

STEP 6- PROTECT NATURAL FLOODPLAIN FUNCTIONS

Floodplains are a natural component of Craven County's environment. Understanding and protecting the natural functions of floodplains helps reduce flood damage and protect resources. When flooding spreads out across the floodplain, its energy is dissipated, which results in lower flood flows downstream, reduced erosion of the stream bank and channel, deposition of sediments and improved groundwater recharge. Floodplains are scenic, valued wildlife habitat. Poorly planned development in floodplains can lead to streambank erosion, loss of valuable property, increased risk of flooding to downstream properties and degradation of water quality. Dumping materials into our waters or drains pollutes those waters and clogs our drainage ways which can lead to flooding in our neighborhoods.

STEP 7-HURRICANE PREPARDNESS

Craven County employs "CodeRed", a reverse 9-1-1 call network, to notify citizens of emergencies including hurricane warnings. To receive these notifications you must register your address and telephone number in which you will receive messages by going online to <https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/2CF1D4D38DB9>. In the event of an emergency, check TV and radio sources for up-to-date information. If you have special needs and would like to be added to the registry, fill out a Special Needs Registry Form. You may do so online at <https://www.cravencountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/775>, or by calling (252) 636-4900 ext. 3085.

Please submit completed Special Needs Registry Form by mail to the Craven County Department of Social Services, P.O. Box 12039 New Bern, NC 28561-2039.

STEP 8-GENERAL PREPARDNESS

- ◆ Inventory and photograph your home's contents and put important papers and insurance policies in a safe place.
 - ◆ Keep emergency supplies including non-perishable food, water, batteries, flashlights, manual can opener, and a battery operated radio.
 - ◆ If possible, place the washer, dryer, furnace and water heater on masonry blocks or concrete at least 24 inches above projected flood elevation, inside a floodwall or moved to a higher floor. All work must conform to state and local building codes.
 - ◆ Do not enter a flooded building until it has been cleared by the County or City building inspector, police or other government official.
- Additional information is available online at <http://www.readync.org>

FURTHER INFORMATION

As a public service Craven County offers the following assistance to residents, property owners, realtors, insurance agents, and lenders:

- ◆ Assistance in determining if properties are in a special flood hazard area
- ◆ Special flood protection techniques
- ◆ Historical flooding patterns
- ◆ Retrofitting and flood-proofing advice
- ◆ Flood insurance requirements

Craven County has made available flood information/documents at the public library (New Bern branch) for your review.

CRAVEN COUNTY PLANNING AND INSPECTIONS
HUMAN SERVICES ANNEX
2828 NEUSE BLVD.
NEW BERN, NC 28562

FLOOD NEWS

*ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A
FLOOD IN YOUR HOME OR
NEIGHBORHOOD?*

YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS
BROCHURE BECAUSE YOUR
PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN OR NEAR
A FLOOD PRONE AREA.



Craven County Planning & Inspections

**Human Services Annex
2828 Neuse Blvd.**

New Bern, NC 28562

Planning (252)636-6618

Fax (252) 636-5190

Inspections (252) 636-4987

Fax (252) 636-4984

<https://www.cravencountync.gov/336/Planning-Inspections>

Floods can occur in Craven County at any time during the year. Storm surge from hurricanes and tropical storms pose the greatest threat for flooding. However, extreme high tides and heavy rains, especially during the rainy season (which extends from June to October), can also cause flooding in neighborhoods and in the streets. Heavy and prolonged rainfall causes the capacity of the drainage system to be exceeded, and can also cause flooding along our rivers and streams, by exceeding their capacity. Because of the flat topography, flooding can occur most anywhere in the County. **Being prepared is your best defense against a flood event.**

STEPS TO PREPARE FOR A FLOOD

STEP 1 - KNOW YOUR FLOOD HAZARD

Flooding is a major hazard in Craven County and you should know your flood risk at all times. Craven County regulates development within its flood plain which can be found on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). FIRM maps are the official maps for a community on which FEMA has delineated both the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) and the risk premium zones applicable to the community. SFHAs have a 26 percent chance of flooding during the life of a standard 30 year mortgage. FEMA FIRM maps are available for free public viewing at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal> or <http://fris.nc.gov>. You can also contact the Craven County Planning Department at 2828 Neuse Blvd. New Bern, NC during normal business hours or call our office at (252) 636-6618 for help determining which flood zone your property may be located in.

STEP 2 - INSURE YOUR PROPERTY

Flooding is not covered by a standard homeowner's policy. Flood Insurance is available to homeowners, condo owners, commercial owners, and all renters. Renters are encouraged to purchase flood insurance for the contents of their home. Homeowners can get up to \$250,000 of coverage and businesses can obtain up to \$500,000 of coverage.

Note that there is a 30 day waiting period before coverage goes into effect. That means now is the best time to buy flood insurance! Contact your preferred insurance agency for more information. Additional information can be found online at www.floodsmart.gov or by calling 1-888-379-9531. Craven County maintains copies of all Elevation Certificates submitted to our office and are available for review. You may view these documents at the Craven County Planning Department at 2828 Neuse Blvd. New Bern, NC.

STEP 3 - PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

Craven County and the Craven County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) coordinate with the National Weather Service in issuing public warnings concerning expected floods and storms. Local television and radio stations may announce weather advisories issued by the National Weather Service. These Stations may also provide local weather information.

- ◆ Tune-in to local radio stations such as 95.1 (WRNS), 106.5 (WRNS), or 101.9 (KISS). And local news channels such as WFXI TV-8, WITN TV-7 or WNCT-TV-9.

- ◆ All hazard NOAA Weather Radios (NWR) are available for purchase in local electronic retail or department stores and provide access to the NOAA Weather Radio Frequencies 162.550 and 162.450.

- ◆ If flooding threatens your home, turn off all electricity at the main breaker. If you lose power, turn off all major appliances.

- ◆ Turn off the gas and be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect damage. Do not smoke or use candles, lanterns or open flames unless you know that the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

- ◆ Avoid low-lying areas. Seek shelter in the highest areas possible.

- ◆ Discuss your family emergency plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together, and what you will do in case of emergency.

- ◆ Never attempt to drive through flooded roadways. Floodwaters can conceal damage underneath. As little as two feet of running water can carry away most vehicles including SUV's.

Turn Around, Don't Drown!

STEP 4 - PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

Various methods may be used to minimize flooding. If the first finished floor elevation of your property is lower than the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) established by FEMA, consider elevating your structure.

If a flood is imminent, protect your property by sandbagging areas vulnerable to the entry of water. Valuables and furniture may also be moved to higher areas of the dwelling to minimize damages. The Craven County Building Inspector will make site visits to provide one-on-one advice to property owners regarding flooding and drainage issues on private property. For more information please contact the Craven County Building Inspections Department at (252) 636-4987.

STEP 5 - BUILD RESPONSIBLY

A building permit is issued by the Building Department to build a structure or otherwise develop on a property located within a 100-year floodplain. The National Flood Insurance Program requires that if your structure is damaged or improved to an amount of 50% or more of the structure's market value, it must meet the construction requirements for a new building. Craven County requires a flood development permit for all development within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) AE (100-yr. flood) and in most cases of new or substantial improvements it is required for you to meet our 2 foot freeboard requirement as stated in the County's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.

Before you build, fill or develop in a floodplain, contact the Building Inspections Department at (252) 636-4987 to discuss County regulations in more detail. Report any development in a floodplain without a permit to the Craven County Building Inspections Department.