How close do you live to a floodplain? Search your address at http://ufdcd.org/floodmap
Your property may have a high flood risk: **TAKE ACTION NOW.**

**UNDERSTAND YOUR FLOOD RISK**

1. **Anywhere it rains, it can flood.** All rivers, streams, tributaries and canals—regardless of size—have the potential to flood. **There is a 1 in 4 chance that a high-risk area will be flooded during a 30-year period.**

2. **Flood Insurance is recommended for everyone, especially if you are in or near a mapped floodplain area.** Standard homeowners’ insurance policies do not cover flood losses. Property owners can insure their buildings and contents, and renters can insure just their contents.

3. **There is a 30-day waiting period before the policy becomes effective, so plan ahead.**

4. **Following a Natural Disaster, Federal assistance may be limited if you don’t have flood insurance.**

**GET FLOOD INSURANCE**

- Visit FloodSmart.gov
- Call your insurance agent
- Get a Floodplain Use Permit before you build.

**PROTECT PROPERTY FROM FLOOD HAZARD**

1. **Before A Flood**
   - Obtain flood insurance.
   - Keep trash and debris out of the drainage channels, so they can carry flood flows.
   - Ensure that water flows away from your house.
   - Report potential problems like blocked culverts, or people dumping debris in the channels.
   - Construct barriers around window wells or other building openings to keep flood water from entering. Keep materials like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber handy for emergency waterproofing.
   - Floodproofing buildings can help reduce potential flood damages to structures and their contents. Structural changes should be designed by a professional engineer. A building permit may be required for this type of work.
   - Ask your plumber about a valve to prevent sewage backup.

2. **After A Flood**
   - Cover broken windows and holes in the roof or walls to prevent further weather damage.
   - Call your insurance agent. Proceed with immediate clean-up measures to reduce any health hazards. List and take pictures of ruined items before disposing of them. Take pictures of the damage, and keep record of repairs. Show these to the insurance appraiser for verification.
   - You need to obtain a permit for repair if it’s more than just cleanup! Contact your local Floodplain Contact on the opposite side of this brochure.

**PROTECT PEOPLE FROM FLOOD HAZARD**

1. **Before A Flood**
   - Plan evacuation routes to move to higher ground, and evacuate immediately, if necessary.
   - Have photocopies of important documents and valuable papers away from your house (safe deposit box).
   - Be prepared to move your valuables to a higher location, if possible.

2. **During A Flood**
   - During heavy rainfall, stay alert for sirens and possible flood warnings (TV, radio, websites, and social media).
   - If you are caught in the house by floodwater, move to a higher floor or the roof. Take warm clothing, a flashlight, your cell phone, and portable radio. Wait for help.
   - Avoid contact with floodwater—it is contaminated and potentially hazardous.
   - Do not drive through flooded areas—most flood deaths occur in cars.
   - Do not drive around road barriers—the road or bridge may be washed out.
   - Do not walk through flowing water—6 inches of moving water can knock you off your feet.

3. **After A Flood**
   - Stay informed—tune to a battery-powered radio, websites, or social media, for advice on where to obtain medical care and assistance for such necessities as shelter, clothing, food, and counseling for stress.
   - Do not visit disaster areas until authorized to do so.
   - The structural, electrical, and plumbing systems, as well as gas lines and water wells should be professionally inspected for safety before re-entering your home.
   - Before entering a building, check for structural damage and be alert for gas leaks, turn off outside gas lines to your meter, use a flashlight (no open flames) to inspect for damage, turn off the gas, and ventilate the area.
   - Stay away from downed power lines and electrical wires—electricity can travel through water.
   - Look before you step—the ground and floors may be covered with hazardous debris, and floors and stairs can be covered with slippery mud.