

Reason for this Notification

This brochure has been mailed to property owners located in flood prone areas or adjacent to a Flood Hazard Area. Flood Hazard Areas include the 100-year coastal floodplains located along Saquish Beach, Plymouth Beach, White Horse Beach, and four other isolated areas (Hedge Road, Water Street, Sea View Drive, and the Ship Pond area).

The purpose of this brochure is to remind you of the potential hazards associated with coastal storms. There are steps that can be taken to minimize financial and property losses that often occur when a large coastal storm strikes Plymouth.

If you live in or near a flood zone you should consider purchasing flood insurance by contacting your insurance agency or company. Flood damage is not covered by a standard property/homeowner policy.

WHAT IS A FLOOD HAZARD AREA?

A 100-year coastal floodplain is an area that on average is expected to have a 1% chance of being flooded

in any given year. For example, during the life of a 30-year mortgage there is a 30% chance that your property will be flooded. These flood areas are mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The maps can be examined at the Office of Planning & Development, Town Hall, 11 Lincoln Street. This office also provides flood area locations and flood insurance information.

Coastal flooding is usually the result of large storms such as hurricanes or northeasters. Flood waters are driven ashore by high winds, an event known as a storm surge. The longer the storm's length the greater the damage. Unusually high tides can also compound the problem. The blizzard of 1978 is a good example of a 100-year storm.

In addition to these large storm events, smaller storms can also cause significant damage. In 1991 a large storm occurred on Halloween. Several homes were damaged as a result of high tides and three days with winds in excess of 25 miles per hour.

FLOOD WARNINGS

Plymouth's Office of Emergency Preparedness/Civil Defense is dedicated to helping residents in times of emergency. During an emergency a group of 35 volunteers staff the office 24 hours a day. If a flood emergency is declared, residents will be notified by:

Local Radio
WBMX - 98.5 FM
WATD - 95.9 FM
WPLM - 99.1 FM
WPLM - 1390 AM

PAC TV
Channels 3 & 18

- In some cases, door to door notification by police, fire, and civil defense personnel.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WHEN THE POTENTIAL FOR FLOODING EXISTS?

- Listen to the above noted television or radio stations for information and instructions.
- Do not attempt to cross flooded streams or streets on foot or in a

vehicle.

- Stay away from and out of the ocean surf.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical lines. Electrocutation is a major cause of death and injuries during a flood event.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IF YOUR HOME IS FLOODED?

- Have your electricity turned-off. After the electricity is turned-off continue to be careful because some electric appliances such as TV's keep electrical charges even after they are unplugged. Do not use electrical appliances that have been damaged by flooding until they have been properly examined and serviced by a qualified professional.
- Be alert for possible gas leaks. When inspecting damage use a flashlight instead of house lights or candles.
- Be alert for unwanted animals in your home. A variety of animals may seek shelter in your home.

- Clean everything that has gotten wet. Flood waters can carry a variety of pollutants and chemicals.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO MINIMIZE FLOOD DAMAGE?

- Elevate as many appliances as possible, such as washing machines, dryers, furnaces, and hot water heaters.
- Relocate the main electrical panel to an area less likely to be flooded.
- If a flood event is likely, move essential or valuable items to upper floors.
- Have your home elevated above flood levels. If elevation is too expensive, consult a contractor about retrofitting and flood proofing your home. Information on retrofitting and flood proofing homes is available at the Plymouth Public Library.

WHAT ELSE CAN BE DONE?

- If you are located in a flood zone purchase flood insurance.

- You must contact the Building Department prior to construction or renovations to dwellings or structures. All work in the floodplain needs a local building permit.

- Report any problems with drainage inlets and outlet to the Department of Public Works.

- Do not dump or dispose anything into brooks or streams. Flooding can occur if streams and brooks are blocked by debris.

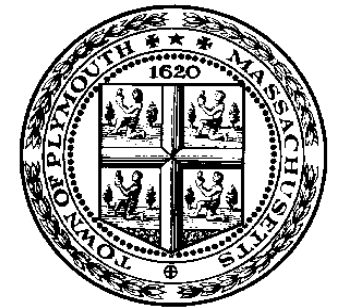
- The dumping of material in brooks and streams is prohibited. Any such dumping should be reported to the Conservation Commission at 508-830-4060.

This public service information is provided by the Town of Plymouth, Department of Planning and Development in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The recognition of flood hazards by property owners and the Town will help to minimize the potential loss of life, and property.

Office of Planning & Development
Town Hall
11 Lincoln Street
Plymouth, MA 02360

TOWN OF PLYMOUTH

INFORMATION ON FLOOD HAZARDS



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