

## Dear North Plainfield Residents

This notice is sent to inform all residents and businesses who reside in the designated Floodplain about flood hazards in the Borough of North Plainfield and suggested actions you can take to protect yourself and your property.

### KNOW YOUR FLOOD HAZARDS

North Plainfield is subject to flooding along Green Brook, Stony Brook, Crab Brook, Fred's Brook, as well as a few unnamed streams, streets and highways throughout the Borough. This is due to topography, soil conditions and drainage issues.

The Federal Government has identified the Borough floodplain by preparing a detailed map, showing what is known as the 100 year floodplain.

The floodplain map and certifications showing whether a property is within this floodplain can be obtained at the Borough Engineer's Office (769-2914), Department of Public Works at Borough Hall, 263 Somerset Street. Copies of these and other documents can also be reviewed at the North Plainfield Public Library (755-7909). The Borough maintains elevation certificates for review in the Building Department.

### FLOOD HISTORY IN THE BORO

We've had severe floods in North Plainfield in the past, particularly in 1971, 1973, 1999, 2010 and in 2011 all resulting in over \$40 million in damage and the loss of four lives.

### FLOOD WARNING SYSTEMS

The Borough has developed a flood warning system in conjunction with state and county agencies. There are sensing devices at strategic locations in the various brooks that provide advance warning of rising flood waters. Somerset County also monitors flooding and sends notification to police and fire departments and offices of emergency management.

### HOW YOU ARE NOTIFIED

There are a series of sirens located throughout the Borough. In addition, the Borough has set up an Emergency Notification system which sends out phone calls, text messages as well as emails. The police and fire departments may patrol the flood prone areas using portable PA systems from their vehicles. You can tune in to **1630 on your AM radio** to hear announcements and warnings. When necessary, local emergency services will go door to door. Please **DO NOT** call the Police Department unless you have an emergency

### TWO COMMON WARNINGS

**Flood Watch-** Flooding is possible within the flood prone area. Sirens will sound 4 blasts for 1 ½ minutes.

**Flood Warning-** Flooding is imminent or has been reported. Sirens sound 16 short blasts for 2 ½ minutes.

### FLOOD SAFETY

If you live near a brook, stream, drainage ditch or low lying area, you should be concerned about flood hazards and flood safety. There are several things you can do to protect yourself:

Know the warning procedures and educate your family

Plan escape routes to higher ground ahead of time, before the flood

Monitor water levels near your home or business and tune to **1630 AM**. Keep away from these areas

Evacuate when advised to. Water rises quickly once flooding starts. You have less time than you think! If you have time shut off gas and electric before you go.

**TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN** - NEVER attempt to cross a flooded stream, street or brook by foot or vehicle. The current will carry you way.

If your car stalls, abandon it and move to higher ground

DO NOT return to flood prone area until you check with emergency services personnel

DO NOT enter flooded areas. You can be subject to electrical shock or swift moving debris

### FLOOD INSURANCE

Your home owners' policy will not cover flood insurance. The Borough participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. We strongly urge you to purchase this additional insurance to protect yourself from devastation losses due to a flood. Contact your insurance agent directly for information; Renters can

insure their possessions as well. You don't have to live in the floodplain to qualify for this additional coverage. Note that there is a 30 day waiting period from the time you purchase this policy to the time it becomes effective so don't wait, especially if you live in the flood prone areas of the Borough. As a result of voluntary actions taken by the Borough, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had determined that cost of new or renewed flood insurance policies in place on or after October 1, 1992, will be reduced by at least 5%. This alone should serve as an incentive to act now and purchase a flood policy.

### **PROPERTY PROTECTION**

There are a number of ways a resident can "flood proof" or protect their properties. There are several cost effective measures you can take to help guard against property damage.

Install a sump pump system to protect from water that may infiltrate your basement or lower level

Strengthen basement walls and water proof same

Use water resistant building materials such as paints, coatings, windows, doors, flooring, etc.

Elevate electrical and mechanical equipment in basements or lower levels

Construct flood walls or enclosures

Elevate buildings and structures

Store valuables and insurance papers in waterproof container in the highest level of your home

\*\*\*Grants may be available for these projects. For more information contact the Office of Emergency Management at [HYPERLINK "mailto:oeinfo@npmail.org" oeinfo@npmail.org](mailto:oeinfo@npmail.org).

### **FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

To regulate development in the floodplain, the Borough in conjunction with federal, state and county agencies has adopted and enforces various ordinances and regulations, the purpose is to protect the public's health and safety and to prevent construction which could actually increase flooding as well as preserve our natural environment. More information on this subject can be obtained at the Borough Engineer's Office in Borough Hall.

No developments in the floodplain, whether construction of structures or installations of fill are permitted without approval by the Borough Engineer. Inquiries can be made Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM-4:30 PM. stop in at Borough Hall or call 769-2914.

### **DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE**

The various brooks, streams, drainage ditches and storm water sewers are necessary to help prevent flooding in the Borough. In order to keep these drainage systems flowing freely, the Borough has prohibited the following activities in the open channels and closed sewers as well:

The dumping or placement of any solid waste, garbage, trash, leaves, tree limbs, branches, grass or other debris

The dumping or placement of untreated sewage or industrial wastes

The storage of pesticides, flammable liquids, explosives and or other hazardous materials in or near these water ways.

If you become aware of any such situation as noted above or any other situation that would impede drainage, notify the following agencies:

North Plainfield Police Dept.-769-2937

North Plainfield Fire Dept.-769-2935

NP Dept. of Public Works-769-2914

NP Health Dept.-769-2907

NP Mayor's Office-769-2902

NJ Dept of Environmental Protection

Storm Water Enf.-609-984-5855

Solid Waste Enf.-609-584-4180

Hazardous Waste-609-584-4250

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***This brochure has been distributed as a public service to the community.***

# **BOROUGH**

**OF  
NORTH PLAINFIELD**

**OFFICE OF  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

***Brian L Martin, Coordinator***

**Michael Giordano  
Mayor  
263 Somerset Street  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060**

***National Flood  
Insurance Program***

***Critical Information for Residents Of  
North Plainfield who Reside in a Floodplain***

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