



## Flood Protection Information

### **YOUR CHINCOTEAGUE PROPERTY MAY BE LOCATED IN THE FLOOD HAZARD AREA AS MAPPED BY THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.**

**Sources of Flooding:** Flooding in our Town occurs during Nor'easters, Tropical Storms and Hurricanes. The most commonly experienced flooding occurs when Nor'easters approach the region and push tidal waters into the inlet. When this occurs, winds prevent the tidal waters from receding and create a pile up in the channels and bays until the next high tide. This can result in tides that exceed 5 feet or more above normal tides.

**The Extent of Past Flooding Events:** The Town of Chincoteague has experienced several major storms within the last century. The 1933 hurricane passed over the area bringing 80-mile per hour Hurricane force winds and significant tidal flooding. In 1960, Hurricane Donna caused heavy seas, tidal flooding and flooding rains. This hurricane produced high winds recorded over 150 mph at the Chesapeake Light Tower on the southern portion of the Eastern Shore.

A major flood event occurred during March 6-8, 1962, known as the "Ash Wednesday Storm". The Island experienced severe flooding over most of the Island. Several homes were destroyed during this event. All utilities, including water and electricity were out for several weeks due to the damage sustained during this event. Many Island residents were evacuated due to tidal flood heights reaching 4 to 5 feet in some areas.

Since 1991, the Island experienced several Nor'easters that have caused considerable damage. Most of the damage has been to docks, bulkheads and minor residential & commercial flooding. Most of the flooding problems have been to structures located below the base flood elevation along the banks of the Chincoteague and Assateague Channels and along Fowling Gut in the center of the Island.

Your property may be high enough that it has not flooded recently. However, it can still be flooded in the future because the next flood could be worse. The majority of the Island of Chincoteague is located in a floodplain, thus the odds

are that someday your property could be damaged. This flyer gives you some ideas of what you can do to protect yourself.

**Town Flood Services:** The first thing you should do is check your flood hazard map. Flood maps and flood protection references are available at the Island Library located on Main Street. You can also visit the Town Municipal Complex at 6150 Community Drive to see what zone your property is located in the floodplain. The Town also has a list of Virginia contractors, engineers, and architects licensed within the Town of Chincoteague who can assist with flood protection measures.

### **What You Can Do:**

- Do not dump or throw anything into the ditches, ponds, guts or channels. Even grass clippings and branches can accumulate and plug drainage ways. A plugged drainage way cannot carry water and will cause pooling and/or flooding in adjacent areas.
- If your property is next to a ditch, pond, gut or channel, please do your part and keep the banks clear of brush and debris.
- If you see dumping, accumulations or debris in the ditches, contact the local Building and Zoning Administrator.
- Always check with the Building Department before you build, alter, regrade, or fill on your property. A permit may be needed to ensure that projects do not cause problems on other properties.
- If you see building or filling without a Town permit posted, contact the Building Department at 336-6519.

**Flood Proofing:** There are several different ways to protect a building from flood damage. One way is to keep the water away by regrading your lot or building a small floodwall or earthen berm. These methods work if your lot is large enough, flooding is not too deep or your property is not in the floodway. The Building Department can provide additional information.

Another approach is to make your walls waterproof and place watertight closures over the doorway. This method is not recommended for houses if water levels rise over two feet deep.

A third, more permanent approach is to raise the house above the base flood elevation. A small wood frame house can be elevated for less than \$10,000.00. Several homes throughout the Island have been elevated within the last few of years.

These measures are called flood proofing or retrofitting. More information is available in the Public Library on Main Street. Any alteration to your building requires a permit from the local Building Department.

## PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

If you know a flood is coming, you should shut off the gas and electricity and move valuable contents upstairs. It is unlikely that you will get much warning, so a detailed checklist prepared in advance would help ensure that you don't forget anything.

**Flood Insurance:** If you don't have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from flooding. However, because the Town of Chincoteague 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.**

**Flood insurance is required by banks when a mortgage or home improvement loan is obtained.** Coverage can be obtained on both the structure and its contents if desired. During the kind of flooding that occurs on Chincoteague, there is usually more damage to the furniture and contents than to the structure. If you are covered, check your coverage limits and make sure you have enough coverage. Remember, even if the last flood missed you or you have done some flood proofing, the next flood could be worst. Flood insurance covers all surface floods.

### **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 electric wires.** The number two flood killer is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to the Power Company or Town Police Department.

**Town of Chincoteague, Inc.  
6150 Community Drive  
Chincoteague Island, VA 23336  
(757) 336-6519**

### **Solid Waste Collection**

The following changes to the Town's solid waste collection policy will be effective **July 1, 2018:**

- All refuse to be collected must be containerized in a rollout cart placed at curbside, at least three feet from the nearest obstruction with the handle away from the street;
- Maximum cart capacity is 96 gallons;
- Maximum weekly volume to be collected at any residence is 130 gallons;
- Maximum weekly volume to be collected at any commercial establishment is 288 gallons from September 1 through May 30;
- Commercial collections shall be provided twice weekly from June 1 through August 31. A maximum volume of 192 gallons will be collected on the second weekly pickup;
- The collection contractor will provide, at no cost, one rollout cart to each residence and commercial establishment. Additional carts are to be supplied by the resident/business;
- 96-gallon carts will be issued unless a 65-gallon container is specifically requested;
- Two 65-gallon containers will be collected at residential stops however, the second container must be supplied by the resident;
- The property owner will be responsible for replacing rollout carts that have been lost, stolen, or damaged unless caused by the contractor;
- Yard debris will **not** be collected unless it is in a rollout cart;
- Refuse placed in any other type of container will not be collected;

### **Meter Damage Policy**

Effective immediately the property owner is responsible for the cost of materials required to repair a damaged radio read water meter.

### **Snow Emergency**

Town Council has passed a snow emergency ordinance. The ordinance authorizes the Town Manager to declare a Snow Emergency based on the forecast, or accumulation, of frozen precipitation. Parking on public streets is prohibited while the declaration is in effect. The emergency will remain in effect until the Town Manger announces its termination, or the road has been substantially cleared. Failure to comply will result in the vehicle being towed. **THIS ORDINANCE APPLIES TO PUBLIC STREETS ONLY.**

### **Grass Clippings**

Please remember the discharge of grass clippings onto Town roads/sidewalks is illegal. It is not only unsightly, but severely impacts the storm drainage system which causes localized flooding.