

# PREPARE FOR FLOODING



Know how to shut off the electricity and gas to your house prior to a flood.



Make a list of emergency numbers and identify a safe place to go in case of a flood.



Make a household inventory (list, videos, pictures), especially of the lowest level of your house.



Put insurance policies, valuable papers, medicine, etc., in a safe place.



Collect and put cleaning supplies, camera, waterproof boots, etc., in a handy place.



Develop a disaster response plan. See the Red Cross' website at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) for information about preparing your home and family for a disaster. For specific information on emergency preparedness and flooding in Monroe County visit [www.monroecountyem.com](http://www.monroecountyem.com)

## STAY INFORMED

- Know your flood zone by visiting [http://mc-gisweb.monroecounty-fl.gov/MCFEMA\\_public/default.aspx](http://mc-gisweb.monroecounty-fl.gov/MCFEMA_public/default.aspx)
- Know your evacuation zone and sign-up for emergency alerts at by visiting <http://www.monroecountyem.com/index.aspx?NID=255>
- Download the NOAA Extreme Weather Information Sheet at [www.ncddc.noaa.gov/NEWIS](http://www.ncddc.noaa.gov/NEWIS)
- Follow the *US National Weather Service Key West* on **Facebook**
- Call the Emergency Information Hotline **800-955-5504**

### AM / FM RADIO

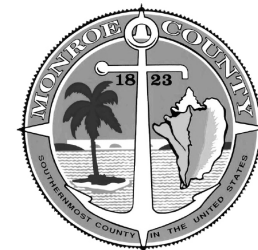
WGMX / 94.3 FM / Marathon, Florida  
Island / 107.1 FM / Key West, Florida  
KONK / 1500 AM / Key West, Florida  
WIOD Radio / 610 AM / Miami, Florida  
WLRN Public Radio / 91.3 / Miami, Florida  
WWUS / 104.1 FM / US1 Radio, Big Pine, Florida  
Clear Channel Radio Stations, Florida Keys  
Thunder County / 99.5 FM 100.3 FM  
Key-Z / 93.5 FM 96.9  
WEOW / 92.7

### TELEVISION

Channel 76 / Monroe County, Florida



The Sunshine State isn't always sunny. When it rains in Florida, it pours. Due to the low-lying elevations of the Florida Keys, Monroe County residents need to be aware of potential flooding that may occur. Heavy rains, tropical storms, and hurricanes have all affected Florida in the recent years. All of Monroe County is identified as a coastal floodplain and may be subject to flooding.



[www.monroecounty-fl.gov](http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov)

# WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

Protecting your property from flooding can involve a variety of actions:

- Following building code requirements
- Floodproofing
- Elevating your home/utilities
- Building with flood resistant materials
- Raising electrical system components
- Install sewer backflow valves

For advice on ways to protect your property from flooding, contact **Clint Arsenault (305) 453-8720**

*Note that most flood protection measures need a building permit. Always contact Building Department prior to doing any type of work.*

# INSURE YOUR PROPERTY

- Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods.
- Typically, there's a 30-day waiting period from date of purchase before your policy flood insurance goes into effect. That means now is the best time to buy flood insurance.
- To find out more about flood insurance and who writes flood insurance policies in your area visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or call toll-free (888) 379-9531

# PROTECT THE NATURAL FLOODPLAIN FUNCTIONS

The undisturbed natural areas in Monroe County act as natural retention of flood waters, improving water quality and providing refuge for endangered species. Please help keep these areas natural and beautiful by reporting any illegal dumping or clearing by filing a Code Compliance Complaint Form on the Monroe County website <http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/index.aspx?NID=63>



# NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM PROGRAM

Monroe County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and NFIP Community Rating System (CRS). The County's participation in the CRS program means that flood insurance premiums on policies issued in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) will be offered at a reduced rate. As part of the requirement for participation in the CRS program, Monroe County must inform the residents and business owners about activities that can help prepare the community for future flood events.

# LEARN THE WARNING TERMS

## Tropical Storm Watch

An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are possible within the specified coastal area within 48 hours

## Tropical Storm Warning

An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) are expected within the specified coastal area within 36 hours

## Hurricane Watch

An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are possible somewhere within the specified coastal area

## Hurricane Warning

An announcement that hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are expected somewhere within the specified coastal area

# KNOW BEFORE YOU BUY

Before buying a property, be sure to check with the Monroe County Building Department for the permitting history. Once you purchase a property, you may be required, at your own expense, to make alterations to a property that did not obtain the proper permits.