

## PROTECT NATURAL AREAS

Floodplains are important to Tarboro in many ways. The water you drink comes from the Tar River. The stream corridors and floodplains are the last buffer before runoff reaches the river, and the streams and creeks that empty directly into the river. That's why it is important to keep the floodplain free from trash, debris and harmful contaminants that can find their way into our drinking water source. The floodplain also provides a habitat for wildlife and areas for recreation, as well as natural erosion control and open space to reduce further flooding damage.

## DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

The storm drain system carries untreated stormwater runoff directly to rivers and creeks.

Improper pouring of wastes into storm drains directly impacts our environment. Oil, paint, fertilizer and pesticides pollute the water, destroy plants, endanger wildlife and affect drinking water. Water quality benefits from properly maintaining the storm drain system include:

*Clean water in our rivers for drinking, wildlife, and recreation.*

*Less maintenance is needed for storm drainage facilities that are free from sediment and trash.*

*Clean stream corridors provide a healthy habitat for wildlife and an attractive space in a neighborhood.*

To report a spill or illegal dumping of hazardous material into the storm drainage system, contact the Public Works Department at 252-641-4234.

## FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM

In the event of an emergency, one of the tools available to disseminate information to citizens of Tarboro and Edgecombe County is the CodeRED™ Emergency Telephone Calling System. The system can provide mass emergency notifications to residents and businesses within minutes of an emergency or a potential hazard. To register, visit the CodeRED™ page at:

<http://www.edgecombecountync.gov/code.aspx>

NOAA Weather Radios, Local TV (including WHIG-TV, WRAL, WITN, WNCT, WTVD) and Radio stations (such as 89.1, 90.9, 98.9 104.3) as well as the Town of Tarboro Website and Town Social Media will be updated.

Follow the Town of Tarboro's Facebook page for flood information before, during, and after storms, as well as other important town information throughout the year.

## TOWN OF TARBORO FLOOD & FLOOD INSURANCE INFORMATION



**Planning Department**  
**PO Box 220**  
**500 N. Main Street**  
**Tarboro, NC 27886**  
**Phone: 252-641-4249**

Tarboro's Planning Department provides a Map Information Service, giving flood zone determinations, maps, and related information to insurance agents, developers, citizens, and any inquirer. The office can provide site-specific information, including:

Basic Flood Insurance Rate Map Information (FIRM)

Additional FIRM information (Floodways, etc.)

Flood Depth Data

Natural Floodplain Functions

Historical Flooding Patterns

Flood Protection Techniques

Retrofitting and Floodproofing Advice

Flood Insurance Requirements

The Planning & Inspections and Public Works Departments also provide Flood Protection Assistance: one-on-one technical advice and/or assistance through phone calls and site visits about property protection from flood-ing, drainage, and sewer problems.

Elevation Certificates are on file at Town Hall for many properties within the town, and copies will be provided upon request.

Additional flood information can be found at:

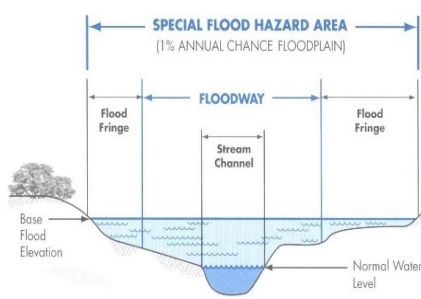
FEMA.gov

ReadyNC.org

Tarboro-NC.com

And locally at Town Hall &  
Edgecombe Memorial Library

# FLOODING IN TARBORO



## KNOW LOCAL FLOOD HAZARDS

There are two main sources of flooding in Tarboro: flash floods caused by storm drainage

systems overwhelmed by intense rains and overbank flooding caused by the Tar River, Hendricks Creek, Holly Creek, or the East Tarboro Canal overflowing its banks. Flash floods occur fairly often, as they are most frequently associated with severe thunderstorms and rain events, which quickly drop an extensive amount of water affecting small streams and storm drainage systems. The primary results of these flash flood events are flooding of roads, streams and low lying areas. Overbank flood occurs during prolonged rain events, which drop extensive rain over the entire river basin. Hurricane Floyd in 1999 is an example of this kind of event, where over twenty inches of rain caused the Tar River and her tributaries to spill over the banks causing massive damage.

Tarboro regulates development within the flood plain which can be found on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). These maps are the official maps for a community on which FEMA has delineated both the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) and the risk premium zones applicable to the community. SFHAs have a twenty-six percent chance of flooding during a thirty-year mortgage FEMA FIRM maps are available on [fris.nc.gov/fris](http://fris.nc.gov/fris) or by contacting our office.

## PURCHASE FLOOD INSURANCE

STANDARD HOMEOWNER INSURANCE POLICIES DO NOT COVER LOSSES DUE TO FLOODS. Tarboro is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program, which makes it possible for Tarboro property owners to obtain federally backed flood insurance. Tarboro voluntarily participates in the CRS program, which discounts premiums within the jurisdiction. This insurance is available to any owner of insurable property (building or contents) and tenants to insure their personal property against flood loss. We urge persons who live or own property in flood hazard areas to purchase flood insurance to protect themselves from losses due to flooding. This insurance is required in certain instances, such as the purchase of a home with a federally backed mortgage. Homeowners can purchase up to \$250,000 of coverage and additional contents coverage. Businesses can also purchase structural and contents coverage. There is typically a 30 day waiting period before the coverage begins, so do not delay! Contact your insurance agency, [floodsmart.gov](http://floodsmart.gov), or 1-888-379-9531.

## PREPARE YOURSELF AND PROPERTY

Make a list and photograph your contents and property and store them digitally and in another location. Documents such as flood insurance and other policies should be stored in a safe place away from potential flooding.

Maintain emergency supplies, such as food and water, batteries, flashlights, medicines, and a battery operated radio at all times.

Raise appliances and furniture at least 12 inches above projected flood water height, ensuring it meets local codes. Refer to [ReadyNC.org](http://ReadyNC.org) for additional emergency preparations.

## PROTECT YOURSELF DURING A FLOOD

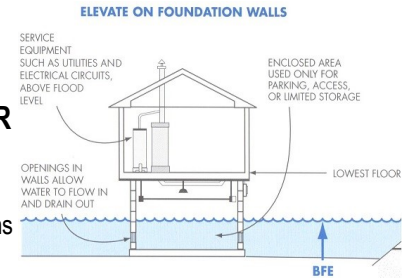
There are several actions residents of flood hazard areas can take to decrease the potential of damage/loss of property due to flooding.

1. Know flood warning procedures.
2. Do not attempt crossing a flowing stream where water is above your knees.
3. Keep children away from flood waters, ditches, culverts and storm drains.
4. Do not drive your vehicle into water, and abandon your vehicle if stalled out in high water and seek higher ground.
5. Evacuate the flood hazard area in times of impending flood or when advised to do so by the police or fire department.
6. Cut off all electric circuits at the fuse panel or disconnect switches. If this is not possible turn off or disconnect all electrical appliances. Shut off the water service and gas valves in your home.

## PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

Recent construction practices and regulations have helped make new homes more flood resistant.

Many existing homes are still susceptible flood losses. Temporary measures for reducing losses include such things as moving furniture and utilities to upper floors or higher elevations. There are several ways of retrofitting existing buildings like elevating the structure, relocation of a structure, sealing a structure, protection of utilities, installing flood vents and correcting drainage problems. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has several publications on ways of retrofitting existing buildings. Please visit the FEMA website at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) for these resources or contact our office.



## YOU NEED A FLOOD DEVELOPMENT PERMIT

Tarboro has adopted regulations as a part of the Town of Tarboro's Unified Development Ordinance that regulate development in Special Flood Hazard Areas. Development activities include construction of buildings, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations. The following are examples of Tarboro's floodplain development regulations:

- Residential structures minimum of 3 ft. above base flood elevation in the AE ("100 year") floodplain
- Residential structures minimum of 2 ft. above base flood elevation in the Shaded X ("500 year") floodplain
- Fill shall not be used to elevate buildings in any flood hazard area or for any other purpose except to access property
- Substantial improvements or damages (50% of value) to a structure will require the structure to meet current flood development regulations (This is a cumulative value over time.)

A permit is required from the Planning and Inspections Department for any of the above activities that will take place in a designated floodplain. To apply for a permit or report illegal floodplain development or learn more about Tarboro's flood regulations, contact the Planning and Inspections Department at 252-641-4249.