



Did you know that flooding is the most common natural disaster:

Local Flood Hazard

Flooding in St. Lucie County is caused by heavy rainfall that occurs in short periods of time, common during summer thunderstorms. However, the greatest flood threats come from the excessive amounts of rainfall that accompany coastal storms, tropical storms, and hurricanes. Just in the past decade, damaging floods have hit St. Lucie County on these dates:

- Aug 3– Sept 14, 2004 (Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne)
- Oct 24, 2005 (Hurricane Wilma)
- Aug 30, 2006 (Tropical Storm Ernesto)
- Aug 20, 2008 (Tropical Storm Fay)
- Aug 27, 2012 (Tropical Storm Issac)

Floodplain Development Permits

Any development in the floodplain requires a building permit. If you suspect that illegal floodplain development is occurring call the Building Department at 772-467-3198. Also contact the Building Department before you build on or alter or re-grade your property.

Flood Maps

The City provides information using the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), to let you know if you are in a flood hazard area. For more information about the FIRMs call the Building Department at 772-467-3198.

Elevation Certificates

Recent completed elevation certificates are available at www.cityoffortpierces.com or through the Building Department. You may call 772-467-3198 to request an archive search.

Substantial Damage or Improvement Requirements

Substantial improvement shall mean any combination of repair, reconstruction, alteration or improvements to a building, taking place during a 60 month period, in which the cumulative cost equals or exceeds 50% of the market value of the building. The existing building is then required to meet the same standards as a new building. For residential structures, these requirements typically mean raising the living area of the building to the base flood elevation in accordance with current codes. The Building Department offers flood protection assistance by providing information and advice regarding retro-fitting and flood control techniques. You may call 772-467-3198 and speak with someone from Floodplain Management Team.

Drainage System Maintenance

A community can lose a portion of its drainage system carrying or storage capacity due to dumping, debris, soil erosion, sedimentation, or overgrowth of vegetation. When this happens, flooding occurs more frequently and reaches higher elevations, subjecting properties otherwise protected to unnecessary risk of damage. Keep grass clippings and other debris out of stormwater drainage systems to prevent clogging and loss of stormwater and treatment capacity. If you experience any localized drainage problems notify the Public Works Department at 772-467-3000 and if you see illegal stream dumping please notify the Fort Pierce Stormwater Hotline at 772-489-2133, so that the problem can be addressed.

Flood Safety

You can protect yourself from flood hazards by taking measures to ensure the safety of life and property before, during and after a flood. If evacuation becomes necessary be sure that you turn off all utility services at the main connection.

Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths, mostly during flash floods. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure that the ground is stable and level before walking on it.

Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Do not drive around road barriers; the road or bridges further down the road may be washed out. 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.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electric current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to the power company or County Emergency Management Office.

Look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris, including broken bottles and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.

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 FPUA at 772-466-1600.

Property Protection Measures

To reduce property damage caused by flooding, you may consider the following: Re-grade your lot, build a small floodwall or place watertight closures over the doorways. However, these measures only protect if flooding is not particularly deep. Residential properties should consider elevating their homes. Flood proofing, installing floodgates and making walls waterproof are among the common ways to structurally protect commercial property.

Just an inch of water can cause costly damage to your property

Natural and Beneficial Functions of the Floodplain

Natural flood and erosion control: Providing flood storage and conveyance, reduces flood velocity, and controls erosion of beach-front structures; **Water quality:** Filters nutrients and impurities from runoff. Ground water recharge: Reduces frequency and duration of surface flow; **Biological resources;** Supports high rate of plant growth, provides breeding and feeding grounds and enhances water flow habitat; **Societal resources:** Provides open space and aesthetic pleasures, and in areas of scientific study, provides opportunities for environmental research.

The Flood Warning System

Residents should be aware that St. Lucie County has an Emergency Management Plan (EMP) that includes a number of warning systems, outlined, which provide citizens with up to the minute information on impending storms or flood threats.

The St. Lucie County Emergency Operation Center works with local communities, the National Weather Service, and the National Hurricane Center to monitor flood and storm threats and advise the community accordingly. The EOC contact information is 772-462-8100. The following stations service the St. Lucie County area: NOAA Weather Radio Frequency 162.400 MHz out of Belle Glade Weather Radio, Police Scanner, Tunable VHF Radio, any AM/FM band radio receiver, TV Channels 5, 12, 25, 29 West Palm Beach FL

WQCS-FM 88.9	WJNX-AM 1330	WPSL—AM 1590
WIRA-AM1400	WZZR—FM 101.7/94.3	WAVW—FM 92.7

Flood Insurance

Flood insurance covers losses to your property caused by flooding. From structural and mechanical damage to flood debris cleanup and floor surfaces (like tile and carpeting), your investment is protected by a flood insurance policy, something that your homeowners’ or renters’ policy does not offer. In addition, you can purchase separate coverage that insures most of your personal property and belongings. With rare exceptions, you are eligible to purchase flood insurance, regardless of your property’s flooding history. Most mortgage lenders require flood insurance for properties in Special Flood Hazard (SFHA). 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 mortgage.

Building Coverage

Single Family Dwelling	\$250,000
Other	\$250,000
Non-Residential	\$500,000

Contents Coverage

Residential	\$100,000
Non-residential	\$500,000

If you must evacuate

Most importantly, evacuate immediately if told to do so. If you live in a mobile home, evacuate at the first notice of the emergency. Anyone living in a low-lying locale which may be swept over by high tides or storm surges, should go to a pre-arranged safe location or travel completely outside the threatened area. Plan to leave early to avoid any traffic delays. As winds become more forceful, they will make vehicles harder to control, as well as filling roads with debris. Pavement may become undermined and collapse under the weight of a car. Have a plan on 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.

Evacuation Routes:

Orange Avenue (west)	Virginia Avenue (west)
Midway Road (west)	St. Lucie Blvd (west)
I-95 (north)	Florida Turnpike (north)

For More Information Contact:

Building Department	772-467-3000
St. Lucie County Emergency Management	772-462-8100
American Red Cross	772-562-2549
FEMA	800- 621-3362

WEBSITES:

- www.cityoffortpierce.com
- www.stlucieco.gov/eoc
- www.redcross.org/
- www.fema.gov

Important Phone Numbers:

Emergency	911
Ft. Pierce City Hall	772-467-3000
Ft. Pierce Stormwater Hotline	772-489-2133
St. Lucie County	772-462-1100
Ft. Pierce Police Dept	772-461-3820
Sheriff’s Dept	772-462-7300

Utilities

St. Lucie County	772-462-1150
FPUA	772-466-7703

Hospitals

Lawnwood Regional	772-461-4000
St. Lucie Medical Ctr	772-335-4000

Electric Companies

FPL	772-462-0555
FPUA	772-466-1600