



Dear Resident:

The City of Port Richey is located on the Gulf of Mexico. With the City's elevation above sea level being only a few feet above high tide, **EXTREME FLOODING WILL BE IMMINENT**. The majority of the City of Port Richey is in Evacuation Level A, which is the most dangerous level. Level A requires all residents along the Pithlachascotee River, as well as those west of U.S.19, to evacuate when an evacuation order or advisory is issued.

Flooding occurs most commonly from heavy rainfall when natural watercourses do not have the capacity to carry excess water. However, floods are not always caused by heavy rainfall. Rivers can overflow their banks to cause flooding. This happens when there is more water upstream than usual, and as it flows downstream to the adjacent low-lying areas (also called a floodplain), there is a burst and water gets into the land.

You have received this letter because your property is located in an area that has been flooded several times. We as a City are concerned about repetitive flooding and have an active program in place to assist you in protecting your property from flooding.

The City of Port Richey participates in the Community Rating System, giving all residents a 15% reduction in their flood insurance policy due to our rating.

Federal funds will be released to aide people and communities to help recover from the disaster. Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs. Low cost loans to cover uninsured property losses and other programs to help residents and business owners recover. You can apply for assistance by registering online at [Disaster Assistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov) or toll free 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing or speech impaired. You may also contact The City of Port Richey, Building Department at 727-835-1098.

1. Check with the Building Department on the extent of the past flooding in your area. The staff can visit your property to discuss flood alternatives.
2. Prepare for flooding:
 - Make your Family Disaster Plan. www.redcross.org , www.ready.gov/floods , www.floodsmart.gov , www.fema.gov for additional information
 - Please visit our website at www.cityofportrichey.com and City of Port Richey Facebook page for more information

- Safeguard all important documents
 - Turn off all electricity and gas
 - Know your evacuation zone and route out to a nearby shelter
 - Restock or build your emergency kit, have a minimum of 3 days of food and water
3. Consider some permanent flood protection measures:
- Mark your fuse or breaker box to show the circuits to the floodable areas
 - Elevating your home above base flood elevation
 - Check your building for water entry points as there may be something that you can use to prevent intrusion
 - Installing a floor drain plug, or sewer back up valve to prevent sewer back up flooding
 - Additional information may be found on FEMA's website, www.ready.gov/floods
 - Some flood protection measures may need a building permit so please be sure to speak to someone in our Building Department
4. Speak to our Building Department for information on financial assistance:
- The City will get you in touch with Pasco County, who will walk you thru step by step on what financial assistance could be issued through different government programs
 - If you are interested in elevating your residence/business above the base flood level, please call our offices at 727-835-1098 to find out more information
 - Important that you have a flood insurance policy to assist you with any repairs you may incur after a flood
5. Get a Flood Insurance Policy
- A regular homeowner's insurance policy will not cover your damage from a flood
 - Make sure that when you purchase your flood insurance policy that it covers your contents as most policies only cover building
 - DO NOT wait for the next flood to purchase your flood insurance as there is a 30-day waiting period before the National Flood Insurance Policy will take effect.
 - Please contact your insurance agent for more information regarding rates and policies

If we may be of further assistance and or answer questions for you, please feel free to email v.hanson@cityofportrichey.com or we can be reached at 727-816-1900 ext150/180.