Because the City of Indian Rocks Beach is a coastal community that lies entirely in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), your property is at risk of flood damage.

Local Flood Hazard

Storm surge may flood the entire City. Any storm surges experienced here will most likely be as a result of a hurricane or tropical storm, typically from June 1 through November 30 each year. Beware that flooding can occur due to heavy rains over a short period of time, especially at times of high tide.

City Flood Services

To assist residents in understanding the National Flood Insurance Program and the effects on construction, remodeling and maintaining buildings, the City offers the following services to residents: Know your Flood Zone. Call 727-595-2517 for access to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps, to see what flood zone a building is located in, if it may be affected by coastal erosion, if it is in an area that has flooded repeatedly, and to see Elevation Certificates. General flood information and brochures are available at City Hall and the City Library. City staff will offer advice and visit properties upon request to review a flood problem and explain ways to stop or prevent flood damage. Contact the City at 727-595-2517. Look at the *Flood Information* link on the City's website at Indian-Rocks-Beach.com for more important information that all residents should know.

Drainage System Maintenance

The City has a system of drainage channels and ditches for stormwater management purposes. These drainage ditches and channels are of vital importance since the water flowing through them drains floodwaters from our streets. Our drainage system is inspected on a regular basis by the Public Services Department. A serious risk to the safety of residents is the blockage of catch basins by debris which prevents proper drainage of stormwater. The City of Indian Rocks Beach Code of Ordinances states that no pollutants, including yard debris, automotive fluids, gravel, or paint can be allowed to enter the surface waters, the drainage system, or be disposed of in the right-of-way. Report violations to the Public Services Department at (727) 595-6889.

Flood Safety

Do not walk through flowing water! Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. If you must walk in water, use a pole or stick to see how deep the water is.

Do not drive through a flooded area! More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers. Canals or ponds may not be distinguishable from roads. Driving through flooded streets can also produce a wake that worsens flood damage to buildings. Brake, Don't Wake!

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires! The number two flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Immediately report downed power lines to Duke Energy at 1-800-228-8485.

Make sure battery-operated flashlights and radios are in working condition. Be sure to have extra batteries on-hand.

Have an evacuation and shelter route planned before an evacuation order is issued! Do not wait until the last minute. Go to the Pinellas County Emergency Management website at PinellasCounty.org/Emergency/ for valuable info.

Look out for animals, especially snakes! Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes may seek shelter in yours.

Look before you step! After a flood, the ground and floors are covered with debris, including broken glass and nails. Floors and stairs that have been covered with mud can be very slippery.

Be alert for gas leaks! Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns or open flames until the gas has been turned off, the area has been ventilated and examined by a professional.

Flood Warning System

In cases where flooding might occur during emergency situations, listen to local media for weather updates, evacuation orders and expected storm arrival times. Local radio and television stations and The Weather Channel will provide critical information as part of the Emergency Alert System. A battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio is a reliable source of information. Don't rely on rumors and speculation. In the event of an impending storm surge, all residents are required to evacuate when a **mandatory evacuation order** has been issued. Remember, emergency managers are counting on you to be prepared and do the right thing to keep yourself and your family out of dangerous situations. If you live in Indian Rocks Beach, you live in Evacuation Zone "A". Each resident should make plans well in advance of an emergency.

Property Protection

It is imperative that you know what to do to minimize or prevent flood damage to your property. "Flood proofing" means making physical alterations to your building that improve the ability of structures to withstand the damages that could be caused by flooding. Construction of a small flood wall or earthen berm or redirecting drainage to keep water away from the building are examples of property protection. Dry flood proofing includes sealing or waterproofing with special materials and compounds which provide a chemical or physical barrier against water intrusion during times of flooding. Check your building for water entry points such as doors, low windows, and dryer vents. Look at the *Flood Information* link at Indian-Rocks-Beach.com for more information and search the Indian Rocks Beach Library for "Flood" information.

Flood Insurance

Property losses due to flooding are not covered under standard homeowners' or renters' insurance policies. Two types of flood insurance coverage are available; building and contents coverage. Contents coverage should be purchased by renters. If you don't have flood insurance for your property and its contents, contact your insurance agent. Information is also available from the www.floodsmart.gov website. Don't wait until the next flood is coming to buy flood insurance as there is usually a 30-day waiting period before a flood insurance policy takes effect. Protect yourself with a flood insurance policy!

Protect Natural Floodplain Functions

Florida's beaches are important to many user groups, from commercial fishers to wildlife watchers to the millions of vacationers that visit our state each year. In the City of Indian Rocks Beach the beach and dune system is our first line of defense against storms because it acts as a buffer between the storm waves and coastal development. During hurricanes, storm waves encounter the beach and dunes before crashing into upland structures. You can help to keep our beautiful beach in its natural condition by observing the following rules:

➢ Sea oats and other beach plants help stabilize our sand dunes. Enjoy them, but don't pick them.
➢ No pets are allowed on the beach;
➢ It is unlawful to leave litter in a public place within the City except in proper receptacles for collection. This includes cigar and cigarette butts.
➢ Observe our waterfront wildlife from a distance.

Important Flood Safety Information

From the City of Indian Rocks Beach

1507 Bay Palm Boulevard
Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785

PH: 727-595-2517
FAX: 727-595-4627