



Town of Orleans

Flood Hazard

Information

For more information, please contact the Orleans Building Department at 508-240-3700 extension 341.

Brochure created 10/97
Revised 9/05

Reason for this notification:

This brochure has been mailed to property owners located in flood hazard areas or adjacent to repetitive flood loss areas. In addition, it provides some basic flood information any resident may find useful.

The purpose of this brochure is to remind you of the potential hazards associated with coastal storms. There are steps that can be taken to minimize financial and property losses that often occur when a large coastal storm strikes.

If you live in or near a flood zone, you should consider purchasing flood insurance. Flood damage is not covered by standard homeowner policy; it is only available through a separate policy backed by the federal government through the National Flood Insurance Program.

What is a Flood Hazard Area?

A 100-year coastal floodplain is an area that on average is expected to have a 1% chance of being flooded in any given year. These flood areas are mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

How do I know if my property is in a Flood Zone?

Information on flood zones is available at the Orleans Building Department. The information is taken from the Flood Insurance Rate Maps, provided by the National Flood Insurance Program. These are available to the public 8:00AM to 4:30PM, Monday through Friday.

Call 508-240-3700 x341 with questions.

Flood Warnings

Flood warnings are forecasts of impending storms and broadcast to the public. These are to help people prepare by providing information. If a flood emergency is declared, we recommend citizens tune in to local radio and television stations.

Suggested Local Radio Stations

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| WKPE | 104.7 |
| WCOD | 106.1 |
| WQRC | 99.9 |
| WOCN | 103.9 |

What causes flooding?

Coastal flooding is usually the result of large storms such as hurricanes or northeasters. Flood waters are driven ashore by high winds, an event known as storm surge. Unusually high tides can compound the problem.

The blizzard of 1978 is a good example of a 100-year storm. Smaller storms can also cause significant damage, for example, the No-name storm of October 1991.

What can I do?

- If you are located in a flood zone, contact your insurance agent regarding flood insurance.
- Report any catch basin drainage problems to the Highway Department.
- Do not dump or dispose of anything into wetland areas. This is prohibited by the Conservation Commission.
- Have your home elevated above flood levels, or consult a contractor about retrofitting and flood proofing your home. Further information on flood proofing your home is available at Snow Library.
- Relocate or elevate the electrical panel, heating, hot water systems, washers/dryers to areas less likely to be flooded.

What should I do when a potential for flooding exists?

- Fuel your car
- Board or tape up windows
- Have cash.
- Put important documents in fireproof/waterproof storage containers.
- Have a battery operated radio, flashlights and extra batteries (avoid using candles)
- Have water and non-perishable foods on hand
- Have a first aid kit and any important medications on hand
- **Listen to radio and news announcements.**
- **Do not attempt to cross flooded streams or streets; currents can be deceptive.**
- **Stay away from/out of ocean surf**

- Stay away from power lines and electrical lines.
- **Pay attention to areas that are being evacuated and the locations of shelters.** *You may be asked to evacuate even if your property is not in a flood zone if areas around your home are endanger of becoming flooded.*
- If going to a shelter, make arrangements for pets; most shelters will not take them. Take personal items, food/water, and important medications. Take bedding, change of clothes, etc.
- If it is too late to evacuate, and you **are in** an area susceptible to coastal flooding, find a room without windows on an upper floor for refuge until the storm officially passes
- If you **are not** in a location susceptible to coastal storm surge/flooding, go to an interior room on the lowest floor of the building to protect yourself against wind-related damage.

What to do if your home is flooded:

- Have your electricity turned off. Continue to be careful because some appliances retain electrical charges even after they are unplugged. Do not use any damaged appliances until they have been examined by a qualified professional.
- Check for gas leaks. When inspecting damage use a flashlight instead of house lights or candles.
- Be alert for unwanted animals in your home, as they may seek shelter.
- Thoroughly clean everything that has gotten wet. Flood waters can carry a variety of pollutants.
- Structural inspection of your home may be required after flooding.