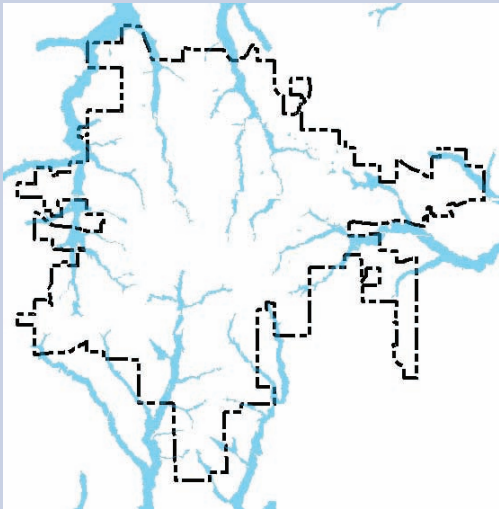


Citizens of the City of Ruston can obtain flood information concerning flooding, flood maps, mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements, flood insurance requirements and inquiries, and flood zone determinations from the City of Ruston, Inspection Office located at 701 East Tennessee Ave. or by calling 318- 251-8640

Elevation Certificates of all properties in the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA'S) are available and on file at the Office of Inspection Department and copies are available upon request.



City of Ruston
Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)
April 2, 2009

Important Useful Websites

www.fema.gov
www.usgs.gov
www.noaa.gov
www.weather.gov
www.lfma.org

For inquiries about the National Flood Insurance Program, write:

**Federal Emergency Management Agency
Federal Insurance Administration
500 C Street, S. W.
Washington, CD 20472**



THE FLOOD HAZARD

In Ruston, flooding can occur during any season of the year. And because so much of the land here is low, your property may be in a Special Flood Hazard Area as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The principal source of floodwater in Ruston is rain and run-off from swollen creeks and streams.

Floodwater collects in a saucer of land prone to subsidence or sinking. The low, flat ground provides little gravity drainage.

The city's drainage system does a remarkable job. But when the ground is saturated and heavy rain falls quickly, the system can be overwhelmed and flooding can result.

FEMA publishes maps showing flood hazard areas and the degree of risk in those areas. These maps are on file at City Hall. Check with the City's Department of Permits and Inspections (318-251-8640) to find out if your property is in a flood hazard zone.



In a flood-prone area like Ruston, you'll often hear these two terms: Watch and Warning. A Flood Watch means flooding is possible. A Flash Flood Watch means a flash flood, which can happen very fast with little warning, is possible. A Flood Warning means a flood is occurring or will occur soon; the flood may take several hours to develop. A Flash Flood Warning means a flash flood is occurring or will happen very soon; you should find safety immediately.

Watches and warnings will be broadcast on radio and television. Listen to local stations for news, information, and instructions.

One radio station, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, broadcasts weather information at 162.55 MHz 24 hours a day from National Weather Service Offices in Louisiana. To receive the NOAA broadcast, you must have a weather radio or a conventional AM/FM radio with a weather band.

The local radio station to tune to in the case of weather emergencies is KXKZ FM at 107.5 MHz 24 hours a day.

Keep a supply of fresh batteries on hand to operate your portable radio in case electrical power is lost.

FLOOD WARNING

FLOOD SAFETY

Keep alert to rapidly changing weather and to news bulletins.

Learn the safest route from your home or business to higher, safer ground, but stay tuned to reports of changing flood conditions.

If emergency officials tell you to evacuate or leave your home, go immediately to a safe shelter, hotel, or relative's or friends' home. Turn off all utilities at the main switch- BUT ONLY IF TIME PERMITS. Do not touch any electrical equipment unless it is in a dry area. Every source of electricity can be dangerous during and after flooding.

If you're caught in a building by suddenly rising water, move to the second floor or the roof (you may need a tool on hand to break through to the roof). Take drinking water, a flashlight, and a portable radio with you. Wait for help.

If your car stalls in a flooded, area, abandon it as soon as possible. Flood-water can sweep a car away.

Swimming or playing in or near floodwater is life-threatening. Drainage ditches and canals carry fast-moving floodwater and are extremely dangerous. Explain this to your children.

Remember, FLOODS ARE DECEPTIVE. Try to avoid flood areas, and don't attempt to walk through floodwater that is more than knee deep.

Purchase flood insurance. Most standard homeowners' insurance policies do not cover losses from flooding. Renters can also buy policies to protect their personal property.

You are eligible for flood insurance because Ruston participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, administered by FEMA. If the FEMA flood maps show that a property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area, which includes all A and V Zones, flood insurance is required by law in order to get federally secured financing to buy, build, or improve structures on the property.

Your insurance agent will help you decide how much coverage you need. For more information, talk to your insurance agent or call FEMA AT 1-800-638-6620.

Once you've purchased flood insurance, keep your policy and an itemized list of your furnishings, clothing, and valuables in a safe place, such as a safe deposit box. Remember, or carry in your wallet, the name and address of the agent or broker who wrote your policy. Call your agent or broker immediately if you suffer flood damage.

FLOOD INSURANCE

PROPERTY PROTECTION

There are many things you can do to an existing building to minimize or eliminate the potential for flood damage.

Sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber can be used to protect property temporarily. (Remember, sandbags should not be stacked directly against the outer walls of a building since wet bags may create added pressure on the foundation).

Permanent floodproofing measures for flood-prone structures are preferable to temporary ones. These permanent retrofitting methods include elevating the structure, building floodwalls and closures, and protecting utilities.

A booklet called Flood Proofing Techniques, Programs, and References (1991, 23pp) is free from the U.S. Corps of Engineers, National Flood Proofing Committee, Attn: CECW-PF, 20 Massachusetts Avenue Washington, DC 20314-1000. You can also get information on retrofitting from the Lincoln Parish Public Library. In addition to retrofitting booklets, the main library has publications on flood insurance, flood protection, and floodplain management.

Before proceeding with retrofitting measures, or any construction and development, check with the Department of Permits and Inspection at 318-251-8640 for applicable building codes, permit requirements, and zoning restrictions.



DRAINAGE SYSTEM

To be habitable, Ruston needs to have a drainage system. And keeping the system in tiptop shape is important too. The Public Works Department has a regular program of drainage system maintenance. You can help by cleaning the catch basins in front of your property. Also, avoid dumping debris in catch basins and in drainage ditches and canals. Debris dumping should be reported to the City of Ruston, Public Works by calling 318-242-7703. Call the Public Works Department if you have questions about the city's drainage system.