



FLOOD SAFETY TIPS

- ◆ **Stay tuned to the radio or television for possible flood waters or warnings.**
- ◆ **Evacuate the flood hazard area in times of impending flood or when advised to do so by the police or fire department.**
- ◆ **Do not walk through flowing water.** Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure that the ground is still there.
- ◆ **Do not drive through a flooded area.** More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Do not drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out. **"TURN AROUND... DON'T DROWN!"**
- ◆ **Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.** After drowning, electrocution is the number two killer in a flood. Electrical current can travel through water. **Report downed power lines to 911.**
- ◆ **Be alert for gas leaks.** Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.
- ◆ **Look out for animals, especially snakes.** Small animals that have been flooded out their homes may seek shelter in your home. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn things over and scare away small animals.
- ◆ **Keep children away from floodwaters, ditches, culverts and storm drains, and be especially cautious at night. DO NOT ALLOW CHILDREN TO PLAY IN FLOODWATERS.**

City of Corpus Christi

Customer Call Center (Main) (361) 826-CITY
 Storm Water Hotline (361) 826-3800
 Development Services (361) 826-3240
 Health Department (361) 826-7273

National Weather Service

General Information Line (361) 289-0959
 Forecast Recording Line (361) 289-1861
 Severe Weather Spotters Line 1-888-579-9731



IMPORTANT & USEFUL WEBSITES

CCTEXAS.COM/EOC

Corpus Christi Office of
 Emergency Management

FLOODSMART.GOV

National Flood Insurance
 Program

TWDB.STATE.TX.US

Texas Water Development
 Board

FEMA.GOV

Federal Emergency
 Management Agency

SRH.NOAA.GOV/CRP

National Weather Service's
 Corpus Christi Office

FLASH.ORG

Federal Alliance for Safe
 Homes

Sign up for Reverse Alerts!

This reverse 9-1-1 system will allow you to receive alerts to your home or cell phone via an automated system. You can sign up at the following site:

www.cctexas.com/services/fire department

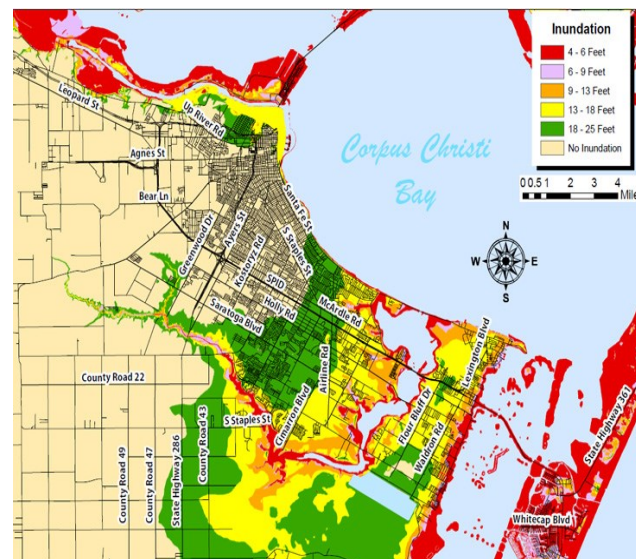
Look for the hyperlink entitled "Reverse Alerts" sign up in the center of the page.



City of Corpus Christi

A Citizens Guide to

FLOODS



The Floodplain Management Department and Public Works staff are ready to answer flood insurance questions, and provide building advice to help you protect your home, property and loved ones from flood damage.

Call us at (361) 826-3064

Visit us at CCTEXAS.COM

floodplainmanagement@cctexas.com

What You Need To Know About **FLOODS**

The City of Corpus Christi 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 can help communities become resistant to these natural disasters. The following information has been provided to help inform property owners located within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), flood prone areas and also all property owners within the City of Corpus Christi about how to protect their homes, business and families from costly flood damage.

FLOOD HAZARD

The City of Corpus Christi is almost completely bordered by bodies of water. Corpus Christi Bay, Nueces Bay, Cayo del Oso, Oso Creek and numerous tributaries, Laguna Madre and of course, the Gulf of Mexico, provide ample aesthetic value, as well as significant flooding risk. No property in Corpus Christi is more than 4 miles from a natural body of water. Additionally, abundant growth on the south side has created more run-off than the storm water system was designed to handle; and careless littering can clog storm water drains, causing ditches to overflow.



Corpus Christi is subject to coastal flooding, flash flooding, river flooding, and urban & small stream flooding. Since 1995, there have been 16 significant flood events in Corpus Christi city limits. These floods were caused by hurricanes,

tropical storms, and thunderstorms, as well as basic, heavy rainfall. Most recently, the May 2015 flood broke records, as Oso Creek crested over 27 feet after a weekend of heavy rains.



FLOOD INSURANCE

The purchase of federal flood insurance is highly recommended. **Basic homeowner's policies don't cover damage from floods.** The City of Corpus Christi participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, so discounted flood insurance is available to anyone in the City. **There is a 30-day waiting period before a policy become effective**, so think ahead. **Properties within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) are required to have flood insurance.** All properties face the risk of flood damage, even if they are not in the currently identified "Flood Zones," illustrated on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS). The City has currently received Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

NATURAL & BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS

The City of Corpus Christi is a beautiful place to live. Our abundant natural resources, marshes and wetlands have developed over thousands of years and provide flood storage and natural filtration systems. Poorly planned development of the floodplain can lead to erosion, loss of valuable property, increased risk of flooding, and decline in water quality. Additionally, these complex, dynamic biological systems support a diverse collection of wildlife. The Corpus Christi Bay and surrounding waters are home to over 700 species of birds and fish, making Corpus Christi an unique and attractive eco-tourism destination.

FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM

If flooding is imminent or evacuation of the City is advised, the City of Corpus Christi will notify you through local radio, basic TV stations (KIII, KRIS, KZTV), and local government access (Channel 20). Additionally, the City will be receiving information from NOAA Weather Station Radio (162.550 Mhz KHB-41) broadcasts and the local National Weather Service office. The regional National Weather Services' General Information Line is (361) 289-0959.

FLOOD INFORMATION

Corpus Christi Residents can obtain information concerning flooding, flood maps, mandatory flood insurance requirements, and flood zone determinations from the Floodplain Management Department.

Elevation Certificates are an important tool of the NFIP; used to provide base flood elevation (BFE) of your property, which is necessary to ensure compliance with the City's ordinances and to determine proper insurance premium rates. Elevation Certificates are maintained at by the Floodplain Management Department and are available upon request.

If no Elevation Certificate is on file, call your insurance agent and request the name of the company they used to provide this survey.

DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

It is illegal in the City of Corpus Christi to dump any type of debris into a stream, river or drainage ditch. Debris can become entangled and impede drainage causing the flow of water to back up. Residents should also keep drainage ditches on their property free from any debris that would impede the flow of water. Debris dumping should be reported to the Storm Water Department.



PROPERTY PROTECTION

Rather than wait for a flood to occur, you can act now to protect your property from flood damage. If you or your neighbors have been the victims of a flood, consider ways to prevent flood damage from occurring. **"Retrofitting"** means altering your building to eliminate or reduce flood damage. Techniques include:

- ◆ **Elevating the building** so that flood waters do not enter or reach any damageable portion of it
- ◆ **Constructing barriers** out of fill or concrete between the building and flood waters
- ◆ **Floodproofing** to modify the structure so that flood waters do not enter or there is little damage to contents if they do.

Resources on **Retrofitting** are available in the La Retama Library, Business Support Services Office and on the FEMA.gov website. Contact the Business Support Services Department for more info.



FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT

All development in the City of Corpus Christi needs permits. Contact the City of Corpus Christi's Development Services Department for advice and important information before you build, fill, place a manufactured home or otherwise develop a property.

In order to provide flood insurance to Corpus Christi residents, the City must require construction in a floodplain to meet NFIP standards. Any development in the floodplain without a permit is illegal and such activity can be reported to the Director of Development Services (361) 826-3240.

SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT REQUIREMENTS

The National Flood Insurance Program requires that any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition or other improvement of a structure, costing 50% or more a building's current value, must conform to meet the same standards as a new building. If a property was built before Corpus Christi joined the NFIP, any substantial improvement project will require the property to be above the base flood elevation.



Photos Courtesy of Corpus Christi Caller Times & the National Weather Service Corpus Christi Office.