

# LONGPORT FLOOD INFORMATION

**The local Flood Hazard** - All of the Borough of Longport is located in the AE Zone, which means that it is at or below the 100 year flood level. Being bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on one side and Risley's Channel the bay, on the other, Longport is susceptible to flooding. Flooding can be caused by hurricanes, tropical storms, coastal storms, commonly referred to as Northeasters, and occasional high tides with heavy rain events. Flood water can fill the streets and low lying areas from six (6) inches to four (4) feet of water, depending on the elevation of the ground, such as in the Hurricane of 1944, March 1962 storm, December storm of 1992, and Hurricane Sandy, where, all of Longport was flooded with 2' to 4' feet of water!

Flood Maps are available for your review at the Construction Code Office second floor and the Longport Branch of the Atlantic County Library, both of which are located in the Borough Hall, 2305 Atlantic Ave. Or to view the Firm-Flood Insurance Rate Map, go to [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov), click on the FEMA flood map store, go to product search, insert your address.



## **FLOOD SAFETY:**

### **PERSONAL PROTECTION YOU CAN TAKE -**

- **DO NOT** walk or drive through flood waters! Manhole covers may have become dislodged, or there may be submerged debris which can cause you serious injury and damage, or your vehicles could stall and you could become trapped.
- **STAY AWAY** from downed wires, while it is true they may only be cable or telephone wires, they may also be *LIVE ELECTRIC WIRES*
- **UNDER SEVERE FLOOD CONDITIONS**, if you leave home, turn off the electric at the main and the gas at the meter.
- **LISTEN** closely to radio and television for information and instructions from your local Emergency Management Office and the need to evacuate when an evacuation order or advisory is issued.

- **BE ALERT TO GAS LEAKS** turn off the gas to your home before it floods. If you smell gas report it to the fire dept. & gas company.

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES YOU CAN TAKE** - There are several ways to protect your home from flood damage. They range from raising the level of the ground around the property, waterproofing the building's walls and doors, installation of flood gates, correcting local drainage problems, moving furniture, sandbagging, or actually raising the first floor of the dwelling above the base flood elevation.

The Library has several books on these subjects that you can borrow to investigate what is best for you. ( see attached list of articles available through our Library ) The Borough Building Department ( 822-0569 ext. 114 ) by appointment will come out and visit your property and provide suggestions. The Building Department also contains a list of private contractors with knowledge in protective measures. **Homeowners should consider protection** for windows and doors with hard sheeting or storm shutters. Garage doors should be reinforced. The smallest pieces of wind driven as well as wave driven debris can become deadly projectiles during storms and hurricanes. BBQ'S, Lawn, deck and pool furniture should be stored inside or tied down to permanent construction to prevent damage as a result of wind and wave action.

**Additional information can be obtained** by visiting the Internet [www.flood.org](http://www.flood.org) &/ or [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

## **FLOOD INSURANCE:**

**Homeowners Insurance does not cover damages due to floods.** All of Longport is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). You have a 26% chance of being flooded during the life of a 30 year mortgage. Flood Insurance is only available to those Communities who participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Because of our floodplain management programs that attempt to protect us from the multiple flooding hazards, Longport is a part of the NFIP and thus, residents are able to obtain flood insurance. Additionally, because Longport participates in FEMA'S CRS program, flood insurance premiums are discounted.

**BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR POLICY** to ensure you have adequate coverage. Usually these policies cover the building structure, but not the contents. Contents coverage can also be obtained by asking. Since all of Longport is located with Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), the purchase of flood insurance is mandatory if using a federally regulated/insured bank for a loan. Flood insurance policy holders in Longport can get up to \$30,000. of Increase Cost of Compliance Coverage (ICC) to help pay the costs to bring their home or business into compliance with our Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Check with your Insurance Agent or Company on the low-cost preferred risk policy, ICC and other flood insurance protection for your home. **Please note that there is a 30-day waiting period before coverage goes into effect.**

### **FLOOD WARNING:**

When the possibility of flooding may exist, the National Weather Service Office issues flood watches and warnings, <http://iwin.nws.noaa.gov/iwin/nationalwarnings.html> . All regional and local television and radio stations carry such warnings. This information is transmitted on the NOAA Radio Station, 162.400 MHZ.

**The Borough of Office of Emergency Management** (822-2141) also receives weather information through the New Jersey State Police NCIC/SCIC computer Teletype System, the Atlantic County Office of Emergency Management and through in house DTN Satellite weather system. The warning system includes voice over announcements on all cable television channels on Comcast Cable Television System, **Channel 2 on Comcast Cable** now includes emergency information provided by the Office of Emergency Management and the Emergency Broadcast Radio Station 1630 am. Additionally, **emergency sirens plus voice override**, located within Longport will be activated as well as Police and/or Fire Department Vehicles with PA capacity and will advise of any major flood event and **the need to evacuate when an evacuation order or advisory is issued.**

**DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE:** The storm drainage system will not function under high tide situations. As the tides recede, the storm drain system will begin functioning and remove the waters. The Borough of Longport Public Works Department has a Storm Drainage maintenance program. Twice a year the inlets and basins are inspected and cleaned. Borough Ordinance prohibits the throwing, dumping or discharge of debris and/or litter into the storm drains and gutters. Grass clippings, leaves and small tree or shrub branches can accumulate and clog the storm drains. Help maintain the water quality, because our storm drain system empties into the Ocean and the Bay. Anything placed within the storm drain system will cause a danger to fish, wildlife and the natural habitat. If you see anyone dump, discharge or throw debris into the storm drain system, immediately contact the Longport Police ( 822-2141). **If you see a clogged storm drain contact the Longport Public Works ( 822-5759 )**



### **SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRATION:**

As part of Atlantic County's Disaster Preparedness Plan, we have developed a **Special Needs Register for Residents who may have difficulty evacuating.** **ARE YOU ELIGIBLE ?** You are eligible if you have no place to go during an emergency and have a disability covered under the Americans With Disabilities Act or require additional assistance due to the following conditions; History of stroke, Hearing, vision or speech impaired, Frail elderly, Walking limitation, Severe breathing problem, Wheelchair, cane or walker use, Heart problem, Mentally challenged .....call Bruce A. Funk 609 822 0569 est. 114

**FLOODPLAIN & BUILDING PERMITS:** All new construction and renovation projects require local permits. Various state permits may also be required, depending on the type and location of the project. Always check with your local Code Official, local Engineer, local Architect, or Land Surveyor before purchasing a property to determine what special regulations may be in effect relating to your location in the special flood hazard zone. Remember, before doing any construction, fill, additions or alterations to your home, check with the Building Department (822-0569 ext.114 ) for permit requirements. **If you see any construction, additions or alterations to a home without a Building Permit "Yellow Placard" displayed in their front window, report it to the Building Department.**

### **SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT REQUIREMENTS:**

**The Substantial Improvement/Damage Requirements** – Pursuant to Borough Ordinance, Chapter 99 “ **Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance**”; Substantial Improvement means any reconstruction during a **7 year period**, the cost of which exceeds **40 percent of the market value** of the structure before the “start of construction” of the improvement. This term includes structures which have incurred “Substantial Damage”, regardless of the actual repair work performed or “Repetitive Loss”.

