

JEKYLL ISLAND

HURRICANE AND FLOOD FACTS

LOCAL FLOOD HAZARD: Flooding on Jekyll Island is caused by tropical storms and hurricanes. Flood waters can cover many blocks up to two or three feet deep. The areas most prone to flooding are along the beach and marshes. In other areas of the island floodwaters are not as deep, but may still cover streets and yards and can flood cars, garages, basements and lower floors. Flooding can come with little warning. In 1999, Hurricane Floyd caused extensive damage to Jekyll Island.

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All of Jekyll Island is located in or adjacent to the 100 year floodplain. This means that residents have a 1% chance of a flood occurring in any given year.

JEKYLL ISLAND FLOOD SERVICES; Residents of Jekyll Island should check their flood hazard. Flood maps and flood protection references are available at the Jekyll Island Authority Facilities Office in Villa Ospo, on Old Plantation Road and at the Fire Department, on Stable Road. Flood information can also be found in the reference section of the Brunswick-Glynn County Library, on Gloucester Street, in Brunswick. In each of these areas staff can provide you with information, such as the depth of flooding over a building's first floor and past flood problems in the area.

Information is also available for the construction of residences in flood prone areas. The JIA Facilities Office has a handout for selecting an architect, engineer, or contractor. If you have a concern about flooding or drainage, check our resources for assistance. These services are free.



FLOOD INSURANCE: If you don't have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because Jekyll Island participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the Federal government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been flooded. Note: There is a 30 day waiting period for this flood insurance. Some people have purchased flood insurance because the bank required it when they got a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually these policies just cover the building's structure and not the contents. During the kind of flooding that happens on Jekyll Island, there is usually more damage to the furniture and contents than there is to the structure. At last count, there were 415 flood insurance policies for Jekyll Island. If you are covered, check out the amount and make sure you have contents coverage. Flood insurance covers all surface floods.

FLOOD WARNING: The National Weather Service along with the Glynn County Emergency Management Agency disseminates flood warnings and evacuation data through Georgia Public Radio Station 88.9 FM and national television stations. Additionally, the Jekyll Island Fire Department provides information through Jekyll Island Comcast Cable Channel 14. Jekyll Island Civil Defense block wardens will go door to door giving warnings to areas threatened by severe weather. The Fire Department encourages residents to leave the island when a voluntary evacuation is ordered. When a flood threatens, you must be prepared to move to a place of safety. A hurricane and severe weather planner is located on pages 45-48 of your BELLSOUTH Brunswick telephone book.

PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES: Every year, flooding in the United States causes more property damage than any other type of natural disaster. While recent improvements in construction practices and regulations have made new homes less prone to flood damage, there are a significant number of existing homes susceptible to flood losses. The flooding to these properties can be minimized through temporary and permanent retrofitting techniques.

- One approach is to keep water away from your house by constructing a floodwall or earthen berm. These methods are accepted if you have a large lot, if the flooding isn't too deep and if your property is not in the floodway.
- Another approach is to water proof your walls and place watertight closures over the doorways. This method should be used on homes with basements or if water will not get over two feet deep.
- A third approach is to raise your house above the flood level.

Measures to protect a property from flood damage include retrofitting, grading a yard, correcting local drainage problems, and emergency measures, such as, moving furniture and sandbagging.

FLOOD SAFETY: Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths, mostly during flash floods. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you walk in standing water, use a pole or stick to ensure that the ground is still there. Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out. Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.

The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to Georgia Power, 1-888-891-0938. Turn off your electricity. Some appliances, such as television sets, keep electrical charges even after they have been unplugged.

Don't use appliances or motors that have become wet unless they have been taken apart, cleaned, and dried. Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE: Jekyll Island has a drainage inspection and maintenance program. The Facilities Department conducts routine inspections of all ditches, drains

and streams at least once a year. The drainage system on Jekyll Island must be kept clean or flooding will occur. Debris, even grass clippings in ditches and streams may obstruct the flow of water and cause overflow into streets, yards and homes. Jekyll Island Ordinance 15-115 makes it illegal to take any action that will impede the flow of water in ditches and waterways or the dumping of debris into any ditch. If you see any violations please contact Ronny Smith in the Facilities Department, 635-4092.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS: All development on Jekyll Island requires a permit, not just the construction of a building. You must contact David Smith in the Fire Department, at 635-2930 before you start any development. If you see development on Jekyll Island without a permit please call: 635-2930 or 635-4092.

Jekyll Island requires that if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvements to a building equals or exceeds 50% of the building's market value, then the building must meet the same construction requirements as a new building. Substantially damaged buildings must also be brought up to the same standards (for example, a residence damaged so that the cost of repairs equals or exceeds 50% of the building's value before it was damaged may need to be elevated 12 inches above the base flood elevation). A National Flood Insurance Program elevation certificate, signed and sealed by a land surveyor, engineer or architect who is authorized by law to certify elevation information, is required for all new construction and substantial improvements. Copies of all elevation certificates should be sent to David Smith, Jekyll Island Fire Department, 200 Stable Rd., Jekyll Island, Ga. 31527. Our Fire Department maintains completed elevation certificates for buildings constructed since 1999.

NATURAL AND BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS: Jekyll Island is a beautiful place in which to live, and the areas within or near our floodplain are an important asset. The undisturbed wetlands provide a wide range of benefits to the human and natural systems. Water quality is improved through the wetlands ability to filter nutrients and impurities from runoff and process organic wastes. These areas provide breeding and feeding grounds for fish and wildlife and support a high rate of plant growth.