

Flood Tips is sent to those owning property or living within a Wayne County special flood hazard area as designated by FEMA and delineated on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps effective April 16, 2013.

Floods are a fact of life in all parts of Wayne County. A detailed analysis of flood hazards has been completed for most Wayne County rivers, creeks and streams. **All streams in Wayne County are subject to flooding.**

Thunderstorms and hurricanes can both cause water levels to rise. Localized storms will not affect all parts of the County at the same time. In recent years local storms created flooding along Great Swamp in the northern part of the County, Stoney Creek in the center of the County, and Mira Branch in the eastern part of the County. Hurricanes are generally considered a coastal problem, but Hurricanes Fran and Floyd reminded us that the highest flooding on record is associated with the aftermath of hurricanes.

Be Prepared

Before the storm threatens...

- Find out if your home or business is subject to flooding by viewing maps at the Wayne County Public Library or Wayne County Planning Department or online at www.waynegov.com
- Inventory your property. Be sure to take pictures or make a video and list descriptions. Store these and other papers in a waterproof container or a safe deposit box.

- Purchase flood insurance. You may purchase flood insurance at the following levels of coverage.

<u>Building Coverage</u>	
Residential	\$250,000
Business	\$500,000

<u>Contents</u>	
Residential (Owner)	\$100,000
Residential (Renter)	\$100,000
Business	\$500,000

- Decide where to meet your family in the event an emergency occurs.
- Post emergency plans and phone numbers in a prominent place.
- Learn warning signals from Emergency Broadcast System, Law Enforcement, EMS, and Fire Departments.
- Learn school emergency plans.
- Learn your worksite emergency plan.
- Learn evacuation routes
- Learn shelter locations.
- Learn first aid.

When a watch is issued...

- **Monitor storm reports.**
- **Make arrangements for all pets.**
- **Refill needed prescriptions.**
- **Check battery powered equipment.**
- **Keep your vehicle fueled.**
- **Keep cash on hand.**

Flood Warning

In the event of an impending flood local emergency personnel will distribute a warning on radio and television.

WEATHER RADIO

Goldsboro	162.450 MHz
Fayetteville	162.465 MHz
New Bern	162.000 MHz
Raleigh	162.550 MHz
Rocky Mount	162.465 MHz

<u>RADIO</u>	<u>TELEVISION</u>
WFMC 730 AM	WRAL Ch. 5
WGBR 1150 AM	WITN Ch. 7
WDJS 1430 AM	WNCT Ch. 9
WYMY 96.9 FM	WTVD Ch. 11
WRAL 101.5 FM	WCTI Ch. 12
WKIX 102.3 FM	WNCN Ch. 17

When a warning is issued...

- **If advised to evacuate, do so promptly.**
- **Keep phone lines open to notify emergency personnel of fires, flash floods, tornado sightings, injuries or damages. Don't dial 911 to obtain non-emergency information.**
- **Move valuables to higher elevations.**
- **Store extra water in case regular supplies are contaminated.**
- **If high winds are anticipated, board up windows or protect them with storm shutters or tape.**
- **Bring lawn furniture, trashcans, tools, etc. inside the house or tie them down.**



If evacuation becomes necessary...

- **Turn off utilities at the main switch.**
- **Don't touch any electrical equipment unless it is in a dry area.**
- **If you are caught in a building with rising water, move to a higher elevation.**
- **Stock your vehicle with nonperishable foods, water, first aid kit, blankets, flashlights, dry clothing, and special medication needed by your family.**
- **Don't drive where water is over the road. Parts of it may have washed out.**
- **If your car stalls in a flooded area, abandon it as soon as possible.**
- **Don't attempt to walk across stretches of floodwaters that are more than knee deep.**

If you go to an evacuation shelter...

- Take blankets or sleeping bags, flashlights, special dietary foods, infant needs, clothing, and folding chairs.
- Register every person arriving with you.
- Don't take pets, alcohol or weapons.
- Offer assistance to shelter workers and stress to all family members their obligations to keep the shelter clean and sanitary.
- Keep important papers with you such as drivers' license or other identification, insurance policies, property inventory, medic alert information, and maps.
- Stay there until emergency personnel release you.

Protection Measures

Every year flooding causes more property damage than any other type of natural disaster. Some Wayne County structures have been flooded more than one time. Construction practice improvements have made new structures less prone to flood damage. However, structures remain that continue to be susceptible to repetitive flood losses. Many owners are trapped in a never-ending cycle of flooding and repairing.

A repetitive loss cycle can be broken. Moving furniture and equipment to higher elevations, building temporary levees, or sandbagging will help reduce flood losses.

Permanent approaches can also be used. The Federal Insurance Administration has a manual that describes various techniques that can be used to floodproof an existing building. The [Design Manual for Retrofitting Floodprone Residential Structures](#) describes measures that can be used to reduce or eliminate damage from flooding. The steps include Elevation, Relocation or sealing of a structure, Use of levees and floodwalls, and Utilities Protection. The manual is available at the Wayne County Public Library.

Drainage System Maintenance

Streams, channels and ponds lose their carrying capacities as result of dumping, debris, sedimentation, and vegetation growth. When a drainage system loses a portion of its carrying or storage capacity, over bank flooding occurs more frequently and floods higher elevations. Dumping in streams is a violation of State and County regulations; it should be reported to the Planning Department at (919) 731-1650.

Permits

Before undertaking any project a builder must secure a development permit from the Planning Department. Activities subject to this requirement are any man made change to land or structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation, or drilling operations. The Planning Department will inform the builder of any elevation or floodproofing requirements. The National Flood Insurance Program and Wayne County regulations require that if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvements to a building exceeds 50% of the buildings market value, then the entire building must meet the same construction requirements for flood protection as a new building.

Natural & Beneficial Functions of Floodplains

In addition to the beauty afforded by our rivers and streams these features reduce frequency and duration of surface flow, provide habitat for fish, wildlife, and other vegetation, and filter stormwater runoff.

Further information

Wayne County Planning offers the following as a public service:

- ❖ Assistance in determining if properties are in a special flood hazard area
- ❖ Special flood protection techniques
- ❖ Flood determinations
- ❖ Historical flooding patterns
- ❖ Flood insurance requirements
- ❖ Vertical control information.

The Planning Department is located in the Jeffrey's Building at 134 N. John St. Goldsboro, N.C. You may contact the Planning Dept. at www.waynegov.com or (919) 731-1650 or by mail at P.O. Box 227, Goldsboro, N.C. 27533.

Wayne County Planning Dept.
P.O. Box 227
Goldsboro, N.C. 27533



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