

THE FLOOD HAZARD

Throughout Bossier City, the land is flat and storm water runoff is extremely slow. As a result there are numerous areas of the City in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Flat terrain provides very little gravity drainage. When the ground becomes saturated and heavy rains continue, flooding sometimes results. Flooding in Bossier City come from Red River, Flat River, Red Chute Bayou, Benoist Bayou, Willow Chute Bayou, Macks Bayou and miscellaneous tributaries. The last major flood events in Bossier City occurred in June 1998 and February 2001.

FEMA published maps indicating flood hazard areas and the degree of risk in those areas. To inquire if a certain property is in a SFHA, contact Don Crista or Matt Morris in the City Engineer's office in City Hall, phone 741-8567.

FLOOD WARNING

Property owners in flood prone areas should become familiar with these terms: "Watch" and "Warning." A "Flood Watch" means flooding is possible. A "Flash Flood Watch" means a flash flood can occur fast with little warning. A "Flood Warning" means a flood is occurring or will occur soon; it may take several hours to develop. A "Flash Flood Warning" means a flash flood is occurring or will happen very soon; precaution should be taken.

Tune to local radio KWKH-1130 A.M. and television stations Channels 3, 6, and 12 for information and instructions. A portable radio should be available in the event of electrical power outage.

FLOOD SAFETY

Stay alert to weather bulletins that warn of flash flooding.

In the event evacuation of a home or business is necessary, turn off all utilities at the main switch, **BUT ONLY IF TIME PERMITS**. Do not touch any electrical equipment. Report downed power lines to the Utility Company. Any source of electricity should be considered as dangerous during and after flooding.

Do not walk or drive through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. After the flood, be alert to debris or slippery surfaces that can cause injuries.

Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to search for leaks, never an open flame device.

FLOOD INSURANCE

All community property owners and renters are eligible for flood insurance; not just those that live in flood prone areas. This coverage is available as a result of the City of Bossier City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Homeowner's policies do not cover flood losses. A flood policy can cover a single-family residence for \$250,000 against flood damage. Contact the Engineering Office to learn about financial assistance that will help pay for repairs after a flood.

If FEMA flood maps show that a property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), which include all A and V zones, flood insurance is required by law to obtain federally secured financing to buy, build or improve a structure on that property.

An insurance agent can assist in determining the amount of coverage required. For further information call FEMA, 1-800-638-6620.

Once flood insurance has been purchased, an itemized list of furnishings, clothing and other valuables should be kept in a safe place. The insurance agent or broker should be notified immediately of any flood damage.

Don't wait until the last minute to purchase flood insurance. A flood policy can take 30 days to become effective.

PROPERTY PROTECTION

There are preventive measures that can be taken to minimize or eliminate the potential for flood damage to an existing building.

Sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting and lumber can be used to temporarily protect property. Also moving furniture or other possessions to higher floors, if available, could reduce contents losses.

Permanent flood proofing measures for flood prone structures are preferable to those that are temporary. Some permanent retrofitting methods are elevating the structure, building a floodwall or berm, and installing sewer back flow prevention devices.

Information on retrofitting is available at the main branch of the Bossier Parish Library. Publications are also available on flood insurance, flood protection, and floodplain management.

The main branch of the library is at 2206 Beckett Street, phone 746-1693.

DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

The Department of Public Works has initiated a program of drainage system maintenance. Major drainage channels ditches and structures are periodically checked and maintained so that stoppage is minimized and the systems are allowed to flow freely.

Citizens can greatly assist in this effort by keeping catch basins in front of their property free of debris. Also, avoid dumping debris, grass clippings, etc., into drainage ditches and catch basins. Bossier City's ordinance prohibits dumping of any material into any portion of the drainage system.

Call the Department of Public Works, 741-8405, for information concerning this program or to report illegal dumping.

BUILDING PERMITS

Any development in the SFHA requires a permit. This means you must obtain a permit before you build, alter, regrade or fill on your property.

Contact the office of Permits and Inspections at 741-8571 for building code and permit requirements or to report illegal development.

SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT

Any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition or other improvement to a building, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50% of the market value of the building before the start of the improvement.

Substantial Damage means damage to a building by any origin (not just flood), whereby the cost of restoring the building to its before-damage condition would equal or exceed 50% of the value of the building before the damage occurred.

Buildings that are substantially improved or repaired due to substantial damage must meet the requirements of new construction specified in our Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. This would include elevation to or above the base flood elevation plus one-foot.

NATURAL AND BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS

Floodplains can be a valuable resource for the city. Floodplains that are left open can provide storage for floodwaters to minimize future flood damage. They can also provide habitat for wildlife and recreational facilities for the city. The natural vegetation of floodplains can also filter pollutants from storm water and improve water quality.

IMPORTANT USEFUL WEBSITES

www.fema.gov

www.usgs.gov

www.noaa.gov

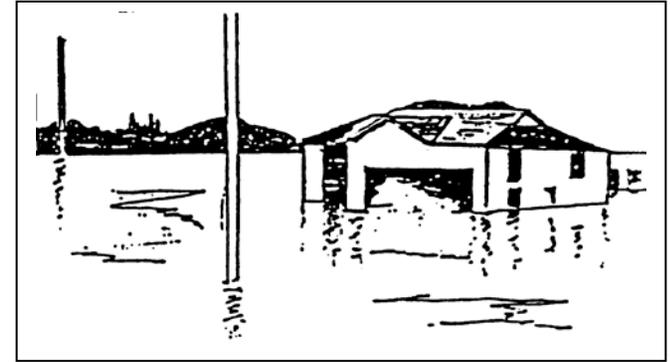
www.la.water.usgs.gov/hydrowatch.htm

www.nws.noaa.gov

www.floods.org

www.weather.gov

www.lfma.org



HIGH WATER AVENUE **BOSSIER CITY, 2012**

You are receiving this brochure because you live in an area that is subject to flooding.

PLEASE READ!

*Do You Have
Protection Against
This Type Disaster?*