



Did You Know?

- ▶ Flooding can be caused by heavy rains as well as by tropical storms and hurricanes.
- ▶ If your property is in a special flood hazard area, there is at least a one in four chance of flooding during a 30-year mortgage.
- ▶ Flooding occurs in and out of designated flood zones.
- ▶ Nearly 20 percent of flood insurance claims come from areas that are not in a special flood hazard area.
- ▶ Natural floodplains provide storage for flood waters and buffer the coastal areas from storm surges. They also improve water quality, recharge aquifers, improve wildlife habitat and provide recreational opportunities.
- ▶ Pinellas County will notify you of an emergency with phone messages! The county will also notify the local news stations about emergencies. Tune in for updates!
- ▶ Six inches of moving water can make you fall and a foot of water will float many vehicles.
Turn Around, Don't Drive!



Protect the Natural Floodplains

Use Low Impact Development (LID), such as green roofs, rain barrels, bioretention systems, pervious pavers and vegetative buffers, on your property.

Only Rain Down the Drain!

- Clear stormdrains to prevent flooding.
- Keep debris and trash out of the streets, streams and ditches.

It's the Law

There are regulations against dumping into stormdrains, waterways or waterbodies. Stormdrains carry rainwater directly to the nearest body of water.



National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS)

By providing the flood services mentioned in this brochure and participating in the NFIP CRS, residents and businesses in unincorporated Pinellas County will save over \$5 million dollars per year on flood insurance premiums beginning May 1, 2016. Make sure your flood insurance policy is rated correctly and you are receiving the correct CRS discount. With your continued support, there is an opportunity to save even more in the future.

For more on the information presented in this brochure and other flood information, contact:

Pinellas County Flood Information Services
(727) 464-7700
www.pinellascounty.org/flooding



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To obtain accessible formats of this document, please call (727) 464-4062 (V/TDD), 07/16.
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YOUR GUIDE TO Flood Information in Pinellas County



www.pinellascounty.org/flooding

Build Responsibly

- Find out what permits are required.
- Get required permits before you start any home repair, improvement or construction.
- Plan for proper drainage.
- Be aware of the substantial improvement rules.

Protect Property

- Elevate your utilities, such as water heaters, AC units, etc.
- Implement floodproofing techniques.
- Visit **www.pinellascounty.org/flooding** or contact Pinellas County Flood Information Services at (727) 464-7700. Staff are available to provide in-person property protection consultations and drainage evaluations.

Insure Yourself

Anywhere it rains, it can flood.

Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover losses due to flooding. Protect yourself by purchasing flood insurance for your home, business or rental. There is a 30-day waiting period before coverage goes into effect, so don't delay. Flood insurance is mandatory for federally backed mortgages on buildings located in the special flood hazard area.

Find out how much flood damage could cost you and find a local flood insurance agent at **www.floodsmart.gov** or (888) 379-9531.



Be Prepared

- Find out your flood risk.
- Know your zone.
- Prepare ahead. Go to **www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/** to get an emergency plan for you, your loved ones and your pets.
- Pack an emergency "Go Bag".
- Inventory, photograph or videotape your home or business.

Stay Connected

- Sign up for the Alert Pinellas emergency notification service to receive emergency alerts via text message on your cell phone.
- Sign up for email notifications.
- Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor.
- Find out more about staying connected at **www.pinellascounty.org/flooding/safety.htm**.



Everything you need to help you prepare is in the *All-Hazard Guide for Pinellas County Surviving the Storm*, which is available at county buildings, public libraries, many pharmacies as well as online at **www.pinellascounty.org/emergency**.

What is my Flood Risk?

1. What flood zone am I in?
2. What types of flooding am I susceptible to?
3. Do I need flood insurance?
4. Am I in a storm surge area?
5. What's the difference between a flood zone and an evacuation zone?
6. How deep could the flood get?
7. How do I get the information I need to complete my elevation certificate?*

To find answers about your flood risk and more, visit the online Flood Map Information Service at **www.pinellascounty.org/flooding** or contact Pinellas County Flood Information Services at (727) 464-7700.

* Pinellas County provides copies of completed FEMA elevation certificates.

