

Alert Notifications



www.HarrisCountyFWS.org

As part of Harris County Flood Control District's commitment to implement new tools to better predict flood risk, the Flood Warning System offers an alert feature that allows residents to subscribe to receive email and/or text alerts that report near real-time rainfall and water levels.

Sign up now to start receiving real-time rainfall amounts and water levels.

www.FWSalerts.org



Ready Harris Alerts is the official mass notification system for the Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management. You opt-in to enter your contact information and subscribe to notifications you care about based on your location. The information you provide is protected and will not be used for any other purpose.

www.readyharris.org



Flood Risk. Floodplains. Flooding.

Harris County's #1 Natural Hazard

Our Region. Our Risks.

Harris County, the 3rd largest U.S. county by population, encompasses 1,777 square miles, 22 major watersheds, and more than 1,500 channels totaling about 2,500 miles in length (about the distance from Los Angeles to New York). The Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HCOHSEM) is responsible for the region's disaster preparedness and response. The Harris County Flood Control District is responsible for devising flood reduction plans, implementing those plans and maintaining the infrastructure.

**Flood safety is everyone's responsibility.
The best time to prepare is now.
Flooding can happen at any time.
Knowing what to do and when to take
action is your best protection.**

On average, a major flood occurs somewhere in Harris County every two years. Most of the structure flooding is in areas developed prior to the current understanding of flood potential and prior to regulations restricting construction in flood-prone areas. Fortunately, since the 1970's, there has been flood insurance to help ease the financial impact of flooding. Despite tremendous flood damage reduction projects that have reduced the risk of flooding, more flood insurance funds have been paid in Harris County than in any other National Flood Insurance Program-participating community.

Follow HCOHSEM at:

- ReadyHarris
- ReadyHarris

Follow Harris County Flood Control District at:

- HCFC
- HCFC



County Judge Lina Hidalgo
DIRECTOR

✓ GET FLOOD INSURANCE

EVERYONE NEEDS IT

Hurricane Season: June-Nov Flood Season: Year-round

FEMA and Harris County Flood Control District billboard campaign partnership.

Flood Damage is NOT Covered by Homeowners Insurance.

How Do I Buy Flood Insurance?

You can only purchase flood insurance through an insurance agent or an insurer participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). You cannot buy it directly from the NFIP.

If your insurance agent does not sell flood insurance, contact the NFIP Referral Call Center at **1-800-427-4661** to request an agent referral.

Harris County is a National Flood Insurance Program-participating community.

Residents of Harris County are eligible to participate in the NFIP. NFIP was created by Congress to reduce the impact of flooding on the community by providing affordable insurance coverage to property owners, renters, and businesses.

EVERYONE NEEDS IT

Flood Insurance Facts

- Floods are the nation's most common and costly natural disaster and cause millions of dollars in damage every year.
- Floods can happen anywhere in Harris County. Approximately 60 percent of the structures that flooded during previous major storms were located outside of the FEMA mapped floodplain.



- Individuals and businesses recover quicker and more fully with flood insurance than those without. Following Hurricane Harvey, the average Individual Assistance grant from FEMA was \$4,000, while the average NFIP claim payment in the same county was \$110,000 on average.
- There is a 30-day waiting period before a purchased policy goes into effect.
- Flood insurance is paid even when there is no disaster declaration.

Flood Safety

- Know YOUR flood risk.
- Obey all instructions from officials and emergency responders.
- The safest place to be is where you are. Stay put.
- Do not walk, swim or drive through floodwaters. Floodwaters contain dangerous debris, animal waste, snakes, insects, downed power lines and other hazardous substances.
- Just 6-inches of fast moving water can knock you down.
- Sign up for Flood Warning System Alerts at FWSalerts.org.



- **Turn Around Don't Drown®** - 76% of flood related deaths occur in a vehicle. Learn more at Floodsafety.com.
- Never drive into flood waters.
- Just one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- If flood conditions develop while driving, go to the nearest elevated location and stay put.
- Keep important documents in a waterproof container.
- Move valued items to elevated surfaces, if possible.
- Declutter drains and gutters. If possible, do not park vehicles on the street.
- Do not shelter in a closed attic. Rising floodwaters can trap you.

Flood Terminology

Flooding

Flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. It is the most common natural disaster in the United States.

Street Flooding

Streets are designed as part of the region's drainage system. Streets help to move stormwater to storm drains. When the drainage system is overwhelmed, street flooding occurs.

Riverine Flooding

Excessive rainfall over an extended period of time causes a river, bayou, or creek to exceed its capacity.

Sheetflow

Flooding that occurs when intense local rainfall flows overland to reach a channel.

Rainfall Rate

A measure of the intensity of rainfall by calculating the amount of rain that would fall over a given interval of time if the rainfall intensity were constant.

FEMA Floodplain

Technically, everyone lives in a flood zone. A FEMA floodplain, however, is a mapped area that is identified as being subject to natural flooding from an adjoining waterway.

Watershed

A geographical region of land that drains to a common channel or outlet, mostly creeks and bayous in Harris County.

Flood Warning

A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is imminent or occurring.

Flood Watch

A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are possible for flooding.

Storm Surge

Storm surge is the gradual rise in sea level above the predicted tide caused by high winds pushing the ocean's surface.

