2014 Flood Hazard Prevention Newsletter

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2014 Flood Hazard Prevention

WHY ARE YOU RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER?
Because your property is in or near an area subject to flooding, the following information may be of interest to you. This information is offered to help protect your property and reduce potential losses due to flooding. The City of Hallandale Beach is dedicated to assisting our residents and businesses to reduce the hazardous effects of flooding in our community.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW
In 1968, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to provide affordable flood insurance to people who live in areas with the greatest risk of flooding called Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs). The NFIP makes federally-backed flood insurance available in communities that agree to adopt and enforce floodplain management ordinances to reduce future flood damage. This is important because property owners who hold a federally-backed mortgage (VA, FHA, FNMA, etc.) must purchase flood insurance if the property is located within a SFHA.

The Community Rating System (CRS) is a program developed by the Federal Insurance Administration to provide incentives for NFIP communities that implement more stringent floodplain management standards than the minimum NFIP requirements. The CRS rewards these efforts with discounts on flood insurance premiums for residents and businesses. The City of Hallandale Beach actively participates in the CRS program and currently holds a Class 6 CRS rating. This classification equates to a 20% discount on new or renewed flood insurance policies for SFHA properties and a 10% discount for non-SFHA properties. Of all communities in Broward County, Hallandale Beach has secured the highest reduction in flood insurance for its residents and businesses.

There are approximately 17,679 flood insurance policies in the City of Hallandale Beach. Annuals the City’s CRS Class 6 rating will generate approximately $1,121,287 in savings on flood premiums for you, our valued residents and businesses.

HELPFUL FLOOD INFORMATION INSIDE
- Flood Hazard & Warning System
- Flood Insurance/Protection Measures
- Flood Zone Map
- Flood Safety
- Elevation Certificates
- Substantial Improvement Requirements
- Floodplain Development Permit Requirements
- Upcoming Drainage Project

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Code Compliance
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Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA)

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POLICE DEPARTMENT
(REPORT FLOODING)

BROWARD COUNTY
Emergency Operation Center
Humane Society
Hurricane Hotline
Red Cross

TECO - PEOPLES GAS
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT (FPL)

BE FLOOD SMART!
www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/

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400 South Federal Highway
Hallandale Beach, FL 33009
FLOOD HAZARD: Between 60%-70% of the residents in Hallandale Beach now live within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) as a result of the revisions done to the FIRM map (see updated map on pages 4-5). However, the entire community is vulnerable to flooding. There are many different types of flooding that occur, and there are many factors that affect the type and severity of a flood. Following are some of the more common types of floods experienced in South Florida, including the City of Hallandale Beach.

Urban Floods: As land is converted from fields or woodlands to roads and parking lots, it loses its ability to absorb rainfall. Urbanization increases runoff, two-to-six times over what would occur on natural terrain. In Hallandale Beach, the effects of urban flooding are evident in the amount of flood insurance claims filed.

River/Canal Flood: Some floods occur seasonally when rains fill river basins with too much water, too quickly. Torrential rains from decay- ing hurricanes or tropical sys-
tems can also produce flooding. The canals in the Hallan- dale Beach community are sus- ceptible to canal flooding. How- ever, the close proximity to coastal waters makes canal flooding typically unlikely, apart from storm surges. The excep- tion to this rule has been the turn of events along the Schaefer Canal and the SE 14th Avenue Canal. Much of the City’s storm drainage system empties/discharges toward lakes and canals, connecting eventually to the Intracoastal Waterway, which in turn con- nects directly into the Atlantic Ocean. The waterways are in- fluenced by tides that contrib- ute to drainage and flooding problems in the city. When there is a high tide and heavy rainfall, the storm drainage system will rapidly fill from both surface run-off and tidal waters, increasing the likeli- hood of flood conditions in our streets, swales and lawns.

Flash Flood: A flash flood is any sudden, severe flood event, usually triggered by large sud- den downpours. The effects of a downpour are worsened when terrain will not absorb water. Reasons vary: soil type, lack of vegetation, steepness, extensive pavement (urban sprawl), or the saturation of soil by previous rains. The history of flooding in Hallandale Beach demonstrates that flash floods are frequent and destructive.

The most severe recorded rain- fall occurred on December 17- 19, 2009, during which time 16- 20 inches of rain fell within one 24-hour period. Over 12 inches of rain fell on October 3, 2000 during the “No-name” Storm; 13 inches of rainfall was rec- orded on June 20-26, 1995; and 13 inches of rain from Hurri- cane Irene was recorded on October 15-16, 1995. Over the past few years, the City of Hallandale Beach has been particularly proactive in identi- fying those areas in which flooding has been most com- mon. In addition to budgeting over $4 million to spend on capital projects to mitigate this flooding, the City has secured over $15 million in federal funding to supplement its own contribution. A major drainage project in the northeastern section of the City is currently under construction. A parallel project in the south- west section of the city is scheduled for 2014. Visit www.cobh.org/projects, or call 954-457-1620 for more infor- mation.

FLOOD HAZARD INFOR- MATION: Through the use of this brochure and a number of other means, the City is work- ing to inform our community of the flood hazard and how to protect against its detrimental effects. You may call the Fire Department at 954-457-1470 and ask for the "Are You Ready?” packet.

FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM: The City of Hallandale Beach 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 that might expe- rience exceptional flooding. Broadcast methods of emergen- cy notices include the City of Hallandale Beach Radio Station 1620 AM WQFO and HB TV Channel 78 on Comcast Govern- ment Access Channel. The City of Hallandale Beach also utilizes the CodeRED Emergency Notifi- cation System, which allows the City to notify any geographical area, or any predetermined “target buildings” via telephone, of an impending emergency. All residents and businesses must keep the City informed of cur- rent telephone numbers for the CodeRED System by contacting the Police Department. Evacua- tion routes include Interstate 95, Hallandale Beach Boulevard and Pembroke Road.

Even if you are not in the special flood hazard area (SFHA), your property may be subject to flooding.

You can report flooding by calling the City at (954) 457-1400.

FLOOD INSURANCE: Flood insur- ance covers losses to your prop- erty caused by flooding. From structural and mechanical dam- age to flood debris cleanup and floor surfaces replacement (like tile and carpeting), your invest- ment is protected by a flood in- surance policy, something that your homeowners’ or renters’ policy does not offer. In addi- tion, you can purchase separate coverage that insures most of your personal property and belongings. With rare excep- tions, you are eligible to pur- chase flood insurance, regard- less of your property’s flood- ing history. Most mortgage lenders require flood insur- ance for properties in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs). All properties secured by a federally backed mortgage (FHA, VA, FNMA, etc.) must carry flood insurance. It takes 30 days after purchase for a policy to take effect, so it is important to buy insurance before the floodwaters start to rise. In high-risk areas, 1 in 4 homes will experience a flood over the course of a 30-year mortage.

DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAIN- TENANCE: Proper drainage helps reduce the risk of flooding. It is a violation of our City Ordinanc- es to dump debris of any sort, including grass clippings, into canals or storm drains. Report violations to the Code Compli- ance Division at (954) 457- 1390. The Department of Pub- lic Works inspects the drainage system and removes blockages that are found or reported. Even small waterway obstructions, or events, this department’s crews are investigating problem areas and addressing them. If you live near areas where waters flow, you can help in this pro- cess by keeping storm grates and the banks clear of debris. If your property is next to a catch basin, help keep the area clear of brush and de-

If you are not in the special flood hazard area (SFHA), your property may be subject to flooding.
Do not walk through flood ed waters, nor drive through a flooded area. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can cause you to lose your balance. If you must walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure that the ground is stable and level before walking on it. Also do not disregard road barriers. The road pathways may be washed out or severely affected. Hallandale Beach Police, with the assistance of Public Works personnel, typically divert traffic from flooded streets to protect vehicles in a flood event. Driving through flooded areas could not only damage your car, but it could also damage adjacent homes, as a result of flooding from the wake created.

Have your electricity turned off by Florida Power & Light (FPL).

Pet safety
During a flood or hurricane, most evacuation centers will not accept pets. So make plans in advance to board your pets in an animal kennel or with friends. In order to find a shelter that will accept your pet, you must pre-register with the Humane Society by calling 954-989-3977.

If you must evacuate:
Most importantly, evacuate immediately if told to do so. If you must evacuate, try to move to the house of a friend or family member not affected by the impending high waters. If you live in a mobile home, evacuate at the first notice of the emergency. Rehearse your evacuation plan with all household members. Plan to leave early to avoid any traffic delays. Try to have a prearranged plan designating how you can contact your neighbors and family if you have to leave your home. If possible, before you evacuate, inform each other of places where you will be staying, contact phone numbers and addresses. For shelter information contact the Red Cross (Broward County Chapter) at 954-797-3800. Residents with special needs can register for the "Special Needs Shelter" by calling 954-357-6385.

Elevation Certificates
Recently completed elevation certificates are available through the Building Division. You may call 954-457-1382 to request an elevation search.

Do not walk through moving water. As little as 6 inches (15 centimeters) of moving water can make you fall.

SECURING BOATS
If you own a boat, it is your responsibility to secure it. As a boat owner, you should plan in advance to move your boat or arrange for its storage. Check with a local marina for suitable alternatives. If possible, store it inside a garage or warehouse. Please call 954-457-3009 to get more information about the City’s Municipal Storage/Parking Facility. If you must leave your boat outside, anchor the trailer firmly into stable soil, deflate the tires, and ensure the boat is secure to the trailer. If possible, fill the bilge with water, which adds extra weight. If you plan to keep your boat in the canal, be sure to double the dock lines, leaving sufficient space for the tidal range, and put out extra anchors. Do not forget to remove all marine electronics or other unsecured equipment.

Be alert for gas leaks.
If you use natural gas, use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Do not smoke or use candles, lanterns or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated. Gas leaks can be reported to TECO Peoples Gas at 954-453-0777.

Do not walk through flood ed waters, nor drive through a flooded area.

FLOOD SAFETY

FLOOD SAFETY (CONT'D)

Substantial Improvement Requirements
The City of Hallandale Beach requires that, if the cost of re-construction, rehabilitation, additions, or other improvements to a building equals or exceeds 49% of the building’s market value, the building must meet the same construction requirements as a new building. This includes minimum or base flood floor elevations as determined by the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). Substantially damaged buildings must also be brought up to the same standards.

Floodplain Development Permit Requirements
All building developments require permits. Permits should be obtained prior to commencement of construction activities. Contact the Building Division before you build on, alter or re-grade your property. Please call 954-457-1390 to report violations.

Consulting Service
The City provides technical assistance to its residents to mitigate flooding hazard. For more information please call the Building Division at (954) 457-1382. The City offers stormdrain cleaning services. For more information, please call the Stormwater Division at (954) 457-1620.

Drainage Improvement Projects
The City has spent millions of dollars over the past few years to improve drainage through out the community and has budgeted millions of dollars for additional improvements. The City has also secured millions of dollars in grants and investments from other governmental agencies for drainage improvement projects. Altogether, over $30 million have either already been spent or will be spent over a period of 15 years for drainage improvement projects. A list of the City’s current capital projects is available at www.cohb.org/projects.

Just 1 inch of water can cause costly damage to your property
Temporary pumps have also been placed in strategic positions to speed up the drainage process during flooding events. A flood can be devastating, but it is crucial to begin the recovery process right away.

- Call your insurance agent or company with your policy number and contact information.
- An adjuster will be assigned to your case.
- Gather any photos, receipts and the itemized list you made prior to the flood.
- Take photos of water and damaged property in the house.
- If you have to dispose of damaged items prior to the adjuster’s visit, keep swathes of carpets or fabrics.

Upcoming Drainage Improvement Projects
The City of Hallandale Beach is continuously implementing additional drainage in areas that are found to need flood mitigation. The following projects are anticipated to be constructed within the upcoming months:

MISCELLANEOUS DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS
This project will entail the installation of additional drainage structures in the following locations:

- SE 5th Ave. between Hallandale Beach Blvd. & SE 3rd Street
- SE 3rd Street between Federal Highway & SE 4th Ave.
- SW 9th Street between SW 8th Avenue and SW 9th Ave.
- SE 4th Avenue between SE 9th Street and SE 9th Court
- Parking lot west of NE 1st Ave. (between NE 3rd Street & NE 5th Street)

The City Commission awarded this project to Sun Up Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of $244,226 on June 18, 2014.

39th Year Community Development Block Grant Public Works Improvements Project
This drainage project is funded through a Community Development Block Grant. The Grant award amount is $130,998. The project entails the installation of additional drainage in the Northwest quadrant. The boundaries of the project area are as follows: Area bounded by Hallandale Beach Blvd., NW 8th Avenue, NW 6th Avenue, and NW 3rd Court

Storm Drains
In compliance with the City’s National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, the City of Hallandale Beach Public Works Department does routine cleaning and maintenance of the City’s storm drains. Storm drains go directly to the ocean.

Do not dump trash, debris, or liquids down the storm drains, gutters, or streets. Please be aware of run-off from private property, such as soapy water from washing cars and water from over-watering lawns that have been fertilized, as this can also end up in our storm drains and ocean. There are biodegradable and environmentally-friendly products for outdoor cleaning and landscape maintenance.

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