893-7111.

SITE VISITS

The property owner may request a site visit and will be provided with a review of potential flooding, drainage, and sewer problems. To request a site visit, please call Mayor's Action Center (727) 893-7111.

SAND BAGS

The city makes sand bags available upon the declaration of a tropical storm warning. When an official warning is declared, the city makes sand, shovels and bags available to city residents (with proof of residence through a driver's license) at these city locations:

- Northeast Park, 875 62nd Avenue NE.
(located at the Cardinal Drive entrance to Mangrove Bay Golf Course)
- Bartlett Park, 22nd Avenue S. between Sixth and Seventh Streets
- Northwest Pool Parking Lot, 2331 60th St. N.

Sand bags are limited to 10 bags per resident, and staff will be on hand to assist seniors and others who may be unable to fill and load their own sand bags.