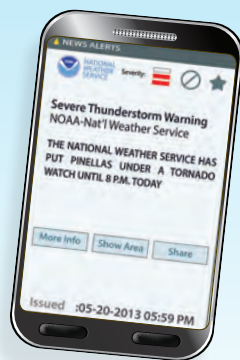




## Did You Know?

- ▶ Flooding can be caused by heavy rains as well as by tropical storms and hurricanes.
- ▶ If your property is in a special flood hazard area, there is at least a one in four chance of flooding during a 30-year mortgage.
- ▶ Flooding occurs in and out of designated flood zones.
- ▶ Nearly 20 percent of flood insurance claims come from areas that are not in a special flood hazard area.
- ▶ Natural floodplains provide storage for flood waters and buffer the coastal areas from storm surges. They also improve water quality, recharge aquifers, improve wildlife habitat and provide recreational opportunities.
- ▶ Pinellas County will notify you of an emergency with phone messages! The county will also notify the local news stations about emergencies. Tune in for updates!



## Protect the Natural Floodplains

### Only rain down the drain!

- Keep lawn clippings, leaves and other debris out of streets and storm drains.
- Do not dispose of yard debris in ditches, wetlands, ponds or streams.
- Do not fill in a floodplain. Floodplains lessen the effect of flood and storm waters and provide natural storage areas for flood waters.

Remember, there are regulations against dumping into stormdrains, waterways or waterbodies. Stormdrains carry rainwater directly to the nearest body of water.



## National Flood Insurance Program Rating System

By providing the flood services mentioned in this brochure and participating in the national Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System, residents in Pinellas County unincorporated areas saved over \$3 million dollars on flood insurance policy premiums in 2014. With your continued support, there is an opportunity to save even more in the future.

**For more on the information presented in this brochure and other flood information, contact:**

**(727) 464-7700**

**[www.pinellascounty.org/flooding](http://www.pinellascounty.org/flooding)**

Pinellas County Flood Information Services



Follow Pinellas County and Pinellas County Emergency Management on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Flickr.



Funding provided by the Pinellas County Natural Resources. Produced in cooperation with the Pinellas County Communications Department. 5,000 copies were printed at a cost of \$320.00 or \$0.06 each. Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To obtain accessible formats of this document, please call (727) 464-4062 (V/TDD). 09/15.



# YOUR GUIDE TO Flood Information in Pinellas County



**IT'S NOT ALL  
SUNSHINE**

**[www.pinellascounty.org/flooding](http://www.pinellascounty.org/flooding)**



## Build Responsibly

- Find out what permits are required.
- Plan for proper drainage.
- Be aware of the substantial improvement rules.

## Property Protection

- Elevate your utilities, such as water heaters, AC units, etc.
- Implement floodproofing techniques.
- Visit [www.pinellascounty.org/flooding](http://www.pinellascounty.org/flooding) or contact Pinellas County Flood Information Services at (727) 464-7700. Staff are available to provide in person property protection consultations and drainage evaluations.

## Flood Insurance

### Anywhere it rains, it can flood.

Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover losses due to flooding. Flood insurance is mandatory for federally backed mortgages on buildings located in the special flood hazard area.

Contacting a local insurance agent or lender for details is suggested. Be aware that there is a 30-day waiting period before coverage goes into effect – so don't delay.

Visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or call toll-free, (888) 379-9531 for information on policy rates and coverage.



Everything you need to help you prepare is in the *All-Hazard Guide for Pinellas County Surviving the Storm*, which is available at county buildings, public libraries, many pharmacies, as well as online at [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency).



## Be Prepared

Pinellas County has several methods of communication to keep you informed. You can:

- Know your flood zone by visiting [www.pinellascounty.org/flooding/maps.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/flooding/maps.htm)
- Know your evacuation zone by visiting [www.pinellascounty.org/knowyourzone](http://www.pinellascounty.org/knowyourzone) or call (727) 453-3150
- Sign-up for the free community notification service at [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency)
- Sign-up for e-Lert, a monthly e-newsletter about hurricane safety. To learn more or to sign-up for Pinellas County alert services, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/stayconnected.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/stayconnected.htm)
- Tune in to PCC-TV on Bright House 637, Verizon 44 or WOW! 18
- Pack your emergency “Go Bag”
- Inventory, photograph or videotape your home or business
- Do not drive or walk in flooded areas

## What is my Flood Risk?

1. What flood zone am I in?
2. What types of flooding am I susceptible to?
3. Do I need flood insurance?
4. Am I in a storm surge area?
5. What's the difference between a flood zone and an evacuation zone?
6. How deep could the flood get?
7. How do I get the information I need to complete my elevation certificate?\*

To find answers to these questions and more, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/flooding](http://www.pinellascounty.org/flooding) or contact Pinellas County Flood Information Services at (727) 464-7700.

\* Pinellas County provides copies of completed FEMA elevation certificates.

