



DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

The code of the City of Sarasota, Section 16.20, provides that it shall be unlawful for any person to deposit any refuse in any canal, waterway or lake within the City, punishable as a misdemeanor. Violations of this ordinance may be reported to the Zoning Office. Improper dumping can cause drainage systems to malfunction, and increases the risk of flood damage to your property.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information regarding this brochure or other floodplain management issues may be obtained by calling the Zoning Office at 941-954-4156.

FLOOD PROTECTION ASSISTANCE

The Zoning Office will provide information required, minimum floor elevations, data on historical flooding in the City, and other information relating to flood threats in the City of Sarasota. The Building Department can provide you with the names of city licensed and registered contractors and information as to the legal recourse should you be dissatisfied with the contractor's performance. Building Department staff will make site visits to advise of appropriate protection measures for both new and existing buildings, and can lend assistance in reviewing retrofitting plans for existing structures.

SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT/DAMAGE REQUIREMENTS

The Federal Emergency Management Agency regulations require that is the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition or other improvements to a structure equals or exceeds 50% of the structure's market value, the building must be upgraded to meet the same construction requirements as a new building. To get specific information, you should contact the Building Department prior to planning any construction at 941-954-4156.



**“WE SERVE
WITH EXCELLENCE AND
PRIDE”**

OUR GOAL IS TO CREATE:

**SAFE PLACES FOR PEOPLE
HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS
A VISUALLY APPEALING CITY
RESPONSIBLE CITY
GOVERNMENT
ECONOMIC VITALITY**

NATURAL & BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS

Protecting floodplains and open spaces helps all residents. The City of Sarasota has adopted the Sarasota City Plan, which provides for environmental protection and preservation of recreation and open space. Our goal is to see that our natural features such as Lido Beach and our many fine parks that are located in flood-prone areas remain underdeveloped so they can serve their natural function.

**COMMUNITY
RATING SYSTEM
INFORMATION
BROCHURE**



WHERE URBAN
AMENITIES
MEET
SMALL TOWN
LIVING

Visit the Building & Zoning Department
at the City Hall Annex, 2nd floor
(corner of 2nd & Orange)
1565 First Street
Sarasota, Florida 34236
Call us at 941-954-4156



COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM INFORMATION BROCHURE

The City of Sarasota is a participant in the Community Rating System Program. We are sending this brochure to provide citizens with the information regarding the City of Sarasota flood zones and our flood plain management efforts. This notification will suggest actions you can take to protect yourself and minimize flood damage.

FLOOD HAZARDS

Flooding results from two major sources in the City of Sarasota. Coastal areas are subject to surge and coastal waves from the Gulf of Mexico. Inland areas flood when rainfall accumulates in low, flat areas with inadequate or poorly maintained drainage systems. Rainfall occurs primarily due to thunderstorms in the summer months, with additional rainfall occurring with the passage of hurricanes or tropical systems.

The 100-year floodplain is the area that has a 1% chance of being flooded in any given year, or approximately a 25% chance of being flooded over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Smaller floods have a greater chance of occurring in any year and can still create a significant flood hazard.

You may obtain information on flood zones, elevation requirements, copies of elevation certificates and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps by visiting the Zoning Office of the Building Department.

FLOOD WARNINGS

The Sarasota County Department of Disaster Preparedness and the City of Sarasota have established a Peacetime Emergency Plan. The public is encouraged to review their documents and their provisions in the Zoning Office of the Building Department.

Public service information during weather emergencies can be heard on AM radio frequencies 930, 1220, 1280, 1320, 1420, 1450 and 1490. On the FM band, tune to 88.1, 89.1, 104.3, 105.9, 106.5 or 107.9. On television, tune to broadcast channels 8, 10, 13, 28 or 40. Cable television also has Sarasota News Now (SNN) and the Weather Channel.



FLOOD SAFETY

If you have received this brochure in the mail, you should be concerned about the flood hazard. There are several actions that you can take to mitigate the flood hazard, including:

- Know the flood warning procedures.
- Plan escape routes.
- During times of heavy rainfall, monitor the level of water and stay tuned to radio or TV for possible flood warnings.
- Evacuate the flood hazard area in times of impending flood or when advised to do so by the Department of Public Safety.
- DO NOT attempt to cross a flooding stream or area on foot or by car.
- If your vehicle stalls in high water, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.
- Keep children away from flood waters, ditches, culverts and storm drains.
- Be especially cautious at night.

FLOOD INSURANCE

Your homeowner's insurance policy will not cover losses due to flooding. The City of Sarasota participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, this makes flood insurance available to anyone who resides in the City.

For many people, their home and its contents represent their greatest investment. We **strongly** urge you to buy flood insurance to protect yourself and your family from devastating losses due to flooding.

Information about flood insurance can be obtained from your insurance agent. You do not have to live in the floodplain to qualify for flood insurance. Property Owners can insure their buildings and contents, and renters can insure their possessions. Federal Law requires a flood insurance policy for any newly issued federally backed mortgage.



Just because your house has not flooded in the recent past does not mean that you are safe. There is a thirty-day waiting period before a flood insurance policy takes effect, so you should call your insurance agent now.

PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES

Retrofitting structures can minimize flood damage. Sometimes it is possible to elevate a structure. Commercial buildings can possibly install floodgates or employ other flood proofing measures. Flood proofing manuals and information on retrofitting techniques are available for review in the Building Department and in the FEMA reference section of the Sarasota County Library. Technical advice on construction techniques can also be secured from the Building Department.

Emergency measures to minimize damage during a flood situation include removing furniture, properly securing structures and glass, sandbagging and following proper evacuation procedures.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Citizens, especially those with properties located in a floodplain, are encouraged to contact the Building Department prior to building, repairing, filling or otherwise developing their property, to determine what permits are needed. Early contact eliminates confusion as to regulations, and helps avoid delays in permitting.

Any suspected illegal floodplain development should be reported to the Zoning Office at 941-954-4127.

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