



Dear neighbors,

August 2023

Each year the Community Development Department of the City of Madeira Beach updates all residents and property owners about the role each of us plays in protecting our community from hazards and ensuring development is done in a healthy and responsible manner. Hurricane season is June through November and flooding can happen all summer long.

Protect your personal investment

As a coastal community, the City of Madeira Beach is entirely within the floodplain, meaning all properties are subject to possible catastrophic flooding. Therefore, we strongly encourage all property owners to obtain flood insurance. The City partners with the National Flood Insurance Program in developing our floodplain management efforts. Madeira Beach is currently rated a Level 7 in the Community Rating System (CRS), which means property owners can receive a 15% reduction on the insurance rate for their property. For more information about the CRS, visit <https://pinellas.gov/pinellas-county-florida-community-rating-system-crs>. Additional information about flood hazards, natural floodplain functions, flood map information & flood insurance can be found at www.fema.gov, and floodmaps.pinellascounty.org, or www.pinellascounty.org/flooding. Pinellas County also provides flood insurance technical assistance to help you navigate through flood insurance please visit <https://pinellas.gov/flood-insurance-technical-assistance>. Madeira Beach City Hall and the Gulf Beaches Public Library also have helpful literature. You can also contact a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) at 727-391-9951x244, or email planning@madeirabeachfl.gov, or schedule a consultation at City Hall or at your property.

Find the information you need on the City's website

There is a wealth of information available to you on the City's Community Development Department webpage <https://madeirabeachfl.gov/departments/development-services>. Just click on Departments, then Community Development and then select Flood Resources from the Quick Links menu. There you'll find information on flood protection and preparation, recovery after a flood, flood insurance and requirements for building or improving your property under floodplain management rules. The site also provides access to Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), a map of areas that receive repetitive flooding and elevation certificates that have been filed with the City. You are welcome to contact the Floodplain Manager with comments or questions at 727-391-9951 x244 or planning@madeirabeachfl.gov.

Healthy public facilities protect us all

Maintenance of the natural floodplain function is critical to the wellbeing of the community. If you are aware of a flooding or stormwater drainage problem, call the city immediately at 727- 391-9951. Do not dump waste, including yard clippings, sewage, industrial waste, or other waste

materials in the storm drains. Such dumping is in violation of federal, state, county, municipal, or other laws, rules, regulations, orders or permits. Dumping will endanger your property and that of your neighbors by potentially interfering in the function and flow of the drains and backflow valves. If you see illegal dumping call the city immediately to report the dangerous behavior.

Make your property resilient to storm damage

You can make Madeira Beach a more resilient community by better protecting your property from wind and flood damage. Here is a list of measures FEMA recommends:

Flood Mitigation Options

- Anywhere it rains, it can flood. Protect your investment in your home by purchasing flood insurance, even if you do not live in a high-risk flood zone.
- Elevate your home's lowest floor above the Base Flood Elevation plus four feet of freeboard (BFE+4) as required by required by Madeira Beach. Elevating can lower flood insurance premiums and reduce the risk from increased future flood levels.
- Elevate or floodproof HVAC and/or mechanical units, ductwork, electrical systems, and other utilities above the BFE to protect against flood damage and reduce repair costs.
- Install flood vents in foundation walls, garages, and other enclosed areas. Flood vents reduce flood damage by allowing water to flow through and drain out.
- Use flood-resistant materials in areas of your home below BFE+4, like replacing carpeting with tiles or flood-resistant insulation and gypsum wallboard (Sheetrock), to prevent water from doing significant damage.
- A fuel tank can tip over or float in a flood, spilling fuel and becoming a fire hazard. Anchor any fuel tanks to the floor or ground, or bury them, making sure that the vents and fill line openings are above BFE +4 (this may require permission from your fuel provider).
- Install a backflow valve on your sewer system to prevent sewage back up in your home.
- Add waterproof veneer to exterior walls to prevent shallow flooding from damaging your home.
- Seal your basement walls with waterproofing compounds.

Wind Mitigation Options

- Install hurricane shutters to protect windows and glass doors.

Stay connected to official emergency notice sites

In case of an emergency, the City will send notice to all residents and property owners via email; be sure we have your up-to-date contact information. We will also post notifications on the City's webpage at www.madeirabeachfl.gov, as well as our Facebook account, and on the public information sign in front of City Hall. You can also get up to date information by text message when you sign up for the instant alert service offered by Pinellas County at www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas.