



TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY

2017 FLOOD AND HURRICANE AWARENESS NEWSLETTER

Flood Hazards – How to protect yourself and your property!

Flood Hazard Area

Longboat Key residents live within a floodplain. Additionally, all of Longboat Key is designated as a Special Flood Hazard Area since our community is subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any year. Your property may be vulnerable to flooding from heavy storms. Contact the Longboat Key Planning, Zoning & Building Department (941-316-1966) or the Public Works Department (941-316-1988) to find out which flood zone your property is in according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS).

Flood Warning

Longboat Key, Manatee and Sarasota Counties utilize severe weather and flood warning systems. Warnings are issued via television and radio. Tune in to these media for instructions during times of possible severe weather. The Town of Longboat Key Emergency Notification System provider delivers automated telephone notifications to registered participants. ***Register your information for the CodeRED Emergency Notification System online at www.longboatkey.org (click on Residents, CodeRED).*** Additional services are now available through *CodeRed*. Services include Severe Weather Warnings for tornadoes, flooding, and severe weather events. ***RE-REGISTER to update your settings if you initially registered prior to March 2016.***

Hurricane evacuation maps are printed in the Sarasota and Bradenton phone books. Sarasota and Manatee County Hurricane Evacuation Maps are also available at the Police Department at 5460 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Fire Department at 5490 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Town Hall and Building Department at 501 Bay Isles Road, and at the Public Works Department located at 600 General Harris Street.

Flood Safety

Being aware of what steps you can take to minimize your loss prior to a flood is the first step to safety.

- ◆ Listen for weather updates and stay informed.
- ◆ Keep portable radio, flashlight and fresh batteries on hand.
- ◆ Turn off gas and electricity. (Call service provider for assistance.)
- ◆ Clear your yard, porch or patio of all loose objects.
- ◆ Moor your boat securely.
- ◆ Store enough drinking water for 5 days in clean containers.
- ◆ Know your evacuation route; know where to go.
- ◆ Have a backup plan if the storm track changes.
- ◆ ***IF ORDERED TO EVACUATE, OBEY IMMEDIATELY!***
- ◆ ***TAKE YOUR HURRICANE EVACUATION KIT!***
- ◆ ***DO NOT PANIC!***

Caution: Do not drive or walk through a flooded area. Drowning is the number one cause of flood related deaths. Statistically, more people drown in their cars than any place else during flood events. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can sweep you off your feet. Don't drive around road barriers, the road may be washed out or there may be downed power lines. The number two killer during flood events is electrocution. Electrical current can flow through water. Report downed power lines to **FPL** (1-800-4-OUTAGE or 1-800-468-8243).

Don't Forget Your Pets!!

If you must evacuate do not leave your animals behind. Evacuate them to a pre-arranged safe location if they cannot stay with you during the evacuation period. (Remember, pets are only allowed at pet friendly designated shelters.) If there is a possibility that disaster may strike while you are away from home, there are precautions you can take to increase your pet's chance of survival but they are not a substitute for evacuating with your pets. **For more information, contact** the Humane Society of the United States, Disaster Services, 2100 L Street NW, Washington DC 20037 (www.hsus.org), 202-452-1100.

Hurricane Evacuation

You may be advised to leave the island between 30 and 72 hours **before** a hurricane strikes. Because of expected off island heavy rains and gale force wind conditions, evacuation during daylight hours is strongly recommended. Evacuation routes may be flooded 24 hours before a hurricane hits. Although forcible evacuation is legal, Longboat Key Public Safety Departments will not force you to evacuate against your will. Any person who wishes to remain on the Key after evacuation has been ordered will be asked to give the Police Department the name of their next of kin. After Town Staff evacuates the Key and flooding begins, there may be no water and sewer service, nor telephone or electric power service. All buildings, regardless of height, will be subject to severe damage and, quite possibly, total destruction. Persons residing in condominiums above the first floor are advised that they are just as much at risk as are those residing in single family homes. Please note that elevators in multi-floor buildings may not function. **By calling one number, 511, motorists everywhere in the state can find out about construction updates, lane closures, traffic incidents, severe weather reports and Amber and Silver Alerts. For more information about this new statewide service, please click on: <http://www.fl511.com/>.**



Being prepared and knowing your evacuation route is essential to safely arriving at your evacuation destination.

Property Protection

Moving outdoor furniture and relocating downstairs furniture to upper stories or higher locations may minimize loss. Sandbags can be placed to help slow down flood waters reaching your possessions. Retrofitting is a way to minimize loss prior to floods occurring. This involves building flood walls, elevating structures, etc. The Longboat Key Planning, Zoning & Building Department can assist property owners in retrofitting techniques and in how to select a contractor.

Flood Insurance

Regular homeowner insurance policies do not cover losses due to flooding. The **Federal Insurance Administration (FIA)** makes flood insurance available to everyone in the Town through private insurance agents. This is because the Town of Longboat Key participates in the **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)** which is administered by the **FIA**. For most individuals a home and its contents are their greatest investments. **More information is available at <http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/>.**

We strongly urge you to buy flood insurance to protect yourself from a devastating loss. Through the efforts of Town staff participating in the **Community Rating System (CRS) Programs**, citizens are eligible for up to a **25% discount** on flood insurance rates. Continued citizen support of these programs and their requirements will help mitigate against future loss as well. Information about federally backed flood policies is available to everyone in the Town through private insurance agents. Property owners can insure their buildings and contents, and renters can insure their possessions.

Further Information and Flood Zone Determination

As a public service, the Town of Longboat Key will provide you with the following information upon request:

- ◆ **Where your property on Longboat Key lies within one of the respective Manatee or Sarasota County maps within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) as shown on the current Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).**
- ◆ **Additional flood insurance risk data for a site, such as the FIRM zone and the base flood elevation requirements, including any additional freeboard requirement above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) shown on the FIRM.**
- ◆ **We have a handout on the flood insurance purchase requirement that can help people who need a mortgage or loan for a property in the SFHA.**
- ◆ **The Town maintains elevation certificates for new and substantially improved structures in the SFHA.**
- ◆ **The Town updates the Flood Insurance Rate Maps as needed when revisions are made to the maps.**
- ◆ **The Town also has information in addition to the FIRM information, problems not shown on the FIRM, special flood related hazards, historical flood information, and natural floodplain functions.**
- ◆ **To obtain flood zone and flood protection assistance information, please contact the Planning, Zoning & Building Department (941-316-1966) located at 501 Bay Isles Road on Longboat Key. We are open 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. There is no charge for this service.**

A variety of pamphlets and other information are available, as well as copies of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Realtors, Insurance Agents or property owners can also obtain copies of Elevation Certificates on file for Longboat Key properties. When available, Flood Elevation certificates for a particular address are accessible at [www.longboatkey.org/Planning Zoning & Building Department/Elevation Certificates](http://www.longboatkey.org/Planning%20Zoning%20&%20Building%20Department/Elevation%20Certificates). Additionally, the Manatee County Central Library (941-748-5555) and Sarasota County Selby Public Library (941-861-1100) have reference sections devoted to floodplain management, protection and information.

Disaster Mitigation Efforts

The Town participates with both Sarasota and Manatee County **Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS)** groups. These groups are designed to insure our municipality is prepared for all types of disasters. The LMS insures the Town is eligible for disaster mitigation funding after a declared event. The LMS also includes the Town's primary Floodplain Management Plan. Both the LMS document and the Annual Report on the Town's Floodplain Management Plan are available at Town Hall for review. Please take an opportunity to visit, and/or call the Public Works Department at (941) 316-1988 for additional information.

How Can I Help Our Community? Do your part in helping to preserve the storm drainage systems. Do not throw anything into drainage structures, ditches, swales, or streams. This is a violation of Town Ordinances. Often grass clippings, mulches, branches and debris can accumulate and clog or plug storm water flow through the system and potentially contribute to flooding.

Who Can I Call If I See:

Illegal dumping?	(941) 316-1976 Police Community Services
Debris or blockages in a drainage system?	(941) 316-1988 Public Works
Construction work without a permit?	(941) 361-6411, ext.1917 Code Enforcement

Home Improvements

Be aware that for any structure in the Town of Longboat Key, local ordinances, as well as Federal and State Laws and Codes, require that:

- Any structure that is damaged to more than 50% of its market value, OR
- Any structure where improvements are planned where the cost of improvements to the structure is more than 50% of its market value, OR
- Any combination of the two above; then, ...

the repair or improvements must be built to meet current floodplain codes including, in some cases, elevation of the structure to the required flood elevation. These requirements will be explained to you when you apply for building permits. Contact the Planning, Zoning & Building Department (941-316-1966) or Public Works (941-316-1988) for more information.

Repetitive Loss Properties

For the purposes of identifying properties facing significant risk of flooding, the **NFIP** defines a Repetitive Loss Property as "one that has had two or more losses of greater than \$1,000 each within any 10-year period."

Compared to the occurrence of a fire, people in floodplains are 27 times more likely to experience a flood during a 30-year mortgage.

Some repetitive loss buildings have been replaced or properly elevated. Some owners of repetitive loss properties have simply dropped National Flood Insurance coverage for economic or coverage limitation reasons.

If you want more information regarding aspects of owning a repetitive loss property, what measures can be taken to help prevent loss, or retrofitting and mitigation efforts to bring your property into compliance, please contact the Planning, Zoning & Building Department at (941) 316-1966, Public Works Department at (941) 316-1988.

Town staff members are available to conduct site visits, when requested, to discuss flooding, drainage problems and retrofitting options. You can also contact **Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM)**, or **State Floodplain Management Office** (floods@em.myflorida.com, 850-413-9960), or the

TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY

2017 SUMMER EDITION

Public Works Department
600 General Harris Street
Longboat Key, FL 34228
Phone: 941-316-1988
Email: jlinkogle@longboatkey.org
www.LongboatKey.org

TOWN COMMISSION

Terry Gans, Mayor
Ed Zunz, Vice Mayor
Randy Clair, District 1
George Spoll, District 2
Jack Daly, District 4
Jim Brown, At Large
Irwin Pastor, At Large

Dave Bullock, Town Manager

Mike Hein, Assistant Town Manager

Register your **CodeRED Emergency Notification information** online at www.LongboatKey.org (Click on Residents, CodeRED). Did you register **PRIOR** to March 2016? You should **RE-REGISTER** to opt-in for Severe Weather Warnings. The additional service warns residents by cell phone, text, and/or email when the National Weather Service issues tornado, flooding, or other severe weather warnings.

FLOOD AND HURRICANE AWARENESS SEMINAR – “The Aftermath”

The annual disaster preparedness seminar is on Friday, May 26, 2017 from 3:15pm to 6:30pm at the Longboat Key Club Harbourside Ball Room, 3000 Harbourside Drive. The keynote speaker is Craig Fugate who was the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under President Barack Obama—2009-2016 and Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management under Governor Jeb Bush—2001-2009. Also speaking are Bob Harrigan, ABC7 News Chief Meteorologist, and Steve Guetschow, American Red Cross of Southwest Florida Disaster Program Manager. RSVP required to the Chamber of Commerce at 383-2466. First 125 pre-registered attendees will receive a giveaway bag with a ticket for a door prize and a virgin Hurricane drink. Light appetizers served, compliments of The Resort at Longboat Key Club.

Longboat Key Receives Deeper Discount for Community Rating System

The National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages Community Floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. For CRS participating communities, flood insurance premium rates are discounted in increments of 5% (i.e., a Class 1 community would receive a 45% premium discount, while a Class 9 community would receive a 5% discount). Longboat Key is now a Class 5 CRS participating community with a **25%** premium discount. Check with your insurance agent at renewal time to insure you are getting the proper discount. CRS Coordinator James Linkogle will be happy to answer any of your questions and is available at (941) 316-1988.