

Eastern North Carolina experiences hurricanes, tropical storms, and severe extra-tropical cyclones, known as “Nor’easters.” These storms that pass through the county have historically been responsible for flooding and property damage. It’s important to remember that flooding causes more property damage in the United States than any other type of disaster.

The Flood Warning System:

The county receives flood warnings from the National Weather Service via the Emergency Broadcast System and the N.C. Division of Emergency Management. Within 24 hours, the Pitt County Emergency Services Office acts upon all warnings received and disseminates important information to the public via local radio, television stations, fixed siren systems, public address systems, and the Emergency Broadcast System. The county has also adopted an Emergency Operations Plan to address multiple hazards that threaten the jurisdiction. This document clearly defines the responsibilities of Pitt County officials during an emergency.

Buy Flood Insurance:

Normally, your homeowner’s insurance policy does not cover losses due to flooding. However, Pitt County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program which makes federal flood insurance available to everyone in the county. Pitt County is in the process of joining the Community Rating System Program. By implementing this program, Pitt County will afford its citizens the ability to receive discounts on their flood insurance premiums. Call your insurance agent regarding these rates and other information specific to your policy.

Flood Safety:

Actions residents of flood hazard areas can take to decrease the potential of personal injury due to flooding:

1. Be familiar with local flood warning procedures as mentioned in this notice.
2. Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream where water is above your knees.
3. Keep children away from flood waters, ditches, culverts, and storm drains.
4. If your vehicle stalls in high water, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.
5. Evacuate the flood hazard area in times of impending flood or when advised to do so by Pitt County officials.
6. Prior to evacuation, cut off all electrical circuits at the fuse panel or disconnect switches. If this is not possible, disconnect all electrical appliances and shut off the water services and gas valves in your home.

Property Protection Measures:

While recent improvements in construction practices have made new homes less prone to flood damage, there are a significant number of existing houses that continue to be susceptible to repetitive losses. Many of these homeowners feel they are trapped in a never ending cycle of flooding and repairing. The house is rarely the same, and its value usually declines. However, there are ways this cycle of repetitive flooding can be broken. Or in cases where flooding may be unavoidable, steps are taken to reduce the amount of damages incurred.

The Federal Insurance Administration has published a manual that describes various techniques that can be used to flood proof an existing building. This process is known as “retrofitting.”

The Design Manual for Retrofitting Flood-Prone Structures

Permanent retrofitting measures that can be incorporated into an existing house to reduce or eliminate the potential of future flooding:

- Elevation of a structure
- Relocation of a structure
- Use of levees and floodwalls
- Sealing a structure
- Protection of utilities

This document and others related to flooding can be ordered free of charge by calling FEMA at 1-800-480-2520. The Pitt County Planning Department also has flood related documents available for your review.

Flood Plain Development:

Prior to the initiation of any development work in a flood hazard area local permits must be applied for an issued to ensure that it will not aggravate the effects of flooding and that the structures are flood damage resistant. Development work includes excavation, dredging, filling, dumping, bulk heading, driving of piles, clearing, or alteration of land prior to building, alteration of shore bank or bottom of any waterway. Also, The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requires that if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvements to a building exceeds 50% of the buildings market value, then the building must meet the same

construction requirements as a new building. Substantially damaged buildings must also be brought up to current elevation standards.

Please contact the Pitt County Permitting Center at (252) 902-3150 if you are planning to perform any of the previously mentioned development work.

Natural Floodplain Functions:

In addition to the natural beauty of our rivers and wetlands, these features dissipate wave forces, reduce frequency and duration of surface flow, provide habitat for wildlife and vegetation, filter runoff, and serve as drainage basins. Also, the Tar and Neuse River serve as recreational waterways so they must be kept clear and navigable. A community can lose some of its drainage system storage capacity due to garbage dumping, debris, soil erosion, sedimentation, and overgrowth of vegetation. When this happens, flooding is more likely to occur and may subject more property to the flood hazard. It is illegal to dump anything into or intentionally degrade the system. Report violations to the Planning Department at (252) 902-3250.

North Carolina has Buffer Rules to protect the areas immediately adjacent to our waterbodies from undesirable development that could be detrimental to their functions. For further information on these Buffer Rules, please contact NCDENR at (919) 733-7984.

Further Information:

Pitt County offers, as a public service, the following assistance to residents, property owners, realtors, insurance agents, and lenders:

- elevation certificates(1983-Present*)
- floodplain determinations
- historical flooding patterns
- retrofitting and flood proofing advice
- flood insurance requirements
- qualified contractors skilled in retrofitting and flood proofing.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding flooding, please call the Pitt County Planning Department at 902-3250.



National Flood Insurance Program



FLOOD NEWS



Pitt County Planning Dept.
 1717 West Fifth Street
 Greenville, NC 27834-1696
 (252)902-3250 (Phone)
 (252)830-2576 (Fax)
 pittplanning@pittcountync.gov
 www.pittcountync.gov/depts/planning

The Flood Hazard:

The dominant source of flooding in Pitt County is riverine flooding. Riverine flooding resulting from heavy rainfall occurs on:

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|-----------------|--------------------|
| Black Swamp | Briery Swamp |
| Cannon Swamp | Baldwin Swamp |
| Chicod Creek | Clayroot Swamp |
| Conetoe Creek | Crisp Creek |
| Cow Swam | Creeping Swamp |
| Fork Swamp | Great Branch |
| Grindle Creek | Gum Swamp |
| Hardee Creek | Hunting Run |
| Harris Mill Run | Kitten Creek |
| Jacob Branch | Indian Wells Swamp |
| Juniper Branch | Meadow Branch |
| Lawerence Run | Otter Creek |
| Middle Swamp | Poley Branch |
| Pea Branch | Contentnea Creek |
| Pinelog Branch | Tranters Creek |
| Swift Creek | Tar River |
| Tyson Creek | |

