

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, text JPAIERT or JPNOTICIAS to 888-777.

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

Drainage Dept.....736-6751
Building Permits Dept.
East Bank 736-6957
West Bank364-3512
Floodplain Dept....736-6540

HARAHAN

Drainage Dept.....737-6383
Building Permits.737-6765
Floodplain Dept..737-6765

GRAND ISLE

Drainage Dept.....985-787-3196
Inspection & Code
Enforcement..... 985-787-3196
Floodplain Dept.....985-787-3196

JEAN LAFITTE

Drainage Dept.....689-2208
Building Permits.689-2208
Floodplain Dept..689-4062

GRETN

Drainage Dept.....363-1579
Building Permits.....363-1563
Inspection & Code..363-1532
Floodplain Dept.....363-1563

KENNER

Drainage Dept.....736-6753
Inspection & Code
Enforcement.....468-6606
Floodplain Dept.468-6606

WESTWEGO

Drainage Dept.....341-3424
Building Permits... 341-3424
Floodplain Dept....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, Chapter 14 Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance of the Jefferson Parish Code of Ordinances establishes minimum height for lowest floors for properties depending on the Flood Zone. Use the following link to navigate to our Chapter 14 Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance:

https://library.municode.com/la/jefferson_parish/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOR_CH14FLDAPROR

1. New Construction:

The finished floor elevation must be above FEMA Base Flood Elevations or the Jefferson Parish higher regulatory standards as found in Chapter 14-6.2 et seq.

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 ordinance states 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.



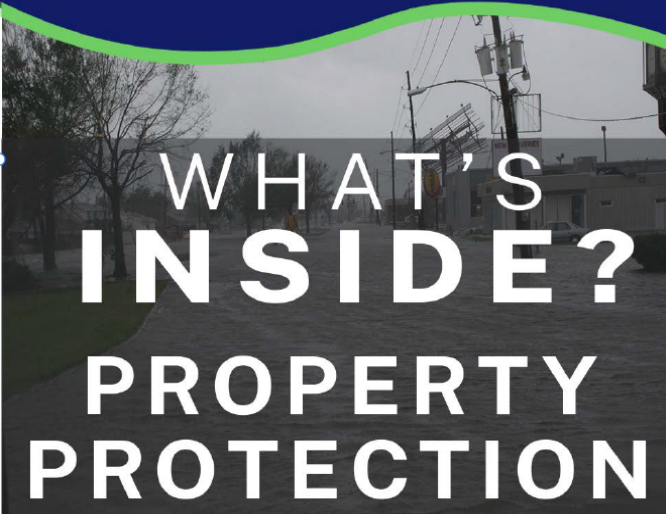
Published by:
The Jefferson Parish Public Information Office



www.jeffparish.net



JULY 2023
PROGRESSIVE
JEFFERSON



WHAT'S
INSIDE?
PROPERTY
PROTECTION

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 around your house, 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 get one-on-one retrofitting advice specific to your property.

Before proceeding with retrofitting measures or any construction and development, (i.e., filling, dredging and re-modeling) check with the Building Permits Dept for applicable building codes, permit requirements, zoning restrictions or to report illegal development.

FLOOD SAFETY

The Parish flood warning system can provide an early notification of flooding conditions. Listen to emergency officials when they tell you to evacuate or leave your home. Go immediately to a designated safe shelter if you are unable to evacuate. To see your evacuation route, contraflow map, and driving instructions, go to www.jeffparish.net, Department of Emergency Management and click on the Hurricane Dashboard link and then on the Prepare Now box.

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 information, visit www.jplibrary.net, hover over the reference tab and click on Flood Protection Documents. Flood safety information can also be found at www.jeffparish.net/flood, and www.uno.edu/chart/disaster-toolkit.



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 roughly 33% 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.

There is a 30-day waiting period for a policy to become effective. Because Jefferson Parish participates in the Community Rating System (CRS), you will receive up to a 25% reduction in your flood insurance premium. Once you've purchased flood insurance, keep your policy information 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. To see if we have an Elevation Certificate on file, visit our Elevation Certificate Database by going to www.jeffparish.net/flood, hover over the Online Portals tab, and select Elevation Certificate Search.

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 fisheries and other wildlife that live in and/or depend on our waterways. Call the Drainage Department at 736-6751 if you have questions or need to report illegal dumping.