

## FLOOD WARNINGS

The National Weather Service and Hillsborough County Emergency Operations Center issue warnings for expected flooding, which are broadcast on most radio and television stations. The City of Tampa also utilizes Alert Tampa to notify registrants of important information, including evacuation notices, through text messages, email, and phone alerts. Registering for Alert Tampa is free.

**You can register online at  
[www.tampagov.net/alerttampa](http://www.tampagov.net/alerttampa)  
or call (813) 231-6184.**

## FLOOD INSURANCE

Did you know if your home is in a special flood hazard area it has a 26% chance of experiencing a flood during the life of a 30-year mortgage? Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from flooding. Since Tampa is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program, flood insurance policies are available to its citizens at a discount. Flood insurance is a good value, even if it is not required by your lender. Be aware, if you have flood insurance because your mortgage holder requires it, it may not cover the loss of contents. Talk to your insurance agent about your coverage or a separate flood-insurance policy.

## FLOOD ELEVATION REQUIREMENTS

If you exceed 50% of your home's value with improvements and are in a special flood hazard area (A and V zones), the house must be brought up to current building code standards, including elevating above the design flood elevation. Contact the PDD for more information and permit requirements.

Copies of Elevation Certificates are available through records request at the PDD or online at Stormwater Division website.

***If you witness illegal development in a floodplain,  
please report it to the PDD at (813) 274-3100.***

### CONTACT US

Stormwater Division	(813) 274-3101
Flood Prevention	(813) 274-3101
Property / Floodzones	(813) 274-3100
Construction Services	(813) 274-3100
Hillsborough County	(813) 272-6000

**City of Tampa Department of Public Works  
Stormwater Division  
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[www.TampaGov.net/Stormwater](http://www.TampaGov.net/Stormwater)



# Stormwater Flooding

## Prevention, Protection & Information



**The Stormwater Division, part of the City of Tampa Public Works Department, works to maintain the city's drainage system. Additionally, the Division provides flood maps, information on flood prevention, and safety tips in the event of flooding.**

## MAINTENANCE OF THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM

The Stormwater Division is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the city's stormwater system. The Division's efforts to reduce flooding and improve water quality include:

- ▲ Flood response and investigation
- ▲ Capital improvement projects
- ▲ Pipe and inlet inspection and cleaning
- ▲ Ditch cleaning
- ▲ Street sweeping
- ▲ Infrastructure repair
- ▲ Flood maps
- ▲ Inventory of drainage issues

There are several causes of flooding within the city of Tampa. The most frequent type of flooding, localized flooding, is caused by summer thunderstorms and tropical storms. Due to the lack of topographic relief, it is sometimes difficult for water to quickly drain from the land.

Tampa also has sections along Bayshore Boulevard and in the vicinity of Westshore Boulevard that can experience tidal-influenced flooding. Additionally, storm surge associated with tropical systems can create the most widespread damage to the city. Monitor tropical storm conditions and heed evacuation notifications. The flood water may not be deep, but it can damage property and may even pose a threat to personal safety.

## SAFETY DURING FLOODING EVENTS

- ▲ Do not drive through flooded areas
- ▲ Do not wade through flooded water
- ▲ Watch out for unseen hazards
- ▲ Be alert for distressed animals
- ▲ Obey all evacuation notices
- ▲ Do not approach electrical lines
- ▲ Turn off your electricity
- ▲ Check for gas leaks

## PROPERTY PROTECTION

You can take an active role in protecting your property from flood damage. The method you choose will depend on your particular situation.

- ▲ Use an earthen berm or swale for water diversion
- ▲ Install or redirect roof gutters
- ▲ Reduce impervious surfaces
- ▲ Raise buildings above base flood levels
- ▲ Consider installing storm shutters
- ▲ Reinforce garage doors

The Stormwater Division can explain several options you may want to try to prevent flooding and damage to your property. In addition, the Planning and Development Department (PDD) can also provide information on retrofitting techniques for flood-prone structures.

## FLOOD PREVENTION

Do not place debris, yard waste, or trash in or near stormwater inlets, ditches, or other waterways. This can easily create blockages that may result in flooding. If you observe debris in stormwater inlets or ditches, please report it to the Stormwater Division. Illegal dumping should be reported to Hillsborough Environmental Protection Commission at (813) 627-2600.

## FLOODPLAINS

Always check with the PDD to verify if a permit is needed before you make any changes to your property such as grading, filling, or construction, especially if you reside in a floodplain. The changes you have planned may cause flooding problems for you or your neighbors, or require alternative design. The City maintains a "red-line list" of flood-prone properties. Development in these areas may be restricted. For more information, please call the PDD at (813) 274-3100.

Floodplains are natural buffers that help reduce flood damage and provide habitat for wildlife. The Hillsborough River contains the largest floodplain within the city. The upper Hillsborough River and its tributaries are designated Outstanding Florida Waters by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. This means the river has special restrictions, which prohibit any new activity that would lower the water quality or degrade the river. This protection ensures its continued usefulness for both the residents of Tampa and the environment.

For more information about this watershed, visit the Hillsborough Water Atlas website at hillsborough.wateratlas.usf.edu or Southwest Florida Water Management District website at SWFWMD.state.fl.us/education/watersheds.

## FLOOD MAPS

The City of Tampa and Hillsborough County both have copies of the updated 2008 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood maps for our area. The Stormwater Division also has maps available that show flood-hazard areas and areas of localized flooding, which may not be shown on FEMA flood maps. You may want to check these maps for flooding information before purchasing property. Please contact the Stormwater Division or visit searchable flood maps at Hillsboroughcounty.org/pgm/hazardmit/floodmap. Maps are also available at John F. Germany Library reference section.