

## Hurricane Preparedness

- ☂ Know your evacuation zone
  - ☂ To find your zone, go to <https://ags2.scgov.net/knowyourzone/>
- ☂ Inventory and photograph your home and contents, and store with insurance and important documents in a safe place.
- ☂ Create a safety plan, with a checklist of steps to take before, during and after a hazard.
- ☂ Attend the annual City sponsored Hurricane Preparation seminar in May.
  - ☂ The program features hurricane experts, flood safety and information for property protection and personal safety.
  - ☂ The Date and Time of the seminar will be in the City's newsletter and on the City's website.

## Protect Natural Floodplain Functions

- ☂ Floodplain areas along the coastal region and major drainage ways, such as Curry Creek and Hatchett Creek, benefit the natural water flow to provide major flood protection.
- ☂ It is important to keep all drainage areas free of debris to prevent flooding, improve water quality, and protect the natural function of the floodplain.
- ☂ Do not dump or throw anything into ditches, inlets or streams.
  - ☂ Dumping is a violation of City Code, Section 74-266. If you see someone dumping hazardous materials or debris in the ditches, inlets or streams, please contact James Clinch, Assistant City Engineer.
- ☂ Limit the use of fertilizers and pesticides as their runoff will pollute our waters.
  - ☂ All pesticides and hazardous materials should be disposed of at the Sarasota County Chemical Collection center, at 250 S. Jackson Rd., Wed – Sat, 8am-4pm.
- ☂ Always pick up after your pet. The waste may be flushed down the toilet or disposed of with the garbage.

## Protect your property from the hazard

- ☂ Keep driveway culverts clean and free of obstructions.
  - ☂ It is the responsibility of property owners to keep pipes (culverts) under driveways clean and free of obstructions. Clogged driveway culverts can cause localized flooding.
- ☂ Make sure banks of ditches and streams near your property are clear of brush and debris. Silt fences keep our streams clean by preventing soil from entering our stormwater system. The City of Venice and Sarasota County have ditch maintenance programs to help remove major blockages such as downed trees.
  - ☂ Report broken silt fences and ditch blockages to Public Works Department at 941-486-2422.
- ☂ Retrofit your property
  - ☂ Re-grade the site or elevate the structure. (Permits are required)
- ☂ Elevate air handlers, electrical boxes and water heaters. (Permits are required).
- ☂ Make sure your downspouts are clear and directed away from the house.
- ☂ Mitigation grants are available
  - ☂ Financial assistance through Federal grants may be available for home owners who meet the criteria of a repetitive loss building and wish to elevate their home above the flood level.
  - ☂ Contact Kathleen Weeden, City Engineer, or visit [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org) for more information
- ☂ Get Expert advice
  - ☂ If you suspect you have a potential flooding problem, contact James Clinch, Assistant City Engineer, to discuss your concerns or schedule an appointment. A representative of the department will visit your property. Although detailed engineering advice will not be offered, recommendations to reduce the flood risk will be provided. A detailed review by an independent professional may be necessary.



## Flood Protection Information for City of Venice Residents 2016

- ❖ Alerts give you time to prepare
- ❖ Flood watches provide up to 24 hours' notice
- ❖ Warnings mean a flood is imminent

**If your life  
or the lives of others  
are in imminent danger,  
dial 911**

**City Hall Tel# 941-486-2626**  
**Kathleen J. Weeden, P.E., CFM, LEED®AP**  
City Engineer  
Tel# 941-882-7409  
**James Clinch, P.E., CFM**  
Assistant City Engineer  
Tel# 941-882-7410

## Know your Flood Hazard

- ☔ Flooding in our city is caused primarily by two sources: storm surge and heavy rainfall.
- ☔ Insure your property for *YOUR* flood hazard
  - ☔ In areas along Hatchett Creek, Curry Creek, Deertown Gully, Flamingo Ditch, East Venice Ave., and coastal areas, floodwaters can cover streets and yards with little warning.
  - ☔ Even if your property has not flooded in the past, it is possible a future weather event may present a different outcome. Property located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) or 100-year floodplain has a greater risk of flooding.
- ☔ Check to see if you live in the SFHA
  - ☔ Existing Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood Insurance Rate maps (FIRMs) and other reference materials are available at the Venice Public Library, 300 S. Nokomis, Venice.
  - ☔ The new Digital FIRMs are anticipated in October 2016. Proposed preliminary FEMA floodmaps (DFIRMs) are available online at <https://scginternet.scgov.net/FloodMaps/Pages/default.aspx>
  - ☔ If Elevation Certificates were required for your property when the permits were issued, copies of the certificate may be available either online at [http://venicegov.com/Disaster\\_links/elevation\\_certs.asp](http://venicegov.com/Disaster_links/elevation_certs.asp) or from the Engineering Dept. at City Hall.
  - ☔ Visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) for a risk evaluation.
- ☔ Flood Zone assistance is available at the Engineering Department.

## General Preparedness

- ☔ Receive timely flood warnings
  - ☔ Go to [www.venicegov.com](http://www.venicegov.com) and click on "Emergency Notification System" to register for the CodeRED® early warning notification system.
  - ☔ Tune into local TV and radio channels or purchase a weather alert radio.

## Protect yourself from the hazard

- ☔ Do not walk through flowing flood-water; just 6 inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.
- ☔ Do not drive through flooded areas.
  - ☔ Obey road barriers.
  - ☔ Roads and bridges may be washed out.
- ☔ Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.
  - ☔ FPL restores power to critical facilities first.
- ☔ Have electricity turned off if property has been flooded.
  - ☔ Call FPL (800)-468-823, to request service.
  - ☔ Do not use appliances that have been in water.
- ☔ Watch your step.
  - ☔ Look out for animals and harmful insects in flood waters.
  - ☔ Fire ants and snakes will head to high ground.
- ☔ Be alert for gas leaks
  - ☔ Do not use open flames until you know the area has been ventilated.
- ☔ Do not enter a building that has been flooded until it has been cleared by an inspector.

## Flood Education

- ☔ Teach children about flood safety so that they know your safety plan, and to avoid flooding dangers.
- ☔ Make sure all guests and occupants of your home know the safety plan for your family.

## Build Responsibly

- ☔ Check with the City Building and Engineering Departments, at 941-486-2626, to see if a permit is needed before initiating construction or altering grades.
- ☔ Report un-permitted construction activities.

## Elevated and Flood Vented Properties

- ☔ Keep flood vents open and unobstructed
- ☔ A non-Conversion statement is required, by the City Building Department, for areas below the required minimum finished floor elevation.

## Buy Flood Insurance

- ☔ Standard Homeowner's Insurance policies do not cover damage from floods!
  - ☔ If your house is flooded and you do not have flood insurance, any damage below the waterline will not be covered by your homeowner's insurance policy. Verify, annually, that the policy limits are adequate.
  - ☔ Flood insurance covers all surface floods, even if a federal disaster is not declared.
  - ☔ If the cost to reconstruct, rehabilitate, or improve the property equals or exceeds 50% of the building's appraised value in a 10 year period, the building will have the same construction requirements as a new structure. This rule includes non-disaster improvements made to the building. Contact the Building Dept. regarding Substantial Improvements.
- ☔ Flood insurance discounts available; The City of Venice participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which allows federally funded flood insurance to be available to all residents, including those whose property has been flooded in the past.
- ☔ The City of Venice is currently rated a Class 6 in the Community Rating System (CRS).
  - ☔ Owners of property in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) within the City may receive up to 20% reduction in the cost of flood insurance premiums.
  - ☔ Owners of property within the City that is not in the SFHA can receive as much as an additional 10% reduction in flood insurance premiums through a preferred risk insurance policy.
- ☔ There is a 30 day waiting period before the NFIP takes effect. Contact your insurance agent about rates and coverage.
- ☔ If you do not have an insurance agent, contact the NFIP agent referral service at 888-379-9531 or visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) for information.
- ☔ Verify you have adequate flood insurance prior to adoption of the new floodmap.