



Lafayette Consolidated Government is dedicated to minimizing the loss of life and property that is associated with flooding events. Education and prevention are valuable and proven tools that help communities become resistant to these natural disasters. LCG recognizes that its entire community is susceptible to flooding, not just those structures located within Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA's). The following information has been provided to help inform property owners located within the SFHA, flood prone areas and also all property owners of LCG.

**KNOW YOUR FLOOD ZONE**

The first and most important information to obtain is how likely it is that your home will be flooded. If your property is located within the FEMA floodplain, there is a 1% annual chance your property will be damaged by flooding. While your property may be high enough that it has not flooded recently, it could still flood in the future because not all flood events are the same. Contact 337.291.8468 to learn more about flood zones and find out what zone your property is in.

The Vermilion River is the major waterway that winds its way through Lafayette Parish, and is the area's major stormwater drainage outfall being fed by Bayou Carencro, Bayou Queue de Tortue, Beau Basin, Coulee Bend, Grand Avenue Coulee, Coulee des Poches, Coulee Ile des Cannes, Coulee Mine, Francois Coulee, Gaston Coulee, and the Isaac Verot Coulee. The Vermilion River passes near several communities and across the Intracoastal Waterway before it empties into Vermilion Bay, which connects the Gulf of Mexico. According to the USGS, the flood stage of the Vermilion River at Surrey Street is approximately ten (10) feet.

**FLOOD SAFETY**

- Monitor weather reports if a severe weather event is forecasted for the Lafayette area. If the forecast predicts that a flood will threaten your property, move valuable contents to a safe place.
- Learn the safest route from your home or business to higher, safer ground, but stay tuned to reports of changing flood conditions.
- If emergency officials tell you to evacuate or leave your home, go immediately to a safe shelter, hotel or relative's house.
- Turn off all utilities, gas and electricity at the main switch. Stay away from power lines and electrical lines. Be alert for gas leaks.
- Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood related deaths. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.
- Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than in any other location. Vehicles also push water into homes and cause additional property damage.



**BUY FLOOD INSURANCE: HOMEOWNER'S INSURANCE DOES NOT COVER FLOODS**

The purchase of federal flood insurance is highly recommended. LCG participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which means that federally subsidized flood insurance is available to everyone in the parish. Remember there is a 30-day waiting period before a policy becomes effective. Some people have purchased flood insurance because it was required by the bank or loan company when they obtained a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually these policies just cover the building's structure and not the contents. During the kind of flooding that happens in Lafayette Parish, there is usually more damage to furniture and the contents than there is to the structure. Remember that a flood insurance policy must be renewed each year.

**NATURAL & BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS**

Lafayette is a beautiful place to live. The undisturbed marshes and wetlands provide a wide range of benefits to the human and natural systems. They provide flood storage and conveyance, reduce flood velocities and flood peaks. Water quality is improved through the marshes and wetlands ability to filter nutrients and impurities from runoff and process organic wastes. The local marshes and wetlands provide breeding and feeding grounds for fish and wildlife, create and enhance waterfowl habitat, and protect habitats for rare and endangered species. The floodplains are an important asset. They provide open space, aesthetic pleasure, and areas for active and passive uses.

**FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM**

If flooding is imminent and evacuation of the parish is advised, LCG will notify you through local radio and Cable TV. Additionally, the Parish will be receiving information from NOAA Weather Station Radio broadcasts weather information at 162.550 MHZ 24 hours a day and from the National Weather Service Offices in Louisiana. The local contact number is 985.385.1770 or the City of Morgan city's Planning and Zoning Office at 985.380.4724. Please call in reference to evacuation notices, procedures and shelters.



**ANSWERS TO FLOODPLAIN QUESTIONS**

Citizens of Lafayette can obtain flood information concerning flooding, flood maps, mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements, flood insurance requirements and inquiries, and flood zone determinations from the Floodplain Administrator at 337.291.8468

**OBTAINING ELEVATION CERTIFICATES**

Elevation Certificates of many properties in the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA's) are available and on file at the Planning, Zoning and Development Department and copies are available upon request for \$25.00.

Real time river gauge information can be obtained through the following websites: [waterdata.usgs.gov/la/nwis/rt](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/la/nwis/rt) or through [www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov).

**Call or visit LCG: Planning, Zoning, & Development at 220 W. Willow St. Building B, Lafayette, LA 70501**

**337.291.8000**

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