

INTRODUCTION

The City of Walker is dedicated to minimizing the loss of life and property that is associated with flooding and storm events. Education and prevention are valuable and proven tools that help communities become resistant to these natural disasters. The City of Walker recognizes that its entire community is susceptible to flooding, not just those structures located within Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA). The following information has been provided to help inform property owners located within the SFHA, flood prone areas and also all property owners within the City of Walker.



FLOOD HAZARD

The City of Walker is located in the west central portion of Livingston Parish. The topography consists of flat land throughout the entire City.

Due to the City's location in South Louisiana, it is susceptible to hurricanes, flooding, and thunder storms with high winds. Floods are a threat to the City primarily due to its susceptibility to high water events caused by regional or local heavy rainfall during hurricanes, thunderstorms, and tropical storms. Parts of the City are at lower elevations and may have inadequate drainage capabilities.

SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS REQUIREMENTS

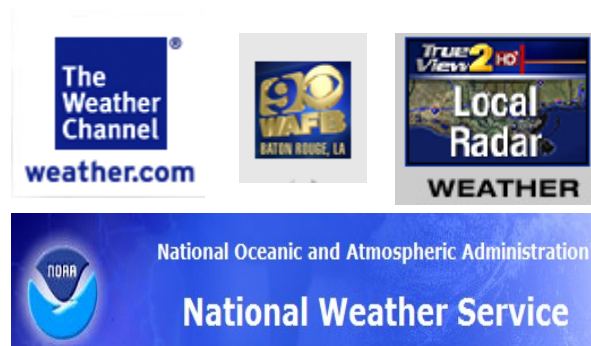
What is a substantial improvement? The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requires that any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50% of the market value of the structure before the start of the construction of the improvement, must conform or meet the same construction requirements as a new building and be constructed above the minimum Base Flood Elevation (BFE) listed on the City of Walker's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).

What is substantial damage? Substantial damage means damage of any origin sustained by a building or structure when the cost of restoring the building to its pre-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50% of the market value of the building before the damage occurred. Substantial damage is determined regardless of the actual repair work performed.

The City of Walker requires by ordinance that any substantial improvement must have a building permit. Permit information can be obtained at the City of Walker Permit Department or by calling (225) 665-8893.

FLASH FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM

If flash flooding is imminent, the City of Walker residents are notified through local radio and cable television networks. Walker residents can also receive updated weather information from the National Weather Service Offices in Louisiana.



PROPERTY PROTECTION

Do not wait for a flood to occur to protect your property. There are certain measures that you can take to protect your property now from flood damage. If the floor level of your property or structure is lower than the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) located on the City's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), consider ways to prevent flooding from occurring such as retrofitting your building. "Retrofitting" means altering your building to eliminate or reduce flood damage.

Retrofitting measures include:

1. Elevating the building so that flood waters do not enter or reach any damageable portion of it.
2. Constructing barriers out of fill or concrete between the building and flood waters.
3. "Dry flood proofing" to make the building's walls and floors watertight so water does not enter.
4. "Wet flood proofing" to modify the structure and relocate the contents so that when flood waters enter the building there is little or no damage.

A free booklet, "Flood Proofing Techniques, Programs and Reference (1991, 23pp)," is available from:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
National Flood Proofing Committee
ATTN: CECW PF
20 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000



FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

All development in the City of Walker needs local permits. Contact the City of Walker's Permit Department at (225) 665-8893 for advice before you build, fill, place a manufactured home or otherwise develop within City limits. The zoning ordinance, flood control ordinance, and the International Building Codes have special provisions regulating the construction and other developments within floodplains. Without these provisions, flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) would not be available to property owners in the City of Walker. Any development in the floodplain without a permit is illegal; such activity may be reported to the City of Walker Permit Department.



FLOOD INFORMATION

City of Walker has adopted the new FIRM's with the effective date of April 3, 2012.

Residents of Walker may obtain flood information, flood maps, mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements/inquires and flood zone determination by visiting the Walker Municipal Building at 10136 Florida Blvd., Walker, LA 70785.

FLOOD INSURANCE

The purchase of federal flood insurance is highly recommended. Basic homeowner's insurance policies don't cover damage from floods. The City of Walker participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which means that federally subsidized flood insurance is available to everyone in the community. There is a 30-day waiting period before a policy becomes effective. Some people have purchased flood insurance because it was required by the bank or loan company when they obtained a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually these policies just cover the building's structure and not the contents. During most flooding incidents, there is usually more damage to furniture and the contents than there is to the structure. Flood insurance policy must be renewed each year.

Mandatory Purchase Requirement: The mandatory purchase requirement applies to all forms of federal or federally related financial assistance for buildings located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). This requirement affects loans and grants for the purchase, construction, repair, or improvement of any public or private owned buildings in the SFHA, including machinery, equipment, fixtures, and furnishings contained in such buildings. If a building is located in the SFHA, the agency or lender is mandated by law to require the recipient to purchase a flood insurance policy on the building.

For more information about flood insurance contact:

www.fema.gov/info
1-800-638-6620

Contact your flood insurance agent
Contact the City of Walker CRS Coordinator
225-665-8893



DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

It is illegal in the City of Walker to dump any type of debris into a canal, stream, river, drainage ditches, or any other body of water within the City. This debris can become entangled in culverts, canals, or drainage ditches and impede drainage, causing the flow of water to back up. Citizens should also keep drainage ditches on their property free of debris, foliage and vegetation that would impede the flow of water. Debris dumping should be reported to the City of Walker by calling the Department of Public Works at (225) 665-2467.



FLOOD SAFETY TIPS

- Learn the safest route to evacuate yourself, your family, and any animals.
- Have all important documents readily available to take with you in the case of an evacuation.
- Do not walk or drive through flood water.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to your local electrical company.
- Watch for animals, especially snakes, that may seek shelter in the flooded area.
- Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames.
- Carbon monoxide exhaust kills. Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machine outdoors. Fumes from charcoal are especially deadly; cook with charcoal outdoors only.

For 24/7 service, visit the City of Walker website at:

<http://www.walker.la.us/>

Floodplain Management

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