



Flood Facts

ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LOUISIANA

All properties in St. Tammany are in or near an area that may flood, with some areas experiencing repetitive flooding.

Being aware of flooding can help you better **prepare** for and **respond** to storm events.

Review this brochure for important tips

Stay Alert!

Sign up for Alert St. Tammany
stgov.org/departments/hsep

Tune radio to WWL 870AM

Watch TV: WWL, WDSU, WVUE, WGNO



Be Safe

TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN.

Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Protect yourself and your loved ones.

- **Listen to authorities** and move to a safe place if you are ordered to evacuate.
- **Do not walk through flood water.** Just six inches of moving water can knock you down. If you must walk in water, use a pole or stick to check that the ground is there.
- **Do not drive through flood water.** More people drown in cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers because the road or bridge may be washed out.
- **Stay far away from power lines.** The number two flood killer is electrocution. Electrical current travels through water. Report downed power lines.
- **Be alert for gas leaks.** Don't smoke or use open flames unless you know the gas is off and the area has been ventilated.

Be Prepared

- Make a plan for what your household, including your pets, will do in the event of a natural disaster such as a flood, hurricane, or tornado.
- Stay alert to bulletins that warn of flooding.
- Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash flood response.
- Make a list of emergency numbers and identify a safe place to go.
- Know how to shut off the electricity and gas.
- Make an inventory of household contents.
- Keep important documents in a waterproof container.
- Gather supplies, including medicine, non-perishable foods, cleaning supplies, and water for several days, in case you must leave immediately or if services are cut off in your area.



Know Your Flood Hazard

Flooding in the parish is from four sources:

- 1) *Riverine* when rivers or streams exceed capacity
- 2) *Stormwater* when rain overwhelms the drainage system in an area
- 3) *Coastal Surge* when tropical storm winds push Gulf of Mexico water inland
- 4) *Backwater flooding* when water can't flow downstream

St. Tammany Major Rivers
 Bogue Falaya
 Pearl
 Tchefuncte

You can find information about your property:

- LA Floodmaps** for flood zone
maps.lsuagcenter.com/floodmaps
- Parish Floodplain Administrator** for flood zone, anticipated flood depth, flood history, other flood and related hazards, and if it is in a floodway or wetland
 985-898-2574

Protect Your Property...

...by Building Responsibly

Flooding causes more property damage than any other type of natural disaster. There are many ways to protect your home or business:

- Review information** on the Parish website, including the Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage Policy. stpgov.org/floods
- Review publications** at the Library; search the catalog by keywords such as flood, coastal, elevated, and hazard. sttammanylibrary.org
- Call Engineering** for property protection advice or to request a free visit to your property to review problems and discuss solutions. [985-898-2552](tel:985-898-2552)
- Implement appropriate flood protection measures**, from marking the breaker box to show the circuits in floodable areas to elevating or moving the building.



BE AWARE that all development in the floodplain requires a permit, including new construction, substantial improvement, demolition, and earthwork. Individuals who fill, excavate, or build without a permit may be subject to penalties and have to return the land to its pre-incident state at their cost.

- Contact Permits** before you start any development. [985-898-2574](tel:985-898-2574)
- Contact Code Enforcement** if you see any development in the floodplain that does not have a permit. [985-898-5214](tel:985-898-5214)



...by getting Flood Insurance

Standard property insurance does not cover flood damage. A separate flood policy is required for damage caused by surface water flooding and is available to property owners and renters.

DO NOT WAIT for the next flood to get flood insurance. There is usually a 30-day waiting period before most flood policies go into effect.

- Learn about the NFIP** (National Flood Insurance Program) at floodsmart.gov.
- Talk to an insurance agent.** For a list of agents: ldi.la.gov/consumers/insurance-type/flood

Other things to know:

- In St. Tammany, flooding usually causes more damage to a structure's contents than to the structure. *Be sure you have contents coverage.*
- St. Tammany participates in FEMA's CRS (Community Rating System) program which earns a discount – currently 15% – on all flood insurance policies.

...with Grant Assistance

Some flood protection measures are expensive. The Federal government, through the Parish, offers grants to mitigate flood risk to properties. This can include elevating the structure, or having the government acquire the property and either relocate or demolish the structure.

Grants are regularly available for repetitive loss properties. Sometimes there may be additional programs for other types of assistance.

- Call Grants** for information about financial assistance. [985-867-5095](tel:985-867-5095)



Protect the Floodplain

St. Tammany is a beautiful place. Our floodplains are vital assets – storing stormwater to reduce flood risk, providing wildlife habitat, and improving water quality.

The drainage system must be kept free of obstructions to reduce flood risk. It is illegal to obstruct any ditch or waterway (STP Code Sec. 28-1). Debris, leaves, and even grass clippings may obstruct the flow of water and cause overflow onto streets and into yards.

- Clean** gutters, inlets, swales, and ditches on your property so stormwater can drain.
- Report any violations** to Code Enforcement at [985-898-5214](tel:985-898-5214).

Never dump chemicals – such as oil, paint, and pesticides – into storm drains or canals, as it destroys plants, endangers wildlife, and contaminates drinking water.

Recover After a Flood

- Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Wear heavy work gloves, protective clothing and boots during clean-up, and use face coverings if cleaning mold or other debris.
- Be aware that snakes and other animals may be in your house.
- Be aware of the risk of electrocution.
- Avoid wading in floodwater, which can be contaminated and contain dangerous debris.
- Use a generator only outdoors and away from windows.

