



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

