



Preparation



The Town of Jupiter participates in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program known as the National Flood Insurance Program/Community Rating System (NFIP/CRS). The NFIP offers reasonably priced flood insurance to communities like Jupiter that comply with the minimum standards for flood plain management. Since the Town's flood hazard areas are so scattered, every property has flooding potential.

Local Flood Hazards

The Town has the ocean as its east boundary and the Loxahatchee River runs through it to the inlet. These waters can be a contributing source for flooding. Our greatest flood threats are hurricanes, seasonal storms and heavy rainfall occurring in a short period of time, e.g., the October 1995 storm. Problems typically occur along low lying areas, along major drainage canals, areas flooded by the overflow from lakes, and coastal areas that can be impacted by tidal surges. Low lying areas are identified as Special Flood Hazard Areas on the NFIP Rate Map published by FEMA. The most recent update of this map will be published in our next issue or you will find it on the Town's website at <http://gis1.jupiter.fl.us> After accepting the disclaimer, look for "Flood Zone Map – FEMA".



Flood Warning

Palm Beach County has a flood warning system with warnings given on TV Channels 5, 12, 25, 29 and all radio stations. During prolonged rainfall, areas of the Town are patrolled by Police Officers, Stormwater, Public Works, Water, and other staff.

You, too, can help identify flooded areas by calling the Stormwater Utility at 741-2705. The information you provide will help with damage assessment and the prioritization of post-storm recovery. All information is provided to the Police Department. The PD shares this information with the County's Division of Emergency Management. When advised of problem areas, response actions are taken.



Flood Insurance

Typical homeowner insurance policies do not cover flood loss. The Town participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which makes flood insurance available to everyone in the town. For most, a home and its contents are their biggest investment. To protect yourself financially, we urge all residents to buy flood insurance, especially if you live in a designated flood hazard area.



Check to see if your property is in a designated flood hazard area. For flood insurance rate map information and determination or elevation certificate availability, contact the Building Division at 746-5134. A Flood Zone map is in the Building Division at Town Hall, or you can find the map on the Town's website by starting at <http://www.jupiter.fl.us/Water/default.htm> and click on "Maps/GIS" at the top to go to a list of town maps.

For most new policies, not bought during a transfer of title, there is a 30-day wait period until coverage begins.

Flood Safety

Steps to take before flooding to reduce loss:

- Listen for weather updates and stay informed.
- Keep a portable radio and flashlights on hand with fresh batteries.
- Clear your yard of all loose objects.
- Moor your boat securely.
- Store drinking water in clean containers.
- Shutter all openings if hurricane winds are forecast.
- Plan a flood-free evacuation route.
- Prepare an inventory of all personal property with descriptions and photos.
- Have adequate first aid supplies on hand.
- **IF ORDERED TO EVACUATE, OBEY IMMEDIATELY.** Take your HURRICANE EVACUATION KIT. Let friends and neighbors know where you are going.

During A Flood

1. Do not walk through flowing water. Six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. Use a pole to check depth when walking in standing water.
2. Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around barriers; the road/bridge may be washed out.
3. Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. Electrocutation is the number two cause of flood deaths. Drowning is number one. Electricity travels through water. Report downed power lines to FPL.
4. If you can safely turn your electricity off, do so. Some appliances, such as television sets, keep electrical charges even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet until taken apart, cleaned and dried.
5. Look out for animals, especially snakes. When flooded out of their homes, small animals may seek shelter in yours. Use a stick to turn things over and scare away small animals.
6. Look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including glass and nails, and mud can be very slippery.
7. Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect damage. Don't smoke or use open flames unless you know the gas is off and the area ventilated.



TOWN OF JUPITER

Stormwater Utility
7:30am-4:30pm
(561) 741-2705

After Hours
(561) 741-2609

Property Protection Measures

Simple steps to protect your property from flood damage are to move vehicles to higher ground, relocate furniture to upper stories or off the floor, and store materials like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting and lumber to protect your house from flood waters and make quick repairs afterwards. Secure your home before leaving. Bring outdoor belongings inside or tie them down. Board up windows or use storm shutters. Use sandbags to slow seeping flood waters.

Retrofitting is a way to reduce losses before floods occur. Some possible flood-proofing solutions are flood panels, berms, flood walls and elevated structures. The Building Division can assist in obtaining information on retrofitting.

Substantial Improvements

All construction requires a permit. Through this process the Town insures that development conforms to flood regulations.

Improvements to structures located in flood zones are considered substantial when the cost of the work equals or exceeds 50% of the structures market value. Renovations classified as substantial improvements must include changes necessary to bring the structure into compliance with all current regulations. During permitting, applicants submit a current appraisal of the structure and a cost estimate of the proposed improvements.

The next issue of the Town Times will continue this article with information about the town's stormwater drainage system.

Drainage Maintenance

The Town's drainage maintenance program is managed by our Stormwater Utility. To protect against flooding, it is important to maintain the water carrying capacity of the Town's drainage system. Stormwater staff also inspects private drainage systems on request. If flooding occurs because a public or private drainage system is not functioning properly, you should call the Stormwater Division at 741-2705.

Several of the Town's efforts depend on your assistance. Here is how you can help:

1. Do not dump or throw anything into ditches. Even grass clippings can plug channels. Every piece of trash contributes to flooding. A plugged channel cannot carry water, and when it rains the water has to go somewhere.
2. If a ditch or stream is along your property, please keep banks clear of brush and debris.
3. It is illegal to dump or throw debris in ditches. If you see anyone dumping trash or vegetation in ditches, contact Stormwater.
4. Always check with the Building Division before you build on, alter, re-grade, or bring fill on to your property. A permit may be needed to ensure that projects do not cause problems on neighboring properties.
5. If you see building or filling without a permit posted, contact the Building Division at 746-5134.

Natural Areas & Stormwater Management

Carlin Park 110 acres, Diamond Head Radnor, 148 acres, Jupiter Ridge Natural Area, 283 acres, and Alma's Place, 1.74 acres, have been designated natural areas in the Town of Jupiter. These areas act as water storage areas, reducing the possibility of flooding and recharging our groundwater aquifer.

Please help keep these areas natural and beautiful by reporting any illegal dumping and littering to the Town at 746-5134 or 741-2705.

Staff members of the Stormwater and Building Divisions frequently provide information to individuals and neighborhoods on flood protection methods. Staff will visit a site to review flooding and drainage problems and offer advice on flood protection techniques. The Town will also provide information on local contractors and consultants who are knowledgeable and experienced in flood protection methods. Should a problem arise, the Town is available to counsel homeowners on checking a contractor's performance or filing a complaint with appropriate state and local agencies.



