

Miami Beach is a beautiful coastal community. Our sunkissed island is surrounded by the waters of the Atlantic Ocean and Biscayne Bay. Miami Beach is leading the way locally and nationally to reduce flood risk and we want you to be aware of flood risk from extreme rain, King Tides, and storm surge. We are investing in public infrastructure to help our streets and sidewalks drain as quickly as possible. This includes raising roads, installing stormwater pumps, raising sea walls, implementing green infrastructure, and creating higher elevation standards for new construction. We also save residents and businesses 25% or \$8.4 million annually in flood insurance premiums through our strong participation in the Community Rating System. These efforts are also intended to reduce risk from sea level rise.

As a resident or a design/ construction professional, we want you to be aware of your flood risk, build resiliently to reduce your risk, and understand what resources are available to you. It is our goal that all of Miami Beach – whether public roads or private homes – is in the best position possible before, during, and after potential flooding. We are all in this together.

WHY SHOULD YOU REDUCE YOUR RISK?



93% OF BUILDINGS

are located in a FEMA special flood hazard area (SFHA). Protect your property with flood insurance.



64% OF BUILDINGS

were constructed before FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps that require higher construction.

RESILIENT CONSTRUCTION CAN REDUCE DAMAGES AND REDUCE THE COST OF FLOOD INSURANCE.



Elevate, Elevate! Reduce your risk of damage from flooding – and save money on flood insurance also.

- Build higher than FEMA requires. Miami Beach requires new construction to be more than one to five feet higher than Base Flood Elevation (BFE). Base Flood Elevation reflects the height above sea level that flood water is projected to rise in a 100-year storm (a storm that has a 1% annual chance of occurring).
- Elevate important appliances, like air conditioning, water heater, and washers and dryers.
- Elevate electrical plugs to a higher location higher on walls.
- Redirect rain and flood waters through techniques like elevated driveway edges.
- If your current seawall is low, consider investing in raising it to current elevation requirements.

Build responsibly

- If your project will be reviewed by any of the four land use boards, contact the Planning Department to discuss resiliency review criteria.
- Miami Beach requires LEED Gold or Living Building Challenge Certification for certain new construction.
- Choose construction materials that are resistant to water damage below BFE, such as tile flooring and cement instead of wood.
- Permits are required follow all Florida Building Code and Miami Beach Codes to make sure you are meeting all requirements.
- Insert flood openings in areas such as garages and lobbies, to allow the flow of water in the event of flooding. This can lower your cost of flood insurance.
- Obtain an elevation certificate when the lowest floor slab is poured and prior to obtaining a final building inspection approval to ensure the lowest finished floor elevation is elevated at or above the Design Flood Elevation.
- Provide positive and adequate drainage away from the structures and prevent flooding the neighbor properties.

Protect natural floodplain functions

• Integrate salt tolerant vegetation and green open areas as they are natural flood barriers. Open green space helps flood waters drain.

Have a plan! South Florida can experience flooding from storms, hurricanes and King Tides

- Have a storm, hurricane and King Tides plan. Follow Miami-Dade Municipal Code to secure the construction site. Fasten down or remove hazardous objects. Know evacuation routes.
 See http://www.miamidade.gov/hurricane/
- Park your car in an elevated garage floor.

Technical Assistance:

• Building Department and Floodplain Management staff can provide you information on flood zone determination, Florida Building Code, flood damage prevention regulations and requirements, 50% rule and FEMA retrofitting technique guides. Please contact the Building Department at 305.673.7610.

Helpful Sources:

- Flood Map Zone Information: https://msc.fema.gov/portal
- National Flood Insurance Program: www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program
- **FEMA:**www.fema.gov
- Florida Building Code: www.floridabuilding.org/bc/bc_default.aspx
- **FDEP:** www.floridadep.gov
- Florida Municipal Codes: www.municode.com/library/fl
- Miami Beach Flood Awareness: www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/building/local-flood-hazard-info/