

Flood Hazard

The Borough of Seaside Park is vulnerable to coastal storms and hurricanes. Typically, severe winter storms, or Nor'easters, occur each year between Mid-September and Mid-May. The entire Borough of Seaside Park is located in a special flood hazard area and is vulnerable to flooding from the Atlantic Ocean and Barnegat Bay. To determine your flood elevation. Link for Effective FIRM Maps website:

<https://msc.fema.gov/portal>

Link for Preliminary FIRM Maps website:

<http://apps.femadata.com/PreliminaryViewer/?appid=98d40c43cc2548c8877ea408086b0ac9>

Flood Insurance

Standard Homeowner's Insurance Policies do not cover losses due to floods. However, Seaside Park is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program, which makes it possible for Seaside Park Property Owners to obtain federally backed flood insurance. This insurance is available to any owner of insurable property (a building or its contents) in Seaside Park. Tenants may also insure their personal property against flood loss. The cost of flood insurance will vary depending upon the amount of coverage and the degree of flood hazard. We urge persons who live or own property in Seaside Park to purchase flood insurance to protect themselves from losses due to flooding. This insurance is required in certain circumstances, such as the purchase of a home with a federally backed mortgage.

It is highly recommended that homes within an X Zone that will be going into a Flood Zone when the Preliminary Maps are adopted get a preferred risk policy.

Community Rating System

The Borough of Seaside Park is currently participating in the Community Rating System (CRS) under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The CRS, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), provides that a community, who performs specific activities related to flood protection, flood awareness, and flood prevention, can secure reduced flood insurance premiums for all property owners within the community.

The Borough is an active participant within the program; our current rating within the program guideline is 7. If you carry flood insurance, this will result in a premium reduction of 15 percent.

Permit Requirements

Each homeowner is reminded that local construction permits are required for most modification you may

plan for your house. The municipal ordinances and/or codes contain mandatory requirements related to new or modified building construction, certain of which are included to provide protection against flooding. Each homeowner should contact the Municipal Building Department (732) 286-9220 before they build, fill or otherwise develop any land within the Borough. It is also important, for the protection of the entire community, to notify the Municipal Building Department of any illegal filling of lands or building within the Borough that you might notice. The Seaside Park Building Department requires an elevation certificate prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for new or substantially improved structures. Copies of all approved elevation certificates are available at the construction office located at 313 SW Central Avenue. Additional information regarding building codes and flood resistant provisions can be found at the following website: <https://www.fema.gov/building-code-resources>

Drainage Maintenance

The municipal drainage system consists primarily of underground pipelines and catch basins located at street level. The Borough conducts semi-annual inspections of all catch basins under municipal jurisdiction and removes all sand and debris that has accumulated in the structure. The drainage system provides an important function in that it minimizes, where possible, localized flooding caused by rainwater. The Borough of Seaside Park has an anti-litter ordinance, which prohibits the disposal of debris within the Municipality. This ordinance in part is for the purpose of keeping litter out of the municipal storm drainage system. Any violations should be reported to the Code Enforcement Office at (732) 286-9220 or the Police Department.

The storm drainage system carries untreated storm runoff directly to Barnegat Bay. Illegal sanitary tie-in, pet waste and discharge of such wastes as oil, paint and fertilizer pollute the water, destroy aquatic plants, endanger wildlife and decrease the beauty of the Bay and Ocean. It is a violation of New Jersey State Law to discharge hazardous substance into the environment. Any such discharges should be reported to the New Jersey Environmental Hotline at 1-(877) 927-6337.

Litter & Recycling Tips

- Reduce, reuse and recycle materials whenever possible to create less waste, which could end up on our streets and contribute to stormwater pollution.
- Pick up trash and litter on your property and dispose of properly. ALWAYS use a public trash can in public

areas. NEVER throw litter and debris directly into storm drains. Such debris can wash into waterways. Clogged drains can cause street flooding.

- Always put your cigarette butts in ashtrays. When an ashtray or garbage can is not available, store extinguished butts in your cigarette pack temporarily.
- Empty automobile ashtrays into the trash, not out your car window or directly on the ground.
- Make sure to properly dispose of leftover household chemicals, paints and automotive fluids. Contact your local hazard waste collection center.

Property Protection Measures

There are a significant number of existing homes susceptible to flood losses. The flooding to these properties can be minimized through temporary and permanent retrofitting techniques.

- One approach is to waterproof your walls and place watertight closures over the doorways. This method should be used on homes with basements or if water will not get over two feet deep.
- Another approach is to raise your house above the flood level. The Borough continues to encourage homeowners to raise their homes.

Additional actions each homeowner can take to flood proof their homes are to elevate and locate electrical panel boxes, furnaces, water heaters and washers and/or dryers above the flood elevation. Also, interior or exterior backflow water valves can be installed, or interior floodwalls can be placed around utilities in order to protect these essential services. Materials such as sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting and lumber should be kept on hand for emergency waterproofing of your home. The use of these materials for a flood protection may minimize the amount of damage caused by floodwaters. It is unlikely that you get much warning of an imminent flooding situation, so a detailed checklist prepared in advance would help ensure your greatest protection. During a hurricane, homes may be damaged or destroyed by high winds and high waves. Debris can break windows and doors, allowing high winds inside the home. Roofs, windows, doors, and garage doors should be properly checked.

Substantially Damaged Homes

Homes determined to be substantially damaged were required to elevate within 6 years of Superstorm Sandy. FEMA has granted a 3-year extension in order to give homeowners more time to comply. Substantially damaged homes must be elevated by October 29, 2021. The DCA (Department of Community Affairs) requires the Borough to provide a list of Substantially Damaged homes that have not been raised.

FLOOD SAFETY

There are several actions residents of Seaside Park can take to decrease the potential for injury due to flooding.

- Know the flood warning procedure
- Evacuate the flood hazard area in times of impending flood or when advised to do so by the police.
- Cut off all electric circuits at the breaker box. If this is not possible, turn off or disconnect all electrical appliances.
- Do Not attempt to cross flowing water if it is above your knees.
- Keep children away from floodwaters, ditches, culverts and storm drains.
- If your vehicle stalls in high water, abandon it and seek higher ground.
- Stay away from downed power lines. Report downed lines to the Police Dept.
- Look out for animals. Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes might take shelter in yours.
- Clean everything that got wet. Floodwater may have contacted road chemicals, sewage and other harmful chemicals.

EMERGENCY CHECKLIST

The Federal Insurance Administration suggests the following action when coastal storms or hurricanes are imminent.

- Keep your cars gas tank full.
- Remove cardboard boxes and newspapers as these materials can disintegrate and clog drains and vents.
- Move household items to the highest level of the house.
- Close the main gas valve.
- Turn off all electrical power at the panel.

If you leave your home, here are some essentials you should take:

- First aid supplies
- Non-perishable food
- Batteries (hearing aid, flashlight)
- Blankets, change of clothes & shoes
- Important papers, checkbook

LOCAL CONTACT DIRECTORY

New Jersey Floodplain Management Services

NFIP Coordinator
609-292-2296

Ocean County Soil Conservation District

609-971-7002

Borough CRS Coordinator

732-286-9220

Borough Construction Official Borough Floodplain Manager

732-250-7569

Office of Emergency Management

732-793-8000

Army Corps of Engineers

215-656-6500

FEMA Regional Office

212-225-7200

Additional information concerning flood protection assistance is available at the Upper Shores Branch of the Ocean County Library and at the following website:
www.fema.gov/nfip/infocon

FLOOD PROTECTION

AND

COASTAL STORM SAFETY

FOR THE

BOROUGH OF SEASIDE PARK OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY



**IF YOU ARE NOT OCCUPYING THE HOME
DURING THE HURRICANE SEASON, PLEASE
FORWARD THIS NOTICE TO YOUR TENANTS
OR
OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS LIVING IN YOUR
HOME. ADDITIONAL COPIES ARE
AVAILABLE AT
BOROUGH HALL.**