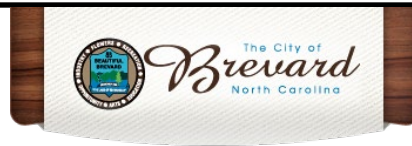


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CITY CONNECTIONS

Weekly Municipal Column
Department of the Week: Planning
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National Preparedness Month: Flood Safety

September is National Preparedness Month. Are you prepared for a major flooding event?

There are several things you can do to prepare for a flooding event:

- Know types of flood risk in your area. Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center for information.
- Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- If flash flooding is a risk in your location, then monitor potential signs, such as heavy rain.
- Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash flood response.
- Gather supplies in case you have to leave immediately, or if services are cut off. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets. Obtain extra batteries and charging devices for phones and other critical equipment.
- Purchase or renew a flood insurance policy. It typically takes up to 30 days for a policy to go into effect and can protect the life you've built. Homeowner's policies do not cover flooding. Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies.
- Protect your property. Move valuables to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.

Please call the Floodplain Administrator in the Brevard Planning Department at (828) 885-5630 if you have questions about flood zones, and visit www.ready.gov to learn how to prepare your household for hurricanes and floods.