



Flooding is a natural occurrence during or after a storm event or heavy rain. Flooding can be dangerous and deadly. This annual community outreach is to help you understand the risks and responsibilities of living within or near a mapped, regulated floodplain.

The Town of Duck, along with the other five municipalities and Dare County, joined together in a collaborative effort to provide information about flood risks on the Outer Banks and how to protect your property. The communities developed the “Low Risk” Is Not “No Risk” brochure along with a website (OBXFloodMaps.com or www.darenc.com/government/flood-maps).

Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) are designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and delineated on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). The current effective flood maps for Dare County were adopted in 2006. The State of North Carolina and FEMA released updated preliminary flood maps in June 2016 for all of Dare County. Flood maps are generally updated every 10 years by FEMA. The flood study and adoption timeline are set by Federal law. **FEMA issued its letter of final map determination on December 19, 2019. This means the new maps will become effective on June 19, 2020.**

The updated flood maps feature significant changes from the 2006 flood maps. Many properties will be re-classified as Shaded X or X zone properties, which are considered low-risk flood zones. Other properties that remain in flood zones may have lower base flood elevations. For example, a property located in the Town of Duck designated as AE7 on the 2006 maps may be re-designated as AE4 on the updated maps. To view the preliminary updated flood maps and for more information on flood protection visit the Town’s website at <https://www.townofduck.com/community-development/floodplain-info/>. In recognition of these changes and the challenges that the new maps present, the Town of Duck and the other municipalities in Dare County are considering the adoption of development standards that will maintain a minimum building elevation standard. These proposed standards will be reviewed and considered by the Town of Duck Planning Board and Town Council in the coming months

The Town of Duck also wants to remind you that it maintains a Flood Map Information Service as part of its participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. The Town maintains copies of current and previous Flood Insurance Rate Maps for areas within the Town’s incorporated limits and can determine if a structure is located within a Special Flood Hazard Area as well as the applicable flood zone and base flood elevation that applies to the property. The Town can provide copies of FEMA Elevation Certificates for structures constructed since the Town’s incorporation in 2002 as well as some certificates maintained by Dare County for the Duck area prior to the Town’s incorporation.

Flood Safety—If a hurricane warning is issued, you should have a plan for where you are going and leave early and during daylight hours. Depending upon the severity of the pending storm, citizens may be asked to evacuate. Remember there are no emergency shelters in Dare County.

Before leaving:

- ✓ Lock and board up windows and doors. Turn off electricity at the main breaker terminal and gas at the outside source only if you know how.

- ✓ Lightweight or easily damaged items should be moved to the highest location possible, secured and covered with plastic. Be sure to secure outdoor furniture, potted plants, and any other unsecured objects. These items could become projectiles in the event of high winds.

If you stay at home or evacuate, have an emergency kit packed with the following items:

- ✓ Portable radio, flashlight, batteries, blankets, extra clothing, baby products, non-perishable food, manual can opener, medicines, toilet articles, and important papers/valuables.

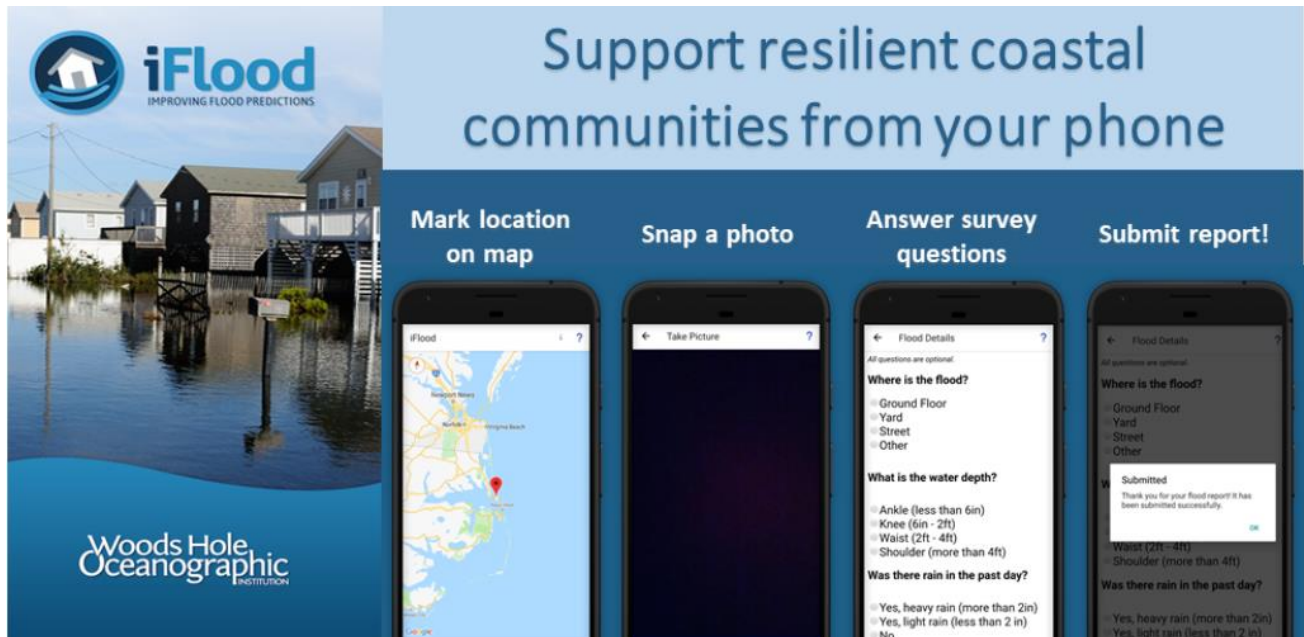
Always stay away from doors and windows and remain inside during the brief calm throughout the passage of the storm. This could be just the eye of the hurricane going by.

Construction in a floodplain—Before you build, consult with the Community Development Department to obtain: Local and Federal flood regulations including Flood Insurance Rate Maps, CAMA regulations, building code, zoning regulations, and other necessary permit requirements. The substantial improvement rule applies to structures in the regulated floodplain which do not comply with the current floodplain regulations. So, there may be limits on how much money you can spend to renovate or repair your home or business. If your structure is non-compliant with the Base Flood Elevation plus the Town’s freeboard requirements, consider elevating your structure if possible. Freeboard is a factor of safety above the flood level. Freeboard tends to compensate for the many unknown factors that can contribute to flooding conditions, such as wave action, rainfall, and the hydrological impacts of development in the floodplain.

To assist you in determining compliance of a structure, copies of elevation certificates for most existing structures are available at the Town Offices. Brochures discussing flood proofing, retrofitting, and other mitigation measures are also available at Town Administrative Offices or at any of the Dare County Public Libraries.

Help Document Flooding Events

In partnership with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the Town of Duck is working to improve flooding predictions along the North Carolina Outer Banks with the use of the iFlood app. With this app, citizen-scientists report flood events directly providing research teams with data about the location and timing of flood events. This information will help us to evaluate and improve models for flooding resulting from ocean and sound storms as well as rainfall. If successful, the flood prediction modeling will be applied to help manage flood hazards on the Outer Banks. So, please download the app today! A brief pictorial instruction is included on the following page, but you are welcome to call the office with questions as well.



You can learn more about iFlood and download the iFlood app at <https://iflood.whoi.edu/>.

Please call the Town of Duck Department of Community Development at 252-255-1234 or email Sandy Cross, the Town's Floodplain Manager, at scross@townofduck.com if you would like to request information as part of our map information service, or if you have any questions regarding any of the information provided in this letter and brochure.