

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A FLOOD IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?



**YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS
BROCHURE BECAUSE YOUR
PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN OR NEAR
A FLOODPRONE AREA.**



Osceola County's location in central Florida makes us very susceptible to hurricanes and tropical storms. Additionally, our connected lake system and our network of canals and stormwater infrastructure also present a flood risk across the County.

The major source of flooding in Osceola County is heavy rainfall from hurricanes, tropical storms, and severe thunderstorms, that cause flash flooding by overburdening the drainage system.

***Being prepared is your best defense
against a flood.***

How Do You Prepare for a Flood?

STEP 1 – KNOW YOUR FLOOD HAZARD

Regulated floodplains are illustrated on inundation maps called Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). FIRMs are the official maps for a community on which FEMA has delineated the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), which represent the areas subject to inundation by the 1-percent annual chance flood event. On average, structures located within the SFHA have a 26-percent chance of flooding during the life of a standard 30-year mortgage.

FEMA FIRMs are available for free public viewing in Osceola County libraries or online at <https://msc.fema.gov/>. Also, upon request, Osceola County Development Review will make free flood zone determinations for properties located within the County. Call 407-742-0200 for more information.

Properties located outside of the SFHA are not guaranteed to be safe from flooding.

STEP 2 – INSURE YOUR PROPERTY

Flooding is not covered by a standard homeowner's insurance policy. Osceola County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which makes federally backed flood insurance available for all structures in the County regardless of whether or not they are located within a SFHA. Coverage is available for the building itself as well as its contents. Renters are highly encouraged to purchase flood insurance for their contents. Note that there is a 30-day waiting period before coverage goes into effect. Contact your local insurance agency for information or visit <https://floodsmart.gov>.

STEP 3 – PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

Osceola County receives weather notifications from the National Weather Service and provides flood warning and evacuation information to the public via <https://AlertOsceola.org>. Also, tune into local commercial radio or television stations or NOAA weather radio frequencies (162.550 or 162.475). Purchase a Weather Alert Radio for your home and place of employment to stay informed of changing conditions.

If your property is in imminent danger of flooding, turn off the power in your house, including propane gas tanks and lines. Teach family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity and water. If you lose power, turn off all major appliances. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Do not smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know that the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

Avoid low-lying areas. Seek shelter in the highest areas possible. Do not walk or drive through flowing or standing water. Avoid downed power lines.

Develop an evacuation plan for your family. Designate a place where your family will meet after an evacuation order is issued.

STEP 4 – PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

Various methods may be used to minimize flooding. If the first floor level of your property is lower than the "Base Flood Elevation" (elevation of the 1% annual chance flood, based on the FEMA maps), consider elevating your structure, if possible, or elevating electrical and mechanical equipment.

If a flood is imminent, property can be protected by sandbagging areas subject to the entry of water into living spaces. Move valuables and furniture to higher areas of the dwelling to minimize damages.

If your property has an on-going flooding and drainage problem, the County will make a site visit to your property to provide one-on-one advice regarding possible solutions. For more information, please contact Public Works at 407-742-0625.

STEP 5 – BUILD RESPONSIBLY

All development within the County requires a permit. Always check and fulfill permitting requirements with the Building Office at 407-742-0200 before you build on, alter, fill, or re-grade on any portion of your property and/or within any easement or right-of-way. Also, contact the Building Office to report any suspected permitting violations. Remember, when building or grading, always maintain a clear area between lots for drainage.



Source: City of Edmonton

The NFIP requires that if the cost of reconstruction, additions, or other improvements to a building equals or exceeds 50% of the building's market value, then the building must meet the same construction requirements as a new building. Substantially damaged buildings must also be brought up to the same standards. For example, a residence

damaged so that the cost of repairs equals or exceeds 50% of the building's value before it was damaged must be elevated at least one foot above the base flood elevation. Please contact the Building Office at 407-742-0200 for more information.

STEP 6 – PROTECT NATURAL FLOODPLAIN FUNCTIONS

Did you know that it is illegal to dump anything (trash, grass clippings, leaves, etc.) in any ditch or storm sewer in the County? Dumping materials into our drains pollutes our waters and clogs our stormwater system. When storm drains and ditches are blocked or full of debris, flood waters can't drain properly, which leads to flooding in our neighborhoods. For questions, or to report drainage obstructions or illegal dumping, call Public Works at 407-742-0662.

STEP 7 – HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Inventory and photograph your home's contents and put important papers and insurance policies in a safe place.

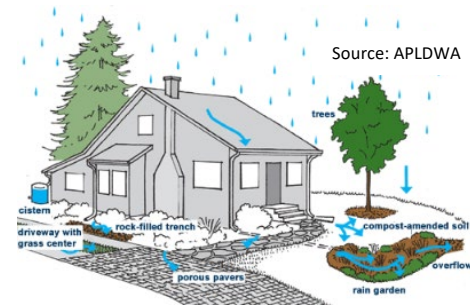
Keep an emergency supply. Non-perishable food, water, batteries, flashlights, manual can opener and a battery-operated radio should be kept available.

Know your evacuation route. Osceola County Emergency Management will order or advise evacuations if conditions warrant this action. Evacuation routes will be available online at <https://flood.osceola.org>. If evacuations are called for, it is imperative that you follow instructions in the time frame noted. Visit <https://readyosceola.org> for more information on flood evacuation, emergency alerts, and steps to take to prepare for a hurricane.

STEP 8 – REDUCE STORMWATER RUNOFF

Install Low Impact Development techniques to help manage stormwater on site instead of allowing it to run off into the stormwater drainage system.

Install rain barrels under down spouts or extend down spouts away from your home into a rain garden. Don't direct your downspouts into your driveway letting water flow directly into the street.



Contact Public Works at 407-742-0662 for more information about stormwater management techniques you can implement on your property.

STEP 9 – TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN

Never attempt to drive through flooded roadways. Floodwaters may be much deeper than they appear and can conceal damage or other hazards underneath. As little as two feet of running water can carry away most vehicles, including SUVs. Turn Around, Don't Drown!

Do not park near flooding hot spots if a flood watch or warning is issued for your area. If floodwaters rise around your car but the water is not moving, abandon the car and move to higher ground. Do not leave the car to enter moving water. For information on flood evacuation and to find Rally Point evacuation

areas, which are safe areas of higher ground, visit <https://readyosceola.org>.

STEP 10 – FLOOD EDUCATION

Our floodplains and drainage system are important resources for flood protection throughout our community. Changes to drainage, dumping or blocking drainage inlets or outlets, or poorly planned development in floodplains can increase the risk of flooding to neighboring or downstream properties and may lead to the degradation of streams, channels, lakes and canals.

Changes you make to drainage patterns on your property can affect your neighbors and your community. Understanding and protecting the natural functions of the County's floodplains and drainage system, such as wetlands, swamps, and ditches, helps to reduce flood damage and protect natural resources.

Protecting natural drainage patterns also protects our water quality. When rainfall drains into floodplains it filters into the groundwater. Groundwater is the primary drinking water source in Central Florida, so it is important to maintain floodplain areas in order to protect our water quality. Contact the Association of State Floodplain Managers at www.floods.org for more information.

For more information about flood safety or the NFIP, please note the following:

www.floodsmart.gov
www.ready.gov/floods
www.fema.gov
1-888-379-9531



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Kissimmee, FL 34741