



FLOOD AWARENESS NEWSLETTER

April 2022

The City of Kemah is dedicated to minimizing the loss of life and property that is associated with flooding events, and providing residents with a safe environment to live, work, and play. Make sure you are knowledgeable on how to protect yourself and your property for the next flooding event.

- ❖ **Know your flood hazard.** The high tides from Clear Creek and Galveston Bay are a direct flood threat to your family and your property. Contact the City of Kemah Floodplain Administrator to find out if you are in a FEMA mapped flood zone or visit www.floodsmart.gov to find out the flood risk for your property.
- ❖ **Purchase a flood insurance policy and maintain coverage on your structure.** Don't delay – there is a 30-day waiting period before a policy takes effect. Basic homeowner's insurance does not cover damage from floods. Flood insurance is not only for homeowners; renters should consider purchasing flood insurance to protect their contents. For more information about flood insurance such as types of policies and coverage limits, contact your insurance provider.
- ❖ **Keep trash out of ditches, and avoid dumping pollutants in the sewers.** Stream dumping is a violation of the Chapter 46 ordinance that prohibits dumping or discharging of any pollutant into the storm drainage system. Report debris and stream dumping to City Hall by calling 281-334-1611.
- ❖ **Build responsibly.** Contact the Building Department for advice before you construct or place anything in the floodplain. Any development in the floodplain without a permit is illegal, and such activity should be reported to the Building Department. The City requires that the lowest floor of all new construction and substantial improvements in the floodplain be built at 18 inches above base flood elevation. Be sure to contact the City if you have any questions on the requirements in your area. Citizens can also contact the Building Department to obtain flood-related information such as Flood Insurance Rate Map flood zone determinations, mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements, floodplain development regulations, permit information, and site-specific data such as floodway areas, historical flood information, and areas of natural floodplain functions. Copies of such documents are located at 1401 State Highway 146 and are available upon request.
- ❖ **Protect your home.** Consider some permanent flood protection measures such as marking your fuse or breaker box to show the circuits to the floodable areas. Protect your home's foundation from flooding by making sure your downspouts drain away from your house. City staff can provide advice on how to correct drainage issues, information on grant opportunities in order to elevate your home, and other flood protection assistance including sources for financial assistance. Call 281-334-1611 for more information or to request one-on-one site visits.
- ❖ **Prepare a family evacuation plan and designate a place where your family can meet after an evacuation order is issued.** Evacuation maps are on the Galveston County website at www.lpoem.org. Sign up for Kemah Connect at <https://kemahconnect.bbcportal.com/> to receive city news and alerts, and follow the City of Kemah on Facebook to see all watches, warnings, and other weather-related information issued by the National Weather Service.