

**BOROUGH
OF
NORTH PLAINFIELD**

***OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT***

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***Flood Information
for Residents of
North Plainfield***

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Flood Information For North Plainfield Residents

This notice is to inform all residents and businesses about flood hazards in the Borough of North Plainfield and suggested actions you can take to protect yourself.

KNOW YOUR FLOOD HAZARDS

North Plainfield is subject to flooding along Green Brook, Stony Brook, Crab Brook, Fred's Brook, as well as a few unnamed streams, streets and highways throughout the Borough. This is due to topography, soil conditions and drainage issues.

The Federal Government has identified the Borough floodplain by preparing a detailed map, showing what is known as the 100 Year Floodplain.

The Flood Insurance Rate Maps and certifications showing whether a property is within this floodplain as well as Elevation Certificates can be obtained at the Borough Engineer's Office (908 769-2914), at the Department of Public Works, Borough Hall, 263 Somerset Street. Copies of these and other documents can also be reviewed at the North Plainfield Public Library (908 458-8435). The Borough maintains elevation certificates for review in the Building Department.

FLOOD HISTORY IN THE BORO

We've had severe floods in North Plainfield in the past, particularly in 1971, 1973, 1999, 2010, 2011 and 2021 all resulting in over \$40 million in damage and the loss of four lives.

FLOOD WARNING SYSTEMS

The Borough has developed a flood warning system in conjunction with state and county agencies. There are sensing devices at strategic locations in the various brooks that provide advance warning of rising flood waters. Somerset County also monitors flooding and sends notifications to police and fire departments and offices of emergency management.

HOW YOU ARE NOTIFIED

There are a series of sirens located throughout the Borough. In addition, the Borough has set up an Emergency Notification system which sends out phone calls, text messages as well as emails. The police and fire departments may patrol the flood prone areas using portable PA systems from their vehicles. You can tune in to **1630 on your AM radio** to hear announcements and warnings. When necessary, local emergency services will go door to door. Please **DO NOT** call the Police Department unless you have an emergency.

TWO COMMON WARNINGS

Flood Watch - Flooding is possible within the flood prone area. Sirens will sound 4 blasts for 1 ½ minutes.

Flood Warning - Flooding is imminent or has been reported. Sirens sound 16 short blasts for 2 ½ minutes.

FLOOD SAFETY

If you live near a brook, stream, drainage ditch or low lying area, you should be concerned about flood hazards and flood safety. There are several things you can do to protect yourself:

- Know the warning procedures and educate your family.
- Plan escape routes to higher ground ahead of time, before the flood.
- Monitor water levels near your home or business and tune to **1630 AM**. Keep away from these areas.
- Evacuate when advised to. Water rises quickly once flooding starts. You have less time than you think! If you have time, shut off gas and electric before you go.
- **TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN** - NEVER attempt to cross a flooded stream, street or brook by foot or vehicle. The current will carry you way. If your car stalls, abandon it and move to higher ground.
- DO NOT return to flood prone areas until you check with emergency services personnel.
- DO NOT enter flooded areas. You can be subject to electrical shock or swift moving debris.

FLOOD INSURANCE

Your home owners' policy will not cover flood damage. The Borough participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. We strongly urge you to purchase this additional insurance to protect yourself from devastating losses due to a flood. Contact your insurance agent directly for information. Renters can insure their possessions as well. You don't have to live in the floodplain to qualify for this additional coverage.

Note that there is a 30 day waiting period from the time you purchase this policy to the time it becomes effective so don't wait, especially if you live in the flood prone areas of the Borough.

As a result of voluntary actions taken by the Borough, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had determined that the cost of new or renewed flood insurance policies in place on or after October 1, 1992, will be reduced by at least 5%. This alone should serve as an incentive to act now and purchase a flood policy.

PROPERTY PROTECTION

There are a number of ways resident can "flood proof" or protect their properties. There are several cost effective measures you can take to help guard against property damage.

- Install a sump pump system to protect from water that may infiltrate your basement or lower level.
- Strengthen and waterproof basement.
- Use water resistant building materials such as paints, coatings, windows, doors, flooring, etc.
- Elevate electrical and mechanical equipment in basements or lower levels.
- Construct flood walls or enclosures.
- Elevate buildings and structures.
- Store valuables and insurance papers in waterproof containers in the highest level of your home.

***Grants may be available for these projects. For more information contact the Office of Emergency Management at oceminfo@npsmail.org.

FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

To regulate development in the floodplain, the Borough in conjunction with federal, state and county agencies has adopted and enforces various ordinances and regulations. The purpose is to protect the public's health and safety and to prevent construction which could actually increase flooding as well as preserve our natural environment. More information on this subject can be obtained at the Borough Engineer's Office in Borough Hall.

No developments in the floodplain, whether construction of structures or installations of fill are permitted without approval by the Borough Engineer. Inquiries can be made Monday through Friday from 8:00am until 4:30pm by calling 908 769-2914.

DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

The various brooks, streams, drainage ditches and storm water sewers are necessary to help prevent flooding in the Borough. In order to keep these drainage systems flowing freely, the Borough has prohibited the following activities in the open channels and closed sewers:

- Dumping or placement of any solid waste, garbage, trash, leaves, tree limbs, branches, grass or other debris.
- Dumping or placement of untreated sewage or industrial waste.
- Storage of pesticides, flammable liquids, explosives and or other hazardous materials in or near these water ways.

If you become aware of any such situation as noted above or any other situation that would impede drainage, notify the following agencies:

- North Plainfield Police Dept.: 908 769-2937.
- North Plainfield Fire Dept.: 908 769-2935
- North Plainfield Dept. of Public Works: 908 769-2914
- North Plainfield Health Dept.: 908 769-2907
- North Plainfield Mayor's Office: 908 769-2902
- NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection: 877 WARNDEP (877 927-6337)