

## Hurricanes and Flooding

The 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons were the most active ever seen in the United States. In 2004, five hurricanes hit the United States, four of which struck Florida, including the first Category 4 storm since Andrew in 1992. Seventy-five thousand National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) claims were generated from this, totaling close to \$2 billion.

The year 2005 brought the largest and costliest flood disasters in the nation's history. Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma brought extensive flood damage to thousands of homes from the Panhandle of Florida through Louisiana. It took years to clean up and rebuild, the mess and some houses are damaged to this day.

The change of weather patterns are expected to continue the cycle of stronger and stronger hurricanes. In inland areas, slow moving tropical systems can bring more rainfall than a Category 5 hurricane and cause widespread flooding.

### Prepare

The City of Parkland is susceptible to hurricane related flooding. The residents of the City need to prepare in advance for possible flooding conditions that can come with a Tropical Storm or hurricane conditions. Before hurricane season begins, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encourages residents to:

- Purchase a flood insurance policy if they do not already have one.
- Make a flood plan—plan evacuation routes and keep important papers in a safe, waterproof place. At the minimum, a large Tupperware bin will do.

- Review their current insurance policy and become familiar with what is and is not covered.
- Itemize and take pictures of possessions. If you use a digital camera, email the pictures to yourself for a permanent records.

### Florida Flood Facts

These are currently more than two million flood insurance policies in the State of Florida. However, the majority of the State's households remain at risk. With over eleven millions homes in the State of Florida, less than 13% of the State's households are covered. Translated, this means that eight out of ten houses are not protected by flood insurance.

### Florida Flood Risks

There are many different ways that flooding can occur in the City of Parkland and surrounding communities. Some of which are:

- Heavy rains, hurricanes, tropical storms and summer thunderstorms have the potential to unload heavy and sustained rainfall which overwhelms drainage systems and causes flooding.
- Storm surge and inland flooding. Storm surge, the water that is pushed toward the shore by strong storm winds, can cause severe flooding in coastal counties. The coastal communities, however, are not the only ones who should prepare for hurricane season. Hurricane and tropical storms are powerful systems that have the ability to travel far inland from the initial strike zone. Once inland, they can continue to bring powerful and heavy rains causing severe flooding, damage and even deaths.

- Flash flooding. Flash floods are caused by sudden, heavy rainfall that can occur in as little as a few hours. Moving water from flash flooding can move rocks, debris and even cars. It can also severely damage home and building even destroying them. Flash floods can even uproot trees that can block access to communities by first responders and damage assessment personal.

### Be Flood Smart-Reduce Your Risk

#### Learn Your Flood Risk

Discover your true flood risk. Insurance Agents or the City of Parkland Building Department can help you with this.

#### Plan for Evacuation

Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with the entire family.

#### Move Important Objects and Papers to a Safe Place

Store your valuables where they cannot be damaged.

#### Conduct a Thorough Home Inventory

Document all your belongings. Photos and video recordings can help you file any flood insurance claim.

#### Build an Emergency Supply Kit

Food, bottled water, first aid supplies, medicines and a battery operated flashlight should be ready in case of emergency,

### Purchase a Flood Insurance Policy

Homeowner policies do not usually cover flood damage and there is typically a 30 day waiting period before a policy becomes effective.

For more information contact:

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## City Commission

Mayor Christine Hunschofsky

Commissioner Stack Kagan

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Commissioner Ken Cutler

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# City Of Parkland

## Hurricanes and the Floodplain

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