

Message from the Mayor

Greetings Oakland Park Community,

Our City, like several others in South Florida, has areas that are vulnerable to flooding due to our region's significant rainfall, flat topography, and low-lying elevations. Even though we have sections in Oakland Park that are not designated as high-risk flood areas, we must remain diligently aware that these areas are also susceptible to flooding.

This flood safety brochure is being provided to help you understand our local flood hazards, equip you with information intended to help you protect your family and your business, and serve as a helpful reference when making your flood insurance purchasing decisions.

Unfortunately, only a few inches of rising water can cause thousands of dollars in repair costs for damage to walls, floors, furniture, and electrical appliances. This damage is often not covered by homeowner's or renter's insurance policies. However, flood insurance does cover this damage to buildings and contents and is available to both property owners and renters.

Oakland Park voluntarily participates in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS) and our City's rating affords residents and businesses a reduction in flood insurance premiums. We have one of the best ratings in Broward County – being recognized for our astute measures designed for flood management control, the protection of life and property, and planning for limiting future flooding.

There are over 3,000 active flood insurance policies in Oakland Park and due to our favorable CRS rating, policy holders can purchase federally backed flood insurance through their local insurance agent at a discounted rate. We strongly encourage every Oakland Park homeowner and business owner to consider flood insurance. Please contact your insurance agent or the City of Oakland Park Planning Division at 954-630-4333 to learn more about flood insurance. To locate an insurance agent, please visit www.floodsmart.gov.

Safeguarding your trust,
Michael E. Carn, Mayor



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FLOOD SAFETY INFORMATION

This brochure provides important flood safety information to help:

- ✓ Find your Flood Zone
- ✓ Purchase Flood Insurance
- ✓ Protect Your Property
- ✓ Understand the Flood Warning System
- ✓ Stay Safe During and After a Flood
- ✓ Maintain our Drainage System
- ✓ Protect Natural Floodplains

KNOW YOUR PROPERTY'S FLOOD ZONE

The City of Oakland Park provides flood map information in several ways:

- Visit the Flood Protection Information page on the City website at bit.ly/opfloodinfo and click on “Flood Mapping Information” to use the online FEMA Flood Zone Map.
- Visit Broward County's GIS website at bcgis.broward.org, click on “FEMA Flood Information” under the list of Interactive Maps, and then enter the property address.
- Call the City's Planning Division at 954-630-4423 for flood zones, known drainage problems, historical flood information, and proximity to areas needing protection due to natural floodplain functions. FEMA Elevation Certificates on most buildings constructed or substantially improved in the floodplain since 1991 are also available.

PURCHASE FLOOD INSURANCE

Oakland Park properties get a **20% discount** on flood insurance premiums in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA). Make sure your insurance premium includes this discount. Outside an SFHA, a flood insurance policy is available at a lower rate plus a 10% premium discount. More than 20 percent of flood claims come from properties outside the SFHA. For questions about flood insurance, please contact the Planning Division at 954-630-4423 or visit the Flood Smart website at FloodSmart.gov or call 800-427-4661.

Homes and businesses with mortgages can be required by the lender to have flood insurance. Flood damage is usually **not covered** under your homeowner, business owner, or renter's policy, so a flood insurance policy for the building and/or contents is strongly recommended.

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

There are many ways to help make your property safer during a flood. These include re-grading your lot to slope away from the building; constructing a small flood wall, earthen berm, or ditch; placing watertight closures over the doorways, dryer vents and other low openings; and raising the structure. These items require a permit, so **prior** to performing any of these activities, contact the Building Division at 954-630-4350. Build Responsibly.

One-on-one advice about protecting your property from flood damage, correcting sewer backup problems, elevating appliances and drainage improvements is available by contacting the Building Division at 954-630-4350. Staff may need to make a site visit before providing guidance.

Financial assistance may be available for flood mitigation projects. Please call the City's Engineering and Building Services Department at 954-630-4350 for additional information on financial assistance.

FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM

The City of Oakland Park and Broward County depend on the National Weather Service (NWS) for flood notification. The NWS will issue flood advisories prior to expected heavy rainfall that could cause flooding. The City has a citywide flood warning plan to provide early warning to neighborhoods.

Broadcast methods of emergency notices include:

- The CodeRED Emergency Notification System, which allows the City to notify residents via telephone of impending emergencies. Call the City at 954-630-4200 to learn how to sign up for CodeRED.
- The City of Oakland Park Radio Station 1680 AM, 610 AM, 710 AM, and 91.3 FM.
- Local television channels, the City's OPTV—Channel 78 on the Comcast Government Access Channel, and The Weather Channel.
- Have a NOAA Weather radio on-hand with extra batteries in the event of a weather-related emergency.

FLOOD SAFETY TIPS

- Turn off all utilities at the main switch.
- Watch where you walk in flooded structures. Floors can be slippery; animals can be in the water; and unseen debris can cause injury and be toxic.
- Do not drive or walk through flooded areas or go around barriers. Canals can be indistinguishable from roads. Turn Around; Don't Drown!

- Do not use appliances that are wet until they have been taken apart, cleaned, and dried out by professionals. Place valuables in watertight containers and elevate electrical equipment and furniture above flood levels.

DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Local flooding can result from debris blocking drainage facilities and waterways. Our Stormwater Division helps keep canals clear by performing monthly inspections of waterways and cleaning as needed and regularly cleaning storm water conveyance lines and City catch basins. Dumping in waterways, public streets, alleys, sidewalks, or on private property violates City Code. If you see unlawful dumping, call Community Enhancement at 954-630-4400, or the Broward Sheriff's Office, District 12 at 954-561-3131. You can report flooding by calling the City 24/7 at 954-561-6275.

NATURAL FLOODPLAINS

Natural, unpaved areas in the City can collect and retain stormwater runoff during rainfall events. These natural areas also enhance the water quality of stormwater runoff by filtering through the ground into the aquifer. It is everyone's responsibility to protect these beneficial natural areas and keep them clean! To learn more, go to the Broward County Public Library catalog, and search for “Protecting Floodplain Resources: A Guidebook for Communities.”

Each year the City of Oakland Park Library features a special display of disaster preparedness material. There is an extensive selection of reference and handout material available year-round. Topics include: flood insurance, flood protection, hurricane preparedness, floodplain management, and flood maps. Visit the Oakland Park Library (954-630-4370), located behind City Hall, or visit the official U.S. Government website Ready.gov.

The City of Oakland Park provides answers to flooding questions on our Flood Protection Information webpage at bit.ly/opfloodinfo. You'll find information about the City's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), flood insurance, special rules for building in the floodplain, and ideas to protect your property from flood damage and stay safe during a flood.

Call the Planning Division with floodplain questions and for more information at 954-630-4423.