

FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM

Jefferson Parish operates a flood warning system called **JPAIert** to alert citizens about the possibility of impending flooding caused by hurricanes, tropical storms, and storm water from prolonged thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, high winds or a combination thereof.

JPAIert also allows officials to immediately contact you during a major crisis or emergency and can deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to all your devices.

A warning period will be available for most emergency situations, but the amount of lead time may vary from hazard to hazard. Proper action during this warning period will save lives, reduce injuries, and protect property.

JPAIert will give you instructions on where to go, what to do or not to do, and who to contact during an emergency. To sign up for this free service, go to www.jeffparish.net scroll down the homepage and click on **JPAIert**.

In the event of a power outage, use a battery powered radio to listen for initial warning information preceded by three (3) short dual tones and subsequent updates on 870 AM or 101.9 FM.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

JEFFERSON PARISH:

Department of Drainage . . . 736-6751
 Department of Inspection & Code
 Enforcement
 Eastbank 736-6957
 Westbank 364-3512
 Floodplain Administrator . . . 736-6540

GRAND ISLE:

Drainage Department . . 985-787-3196
 Inspection & Code
 Enforcement 985-787-3196
 Floodplain
 Administrator 985-787-3196

GRETNA:

Drainage Department 363-1579
 Inspection & Code
 Enforcement 363-1563
 Floodplain Administrator . . . 363-1563

HARAHAN:

Drainage Department 737-6383
 Inspection & Code
 Enforcement 737-6765
 Floodplain Administrator . . . 737-6765

JEAN LAFITTE:

Drainage Department 689-2208
 Inspection & Code
 Enforcement 689-2208
 Floodplain Administrator . . . 689-2208

KENNER:

Department of Drainage . . . 468-7515
 Department of Inspection
 & Code Enforcement . . . 468-6606
 Floodplain Administrator . . . 468-6606

WESTWEGO:

Drainage Department 341-3424
 Inspection & Code
 Enforcement 341-3424
 Floodplain Administrator . . . 341-3424



FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Land in Jefferson Parish is located in or next to a floodplain. All development, regardless of the location, requires a permit to build, fill, or perform any other type of development.

Due to requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the overall goal for a more hazard-resistant and sustainable community, Jefferson Parish Ordinance Chapter 14 looks at the required height for properties located in a Zone AE:

1. New Construction:

The finished floor elevation must be above the FEMA Base Flood Elevation or the Jefferson Parish higher regulatory standard as found in Chapter 14-5.6.

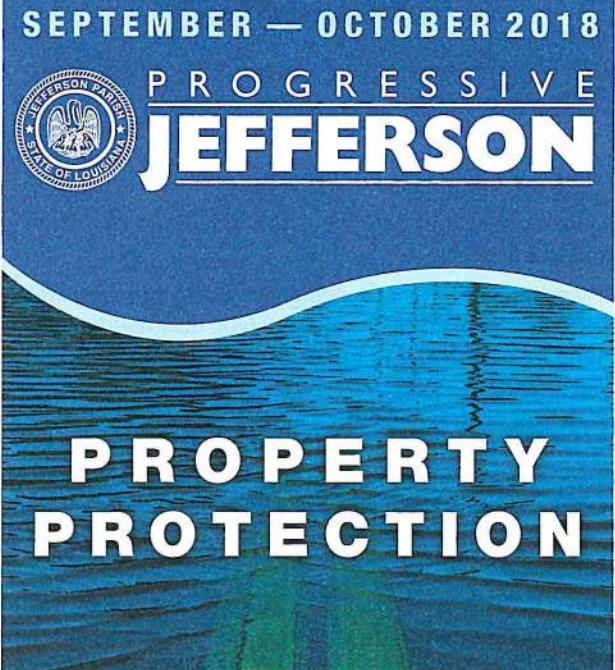
2. Substantial Improvements:

When the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, additions, or other improvements to a building equals or exceeds 50% of the fair market value, the building must meet the same finished floor elevation requirements as a new building.

3. Substantial Damage:

When a structure receives damages and the cost of all repairs equals or exceeds 50% of the building's fair market value, the structure must meet the same finished floor elevation requirements as a new building.

Although the Jefferson Parish ordinances state the minimum height, it is highly advisable to build higher to see cost savings on insurance and ensure your investment is protected from unusual flood events.



Many things can be done to an existing building to minimize or eliminate the potential for flood damage. Sand, plywood, plastic sheeting and lumber can be used to protect a structure temporarily. These supplies are readily available from a number of retail outlets throughout the parish.

Personal items can be elevated or moved to upper floors.

Permanent flood proofing measures for flood-prone structures are preferable. These include elevating the structure, building flood walls, and protecting utilities.

Visit www.lsuagcenter.com and search Flood proofing Methods for information on flood proofing. Call your Floodplain Manager to request a site visit to discuss local flooding issues and give one-on-one retrofitting advice specific to your property.

Before proceeding with retrofitting measures or any construction and development, (i.e. filling, dredging and remodeling) check with the Department of Inspection and Code Enforcement for applicable building codes, permit requirements, zoning restrictions or to report illegal development.



Published by:
 Jefferson Parish Public Information Office



FLOOD SAFETY

The Parish flood warning system can provide an early notification of flooding conditions. If emergency officials tell you to evacuate or leave your home, go immediately to a safe shelter. To know your evacuation route, go to www.jeffparish.net, Department of Emergency Management and click on Contraflow Map and Driving Instructions.

If you're caught in a building by suddenly rising water, move to a higher floor or the roof (you may need a tool on hand to break through to the roof). Take drinking water, a flashlight and a portable radio. Wait for help.

DO NOT drive in flooded waters! If your car stalls in a flooded area, abandon it. Do not attempt to walk through flood water that is more than knee deep. Drainage ditches and canals carry fast moving flood water and are extremely dangerous.

For a list of flood-related websites, log onto www.jpilibrary.net, go to Reference, click on Reference Resources and select Flood Information. You can also go to www.jeffparish.net and select Flood Preparedness Information on the Home page or visit www.floodhelp.uno.edu for additional information.



PURCHASE FLOOD INSURANCE

Homeowners and business multi-peril insurance policies **DO NOT COVER** losses from flood. Flood insurance policies must be purchased as a separate policy.

Properties in Flood Zone AE are required to carry flood insurance if they have a federally backed mortgage.

Properties in Flood Zone X are highly recommended to carry flood insurance as floods do not respect Zone X boundaries. Facts show those insured in Zone X areas file more than 20% of all National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) claims and receive 1/3 of Federal disaster assistance for flooding.

Renters are encouraged to purchase flood policies to protect their personal property with contents coverage.

You must have an active flood insurance policy at the time of the flooding event to be eligible for any disaster relief or FEMA grant programs. There is a 30-day waiting period before a flood insurance policy becomes effective, so call your agent to start a policy today!

Once you've purchased flood insurance, keep your policy and an itemized list of your furnishings, clothing, and valuables in a safe place, such as a safe deposit box. It is helpful to have photos and receipts of your items as well. Call your agent or broker immediately if you suffer flood damage.

If you need flood insurance advice or an analysis of your Elevation Certificate or declarations page, call (504) 736-6540 or email JPfloodplain@jeffparish.net.

FLOOD HAZARD

Flooding can occur during any season of the year. The most common source of flood water in Jefferson Parish is rain, although hurricanes and tidal surges pose a serious threat in late summer. Flooding can happen both inside and outside of the levee system so be prepared.

Flood water collects because most of Jefferson Parish lies

at or below sea level with land prone to subsidence. The low, flat ground provides little natural gravity drainage so water that falls in the parish must be pumped out.

To learn which zone your property is located in, call your Floodplain Manager or go to www.jeffparish.net/flood to request a flood zone determination letter. Maps showing flood hazard areas are on file at your local library and at the Joseph S. Yenni Building, Suite 310. Maps can also be viewed online at geoportal.jeffparish.net/flood/public. Make a plan so you can be prepared to respond quickly and effectively from potential flooding.

DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Jefferson Parish is surrounded by rivers, lakes, bayous and canals. We must use drainage canals and pumping stations to remove storm water into the surrounding waterways outside the levee system.

The Jefferson Parish Drainage Department has a drainage system maintenance program. You can help by keeping the catch basins in front of your property clean and free of debris.

As stated in Parish Ordinance 16.9 and 16-9.2, it is illegal to dump debris such as trash, oil, grease, or other pollutants in catch basins, drainage ditches or canals. Do not dump anything into any portion of the Parish's drainage system as debris can cause the drainage system to malfunction and increase flooding.

Not only is it important to keep our canals free flowing, we must also consider the health of our seafood, frogs, and other wildlife that live in our waterways and provide us with food and recreation.

Call the Drainage Department if you have questions or need to report illegal dumping.

