

Camden County Flood Outreach

Know Your Flood Risk!

This information is provided to properties in or near the special flood hazard area, & areas that are prone to flooding. You may think that if you do not live near a river or stream, that you are not in danger of flooding - NOT TRUE!

20-25% of all flood insurance claims filed are outside of a flood zone.

Camden's Local Flood Risk Areas

Flooding is the nation's number one natural disaster, and it occurs both inland and on the coast.

Hurricanes, Tropical Storms, rapid accumulation of rainfall, and outdated or clogged drainage systems are several conditions that can result in flooding.

Flooding is one of the main hazards that affect Camden County. Over 54% of the county is located in a flood zone, however due to the flat contour of Camden County, areas located outside the flood zone can also experience some sort of periodic flooding. Areas outside the flood zone usually flood due to clogged drainage systems. Pictures below are of residential/farmland areas located outside a flood zone.



The Albemarle Sound, Pasquotank and North Rivers, Goose and Crooked Creek in Shiloh Township, Arnuse and Sawyers Creek in Courthouse Township, and Joyce Creek in South Mills Township are the

primary sources of flooding. During storm events, the Sound and rivers push water up into the creeks and their tributaries which results in the overflowing of the banks. Joyce Creek in the South Mills area is designated as a Flood Way which is defined as "The channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a foot."



FLOODWAY FRINGE



WHY WE ELEVATE

The next two photos are of a property located in the Floodway adjacent to Joyce Creek after two 4-inch rain events occurring within two days of each other.



LOCATED IN FLOODWAY

Flood Warning System

The Emergency Operations Center maintains direct contact with the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center. Any updates of threatening weather are relayed to the local governments and to the public. Local officials will notify citizens of evacuations through radio (104.1 FM), cable TV (Mediacom Channel 18), internet, local law enforcement, and the **Pasquotank / Camden-Elizabeth City Emergency Management Agency**.

Evacuees will be directed to shelters by law enforcement at traffic control intersections and through bulletins on radio/TV/websites.

If a flood is imminent, you should have already protected your property by moving valuables and furniture to higher areas of the house and sandbagging areas where water might enter living spaces. Have a written emergency plan in place for times of forecasted severe weather. **Remember, personal safety always comes first. "When in doubt, get out!"**

PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES

There are many alternatives available to help minimize and mitigate flooding.

It is highly recommended to make the following improvements to any existing structure to help reduce or eliminate flood damage risks:

- Elevate your structure above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE).
- Elevate all utilities such as electrical outlets, breaker boxes, water heaters, HVAC units, and fuel tanks.
- Install permanent openings in the foundation of dwellings and walls of attached/detached garages to allow for ingress/egress of flood waters.

The Camden County Planning Office can provide you with a list of contractors and consultants who are knowledgeable about retrofitting techniques and construction methods to make your house / building safer.

Be Prepared!

PRIOR TO A FLOODING EVENT

- If you don't have a flood insurance policy, contact your insurance agent today. If you have purchased a policy, review your policy with your agent.
- Keep your flood insurance policy and insurance agent's contact information on hand in the event you need to file a claim.
- Make copies of all your important documents (Mortgage papers, deed, bank information, insurance policies, etc.). Keep copies in your home and store originals in a secure place outside the home, such as a bank safe deposit box.
- Take photos of your possessions (furniture, antiques and collectables, electronic equipment, etc.). Store copies with your other important documents.
- Save receipts for expensive household items and make an itemized list of other possessions.

HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

Emergency plans are a critical component of flood preparation:

- Give your emergency contact information to your insurance agent, employer, and family.
- Compile an emergency kit consisting of items such as a flashlight, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, additional batteries, candles, and matches.
- Keep a minimum 3 day supply of nonperishable food and bottled water on hand.

BE PREPARED DURING A FLOOD



Monitor radio stations and internet for potential flood hazard information.

- Don't walk through a flooded area as just 6 inches of water can knock you off your feet.
- Don't drive through a flooded area as a car can be carried away by just 2 feet of water.
- Keep away from downed power lines and other electrical wires.



WHAT TO DO AFTER A FLOOD

Once the order has been given by proper authorities to return to your home:

- Check for structural damage before entering your home. If you suspect any damage to water, gas, electric, or sewer lines, contact authorities.
- Remove wet contents like carpeting, furniture, and bedding immediately but keep swatches for the adjuster. Mold can develop within 24 to 48 hours. Use dehumidifiers and air-conditioners to dry out the building.
- Photograph and list all damaged or lost items including their age and value where possible. Take photos of water in the house. Adjusters need evidence of the damage to prepare your estimates.
- Plan before you repair. Contact the County's Building Inspector or Planning Office for local building requirements at (252) 338-1919.

Camden County has never experienced a 100 year flood. If this event were to occur, the County would experience rain fall amounts of at least 9 inches of rain in a 24 hour period. Due to the flat contour of the County everyone can expect some sort of flooding with heavier amounts in the flood prone areas.

Contact the **Camden County Planning Office** for flood zone information, a flood determination and/or copies of elevation certificates at (252) 338-1919.

Camden County has a new program to clean debris from some of the critical drainage channels and ditches for storm water management purposes in designated service districts. This natural and developed drainage way system must be kept clear of debris and trash that could hold back the flow of flood waters. For more information, contact the county.

To report drainage problems or inquire about the service districts, call the **Camden County Soil and Water Conservation** office at (252) 338-1919.

Camden County is a beautiful place to live. The undisturbed marshes, rivers, and wetlands provide a wide range of benefits to both humans and natural habitats. While the areas adjacent to our shorelines are most at risk, they are also the most popular areas for people to live.