



Dear Resident,

Spring 2021

Each June marks the arrival of Southwest Florida's famous rainy season. The rainy season runs from June 1st to September 30th each year. Town of Fort Myers Beach Code of Ordinances Section 14-120(a), states that no fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus be applied to lawns and landscape plants during this time. Fertilizer application is prohibited in the rainy season because the extra rain causes the fertilizer to runoff the grass and into the drainage systems many of which are connected to our nearshore waters. Any fertilizer runoff entering our nearshore waters can increase algae blooms in canals and increase the growth of drift algae in the Gulf of Mexico. Please be kind to our waterways this summer and don't fertilize during the rainy season.

Sea turtle reproduction season is in full swing. Sea turtle nesting season takes place from May 1st to October 31st.

Please help sea turtles get safely to the water by using these tips:

- Use approved amber or red colored LED lights in lighting fixtures
- Close blinds or curtains after dark
- Shield light from shining directly onto the beach
- Direct sources of light towards the ground

Turtle friendly light bulbs can be purchased at Town Hall. Additional techniques to make lighting sources turtle friendly can be found in the Town's Land Development Code Section 14-79. Since sea turtle friendly lighting is a requirement for any light visible from the beach per Land Development Code Section 14-73(b)(1), Code Enforcement does routinely checks for lighting issues to make sure that lighting is in compliance. More information about sea turtles can be found on the Town's website <http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov/963/Sea-Turtle-Information>. If you have any questions please contact Rae Burns the Town's environmental specialist at (239) 765-0202 ext. 1312.

See reverse side for important FLOOD information!

FLOOD INFORMATION

Dear Town of Fort Myers Beach Resident,

You have received this letter because you reside in the Town of Fort Myers Beach where repetitive flood insurance claims have occurred. The Town has an active program to help you protect yourself and your property from future flooding.

Learn your flood hazard, flood zone and map information.

- Go to <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search#searchresultsanchor> for all Flood Insurance Rate Map details, including flood zone and all other details required to obtain flood insurance.
- If you have other questions, please E-mail: Permits@fmbgov.com or visit Town Hall, Department of Community Development at 2525 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach, Fl. 33931 or call. Call Town Hall at (239) 765-0202 for additional flood map information

Protect your investment in property and contents with flood insurance.

- Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because the Town of Fort Myers Beach participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the federal government and is available to everyone, even properties that have previously been flooded. Also, because our community participates in the Community Rating System, you will receive a reduction in the insurance premium.
- You should strongly consider having contents coverage as well. Speak with your insurance agent regarding contents coverage.
- *Don't wait for the next rainy or hurricane season to buy insurance protection.* In most cases, there is a 30-day waiting period before National Flood Insurance Program coverage takes effect.

Get a print or online copy of the Lee County All Hazards Guide.

- This guide is loaded with helpful information about flood warning and response as well as property protection advice.
- Print versions are available at Town Hall, 2525 Estero Blvd., Ft. Myers Beach as well as at convenient locations county-wide.
- Access the online version at <http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13432/AHG-2018>

Building and improvements - things to consider BEFORE applying for a building permit:

- Before you remodel, learn about flood regulations and building codes and obtain all required permits.
- Enclosure of flood prone spaces beneath an elevated home may be permitted only if they comply with current flood regulations involving approved flood venting and the use of flood-resistant materials. The enclosed spaces can only be used for parking, basic storage, and access. These spaces cannot be made finished, air conditioned, or made livable.
- Structures built before 1984 may have been constructed in a fashion that permits them to remain non-compliant as it relates to current flood ordinance. Please contact Town Hall at (239) 765-0202 for any questions regarding the renovation of older, potentially non-compliant structures.
- If your improvements or repairs cost more than 50% of the depreciated market value of your structure, they are considered to be 'substantial' according to the NFIP and may require additional flood compliant construction measures (the 50% rule). More about 'substantial improvement' and the '50%' rule can be found here: https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_p213_08232018.pdf

Report blocked ditches, swales and canals

- Help the Town keep water conveyances free-flowing to avoid potential flooding.
- Blockages should be reported to Public Works at (239) 765-0202 as soon as possible.
- Submit a Request for Action online at: <http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov/RequestTracker.aspx>

Choose your flood warning systems.

- The Town of Fort Myers Beach uses the CODE Red Notification system to warn residents, business owners, and property owners of emergencies. We encourage you to select a free method to receive personal notification of an imminent threat through the CodeRED system. Visit <http://www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov/> to sign up.
- Lee County also has flood preparation guidance that can be found here: <https://www.leegov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/plan/ahg/floodins>