

Dear North Plainfield Residents

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

LOCAL 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 (769-2914), Department of Public Works at Borough Hall, 263 Somerset Street. Copies of these and other documents can also be reviewed at the North Plainfield Public Library (755-7909). 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 and in 1999 all resulting in over \$20 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 notification 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 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.

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.
- 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 area 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 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 basement walls and water proof same
- 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

***Grants may be available for these projects. For more information contact the Office of Emergency Management at oeinfo@npmail.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 8:00 AM-4:30 PM. By stopping in at Borough Hall or calling 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 as well:

- The dumping or placement of any solid waste, garbage, trash, leaves, tree limbs, branches, grass or other debris
- The dumping or placement of untreated sewage or industrial wastes
- The 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.-769-2937
- North Plainfield Fire Dept.-769-2935
- NP Dept. of Public Works-769-2914
- NP Health Dept.-769-2907
- NP Mayor's Office-769-2902
- NJ Dept of Environmental Protection
Storm Water Enf.-609-984-5855
Solid Waste Enf.-609-584-4180
Hazardous Waste-609-584-4250

This brochure has been distributed as a public service to the community.

BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Brian L Martin, Coordinator

**Michael Giordano
Mayor
263 Somerset Street
North Plainfield, NJ 07060**

National Flood Insurance Program

Critical Information for the Residents Of North Plainfield