



9293 Harding Avenue
Surfside, FL 33154

PH: 305-861-4863
FAX: 305-861-1302

Because the Town of Surfside is a coastal community that lies almost entirely in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), your property is at risk of flood damage.

Local Flood Hazard Storm surge may flood the entire Town. Any storm surges experienced here will most likely be as a result of a hurricane or tropical storm, typically from June 1 through November 30 each year. Other flooding can occur due to heavy rains over a short period of time, especially at times of high tide.

The Town of Surfside is proactively working to protect our beautiful seaside community from the expected consequences of sea level rise and to adopt mitigation strategies. In April 2014 the Town hosted a solution-oriented workshop that was facilitated by the CLEO Institute, a local non-profit, to initiate dialogue on this critical topic that will impact the South Florida region. It is important that residents and business owners be aware of the impacts of sea level rise on insurance, property values, property protection, and what each one of us as individuals can really do. One source of information can be found at www.cleoinstitute.org.

Town Flood Services To assist residents in understanding the National Flood Insurance Program and the effects on construction, remodeling and maintaining buildings, the Town offers the following services to residents: Access to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps to show if your property is in a Special Flood Hazard area or may be affected by coastal erosion, consultation on the Substantial Damage/Improvement 50% rule, site specific elevations for mechanical equipment, elevation certificates, general information and brochures. Town Staff will offer advice and visit properties upon request to review its flood problem and explain ways to stop or prevent flood damage. Please contact the Town's Building Department at (305) 861-4863, Ext. 231. Look at the Flood and Hurricane Preparedness link on the Town's website at www.TownofSurfsidefl.gov for more important information that all residents should know.

Drainage System Maintenance A serious risk to the safety of residents is the blockage of catch basins by debris which prevents proper drainage of. The Town sweeps the streets twice a month and monitors all catch basins after each storm event. As a resident you can help by not placing lawn cuttings or any other debris by the curb on the weekend. This is a violation of the Town Code. Please contact Town Hall

(305) 861-4863 if you see or know of anyone illegally dumping materials/debris into any catch basins within the Town.

Flood Safety Do not walk through flowing water! Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you must walk in water, use a pole or stick to see how deep the water is.

Do not drive through a flooded area! More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers. Canals or ponds may not be distinguishable from roads.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires! The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Immediately report downed power lines to **Florida Power & Light (FPL) at 1-800-468-8243** or to the Town's Police Department **(305) 861-4862**.

Have your electricity turned off by FPL! Some appliances such as TVs keep electrical charges even after they have been unplugged. Don't use appliances or motors that have been wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned, and dried by professionals.

Look out for animals, especially snakes! Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours.

Look before you step! After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris including broken glass and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.

Be alert for gas leaks! Don't smoke or use candles lanterns or open flames until the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

Flood Warning System In cases where flooding might occur during emergency situations, local radio and television stations will provide critical information as part of the Emergency Broadcast System. Emergency information and evacuation routes are available through the County Office of Emergency Management, **(305) 468-5400** or on the Town's website at www.townofsurfsidefl.gov. In the event of a hurricane, all residents are required to evacuate when ordered by the Mayor of Miami-Dade County. Each resident should make plans well in advance of the emergency. Public emergency shelters should be your last resort. You can call the Surfside Resident Storm Hotline at **(305) 993-1070**. Register your telephone number for the Town's CodeRED emergency alert system at the Police Department page of the Town's website or call **(305) 861-4862, extension 210**.

Property Protection It is imperative that you know what to do to minimize flood damage. "Flood proofing" means making physical alterations to your building that improves the ability of property and structures to withstand the damages caused by flooding. You should take action now to minimize losses to your property and possessions. Dry flood proofing includes sealing or waterproofing with special materials and compounds which provide a chemi-

cal or physical barrier against water intrusion during times of flooding. Construction of a small flood wall or earthen berm, or redirecting drainage to keep water away from the building is another example of property protection. Call the Town Building Department at (305) 861-4863 for more information or search the Miami-Dade County Library for "Flood" information.

Flood Insurance Property losses due to flooding are not covered under standard homeowners' or renters' insurance policies. Two types of flood insurance coverage are available; building and contents coverage. Contents coverage should be purchased by renters. Flood insurance coverage may be mandatory for some mortgage loans. If you don't have flood insurance for your property and its contents, contact your insurance agent. Information is also available from the www.floodsmart.gov website. Don't wait until the next flood is coming to buy flood insurance as there is usually a 30-day waiting period before a flood insurance policy takes effect.

Protect Natural Floodplain Functions Florida's beaches are important to many user groups, from commercial fishers to wildlife watchers to the millions of vacationers that visit the state each year. In the Town of Surfside the beach and dune system is our first line of defense against storms because it acts as a buffer between the storm waves and coastal development. During hurricanes, storm waves encounter the beach and dunes before crashing into upland structures. You can help to keep our beautiful beach in its natural condition by observing the following rules:

- Sea oats and other beach plants help stabilize our sand dunes. Enjoy them, but don't pick them – it's illegal.
- No walking off marked paths;
- No dogs allowed on beachside of dune;
- It is unlawful to leave litter on the beach;
- Observe our waterfront wildlife from a distance.

Help protect nesting areas for sea turtles. Our beach is recognized as nesting habitat for the Federally-designated threatened loggerhead, green, hawksbill, and leatherback sea turtles. Sea turtles typically nest at night from March through November, with incubation lasting approximately 55 days. Threats to sea turtle nests are both man-made and naturally occurring. Do not place physical obstructions on the beach, which may entrap adults and hatchlings. Keep control of your pets as nests can be disturbed by stray or unleashed pets.