

**\*\*OFFICIAL\*\***  
**\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\***

This brochure has been mailed to all addresses located in Linden to inform residents and businesses about flood hazards associated with our rivers and brooks and to suggest possible actions you can take to protect yourself.

**FLOOD HAZARD AREAS**

Linden is subject to both tidal and riverine flooding along the Arthur Kill, Rahway River, Morses Creek, Winans Creek, Piles Creek, Peach Orchard Brook, West Brook, Jouet Brook, Kings Creek and several unnamed drainage ditches. A detailed map, showing the 100-year floodplain is on file in the office of the City Engineer (474-8470) and at the Linden Library.

The 100-year floodplain is the area that will be flooded on the average of once every 100 years. It has a 1% chance of being flooded in any given year. Put another way, it has about a 25% chance of being flooded over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Smaller floods have a greater chance of occurring in any year and can still create a significant flood hazard to people and property close to the waterways.

Also, larger floods can and do occur. Flood waters can rise very fast. The flood hazard includes fast moving waters, sometimes accompanied by trees and other debris.

The worst storm in Linden's history was Hurricane Doria in 1971. This hurricane inundated approximately 50% of the City causing massive flooding and road closings. There is no guarantee that a similar storm will not come again. Therefore, we must be prepared for any and all future storms.

**FLOOD WARNINGS**

Linden has developed an emergency evacuation system, in conjunction with the state and Union County, which includes floods and hurricanes. The Mayor, in concert with the Emergency Management Coordinator, has the responsibility to decide on partial or total evacuation. Warnings will be disseminated by police vehicles equipped with public address systems, by emergency warning sirens and by door to door notification. The flood warning system is intended to provide up to one hour advance warning of a flood hazard.

FLASH FLOOD WATCH means that flash flooding is possible within the watch area. FLASH FLOOD WARNING means that flash flooding is imminent or has been reported in the warning area.

**FLOOD SAFETY**

If you live near a brook or creek, you should be concerned about the flood hazard. There are several actions you can take to mitigate the flood hazard, including:

1. Know the flood warning procedures.
2. Plan escape routes to high ground.
3. During times of heavy rainfall, monitor the level of water in the drainageway. Stay tuned to radio or TV for possible flood warnings.
4. Evacuate the flood hazard area in times of impending flood or when advised to do so by the police or fire department, after shutting off the gas, electricity and heating system.
5. Do not attempt to cross a flooding stream on foot or by car.
6. If your car stalls in high water, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.
7. Keep children away from flood waters,

ditches, culverts and storm drains.  
8. Be especially cautious at night.

**FLOOD INSURANCE**

Your homeowners insurance policy will not cover losses due to flooding. Linden participates in the National Flood Insurance Program which makes flood insurance available to everyone in the City. Currently, there is a thirty (30) day waiting period before new flood insurance applications and endorsements to increase coverage take effect.

For many people, their home and its contents represent their greatest investment. We strongly urge you to buy flood insurance to protect yourself from devastating losses due to flooding.

Information about flood insurance can be obtained from your insurance agent. You do not have to live in the floodplain to qualify for flood insurance. Property owners can insure their buildings and contents and renters can insure their possessions.

Just because your house has not flooded in the recent past does not mean that you are safe. There is a thirty day waiting period before a flood insurance policy takes effect, so you should call your insurance agent now.

**NATURAL & BENEFICIAL FUNCTIONS**

Floodplains, stream channels, and wetlands are nature's way of controlling flooding. They keep the flood waters from overtopping natural barriers. They also act as a filtering system for the environment and as a wildlife habitat. Therefore, the City along with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection require that they be safeguarded against encroachments.

Any filling or litter in these natural land uses can and will contribute to flooding.

### **PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES**

All new construction in Linden must be built to the floodplain ordinance regulations. Existing residences, industrial and commercial buildings located in floodplains can be protected by several measures to withstand floods. Depending on the situation, location and availability of funds, the following measures can be used:

1. Install a sump system to dispose of infiltrating water.
2. Strengthen basement walls.
3. Install water resistant materials, such as paints, floors, carpets, doors and windows.
4. Elevate electrical and mechanical equipment in the basement.
5. Floodproof walls, windows and doors.
6. Construct floodwalls or closures.
7. Elevate structures.
8. Install backwater valves.

The Construction Code Department (908-474-8462) is available for site visits to review flooding, drainage, and sewer problems and providing one-on-one advice to the property owner about protecting a home from flooding. The visit can be to review an existing problem or to provide advice to someone contemplating developing or improving a property.

If flooding is likely, and time permits, move essential items and furniture to the upper floors of your building.

### **FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

To regulate development in the floodplain, the City of Linden, in conjunction with state and federal agencies, has developed a Storm Water

Control and Floodplain Ordinance. The purposes of the ordinance are to protect the public health and safety, prevent construction that would increase flooding and preserve the natural environment. The ordinance is under the jurisdiction of the City Engineering Department.

No developments in the floodplain, whether construction of structures or installation of fill, are permitted without approvals from the City Engineer or Planning Board. The Construction Code Department can then issue the proper permits.

Should illegal floodplain development be observed, you are urged to call the City Engineer, Construction Code Department, Police Department or the NJDEP (609-292-2795).

### **DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE**

The various watercourses and storm sewers are necessary to carry stormwater and prevent flooding to properties. To keep the drainage systems flowing freely, the City has prohibited the following activities in the open channels and closed sewers and their vicinity:

1. Dumping any solid waste, garbage, trash, leaves, grass or debris.
2. Dumping untreated sewage or industrial wastes.
3. Storage of pesticides, flammable, explosive and hazardous materials.

Any violations of these regulations should be immediately reported to the Police Department.

This brochure has been prepared by the Linden Engineering Department, 301 N. Wood Avenue, Linden, N.J. 07036; telephone 908-474-8470.