



# CITY OF BATON ROUGE & PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

## **Know your flood hazards and what you can do about it**

**You may be in a special flood hazard area.** 42% of East Baton Rouge Parish has a potential of being flooded. The major floods, that cause the most damage on the Amite and Comite Rivers and their tributaries occurred in 1967, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1983, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1995, 2001 and 2005. Find out if your property is in the regulated flood plain by calling the City's floodplain management office at 225-389-3196 or see our web site at [www.brgov.com/dept/dpw/drainage](http://www.brgov.com/dept/dpw/drainage). Other useful web sites [www.louisianafloods.org](http://www.louisianafloods.org), [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)

### **Here are some things you can do to protect your family and property from flooding:**

**Buy flood insurance.** Even if you're not in the mapped floodplain, you may be subject to local drainage flooding. In either case, flood insurance can be a good investment because homeowners' insurance policies do not cover damage from flooding. To find out more about flood insurance contact your property insurance agent to see what policy is right for you. Don't wait for the next flood.

**Do not walk or drive through flood waters.** Currents are deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. Do not drive around barriers, as the road or bridges may be washed out. Preparing for an emergency can reduce the possibility of personal injury, loss of life and damage to property. Know your flood warnings signals, create an emergency plan, and prepare a disaster supply kit. To find out information on flood warnings and emergency preparedness; contact the EBR Office of Emergency preparedness at 225-389-2100 or [www.brgov.com/dept/oep](http://www.brgov.com/dept/oep).

**Talk to us about protecting your house or business.** You can protect your home or business from drainage and flooding problems by modifying your building to minimize flood damage. Where flooding is shallow, measures such as small floodwalls, regrading the yard, and floodproofing the wall or utilities can be relatively inexpensive. Where flooding is deep you may need to elevate your building. For more information on flood proofing your building there are publications in the EBR Public Libraries or you can give us a call at the City's floodplain management office at 225-389-3196.

**Check with the Building Department before you build, alter, regrade or fill your property.** A permit is needed to ensure that a project is compliant with all regulations. These regulations are designed to protect your property from flood damage and to make sure you don't cause a drainage problem for neighbors. To find out how to get a permit contact the Permit Office at 225-389-3226

Elevation Certificates for newly built structures are also available at the Permit Office 225-389-3233

**Don't pour oil grease, pesticides or other pollutants down storm drains or into the ditches and streams.** Our streams and wetlands help moderate flooding and are habitat for fish and other wild life that provides us with recreation or food. Let's protect them and their homes.

The city has an ordinance that makes it illegal to dump debris in streams channels and drainage systems. The city also has a drainage maintenance program which can remove blockages from a drainage ditch or stream such as downed trees and branches. To report a problem call the Citizen Service Department at 225-389-3090 or 311

**Check before you buy.** Before you commit yourself to buying property, do the following:

Ask the real estate agent or your city floodplain management office if it is in the flood zone and requires flood insurance; ask the seller or neighbors if it has ever flooded or if it is subject to other hazards, such as sewer backups or subsidence. Talk to the building department about the building and zoning regulations. In accordance with City ordinance 7210 every transfer of land or building are required to provide a flood hazard disclosure statement to prospective buyers.