



# Flood Safety

Planning Department 985-646-4320  
 Engineering Department 985-646-4270  
 Building Safety Department 985-646-4323  
 Code Enforcement 985-646-6134  
 Finance Department 985-646-4316  
 City Floodplain Management:  
[myslidell.com/planning/hazard-mitigation](http://myslidell.com/planning/hazard-mitigation)

## Your Local Flood Hazard

Slidell is subject to flooding due to hurricane storm surge, back flooding of Bayou Bonfouca from an inundated Lake Pontchartrain, and localized drainage challenges during heavy storm events. Flooding can occur during any season of the year. Because much of the City’s land is low lying and flat, all properties are potentially at risk; drainage systems can become overwhelmed causing streets and yards to flood with little or no warning.

## Know Your Flood Zone

Contact the Floodplain Administrator in Building Safety to find out your property’s flood zone or whether it is prone to flooding. The City’s Certified Floodplain Manager can give advice and answer questions, including site visits. Flood maps and publications are available in the Engineering or Planning Departments.

City of Slidell, Planning Department  
 250 Bouscaren St, Ste 203, Slidell, LA 70458

## Protect People! Stay Alert!

Sign up for Emergency Notifications: go to [stp.gov.org/departments/hsep](http://stp.gov.org/departments/hsep) and click on “Sign Up for A!ert St. Tammany.”



A flood warning system is activated during a flood. The National Weather Service and the Parish Emergency Management Offices provide flood warning and evacuation data on local radio (WWL 870 AM) and television stations (WWL, WDSU, WVUE, and WGNO). The City’s public information channel is Channel 10.

## Protect Your Property by Building Responsibly

Slidell has a Flood-Hazard Prevention ordinance that meets NFIP standards. A permit is required for any development, including new construction, substantial improvements, demolitions, and excavations.

Check with Building Safety before you build, grade, or put fill on your property. Individuals who illegally fill, dump, or excavate land or drainage ways are subject to penalties and may have to remove the material and return the land to its pre-incident state at their own cost.

***Build responsibly. Get a permit!***

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## Protect Your Property with Flood Insurance

Standard property insurance policies will not cover damage caused by flooding. A separate flood policy from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is required to cover damage caused by surface water flooding.

Flood insurance is available to property owners or renters. Costs vary depending on how much insurance is purchased, what it covers, and the property’s flood risk. To purchase a flood policy, contact a local insurance provider who is authorized to sell NFIP flood policies. Policies provide coverage for buildings and contents; however, you should discuss insuring personal property with your insurance agent.

***If you are considering applying for flood insurance, Do Not Wait!***

There is typically a 30-day waiting period for new flood insurance policies to take effect, and no new policy can be initiated once a named storm has entered or formed within the Gulf of Mexico. If you purchase a new home, the 30-day waiting period does not apply; your flood insurance is effective as soon as your application is approved by the Flood Insurance Administrator after you have “closed” on the sale. For more information, contact an insurance agent or the NFIP at 888-379-9531 or [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

[myslidell.com](http://myslidell.com) | [planningdept@cityofslidell.org](mailto:planningdept@cityofslidell.org)  
 o 985.646.4320 | f 985.646.4356

## Protect Your Property with Grant Assistance

The Federal Government, through the City, regularly offers grants for Repetitive Loss and Severe Repetitive Loss properties to be mitigated, which can include elevation, acquisition and demolition of the building by the government, and acquisition and relocation of the building by the government.

*Repetitive Loss* is two or more claims of more than \$1,000 each that have been paid by the NFIP during a rolling ten-year period. *Severe Repetitive Loss* is either: a) four NFIP claim payments where each claim exceeds \$5,000 or the cumulative amount of all four exceeds \$20,000; or b) at least two separate claim payments whose cumulative amount of the building portion exceeds the market value of the building.

Contact Slidell's Finance Department to find out more about grant opportunities.



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## Flood Safety

The force of water is easily underestimated. Decrease the potential of injury due to flooding:

- Stay alert to bulletins that warn of flooding.
- Do not walk through flood waters. Six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. Drowning is the No. 1 cause of flood deaths.
- Do not drive through flood waters. More people drown in cars than anywhere else.
- **“Turn Around, Don’t Drown.”**
- Do not drive around barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out.
- Stay away from power and electrical lines. Electrical currents can travel through water.
- Turn off electric circuits. Have the power company turn off your electricity.
- Shut off gas valves. Be alert for gas leaks. Don’t smoke or use open flames unless you know that all gas has been ventilated.
- If you are on the waterfront or in an area prone to flooding, plan to leave.
- Know your evacuation route and have a flood plan ready.

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## Protect the Floodplain

Floodplains are a valuable resource. Properly maintained, they can provide storage for storm waters, minimize the risk of flooding, provide habitat for wildlife, and improve water quality. Dumping chemicals, such as oil, paint, and pesticides, could pollute storm water and destroy plants, endanger wildlife, and contaminate drinking water. So, *never* dump chemicals into storm drains or drainage canals.

Slidell maintains storm drainage systems so that they operate efficiently. It is illegal to impede the flow of water into ditches and canals. Debris, leaves, and even grass clippings may obstruct the flow of water and cause overflow onto streets and into yards. Before making any changes to drainage, consult with the Engineering Department. Report any action that affects the drainage system, any illegal dumping of debris into ditches, or any situation that impairs drainage to Code Enforcement.



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