

Protect your property from flooding

In St. John the Baptist Parish, flooding can occur during any season of the year. Your property may be in a Special Flood Hazard Area as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The principal sources of flooding in St. John the Baptist Parish are rain and Lakes Pontchartrain, Maurepas, and Lac Des Allemands.

Floodwater collects in low areas and land prone to subsidence or sinking. The low, flat ground provides little gravity drainage in a severe event.

The Parish drainage system does a remarkable job, but when the ground is saturated, and heavy rain falls quickly, the system can be overwhelmed, and flooding can result.

There are many things you can do to an existing building to minimize or eliminate the potential for flood damage.

Sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber can be used to protect property temporarily.

(Remember, sandbags should not be stacked directly against the outer walls of a building since wet bags may create added pressure on the foundation).

Permanent floodproofing measures for flood prone structures are preferable to temporary ones. These permanent retrofitting methods include elevating the structure, building floodwalls and closures, and protecting utilities.

A booklet called Flood Proofing Techniques, Programs, and References (1991, 23pp) is free from the US. Corps of Engineers, National Flood Proofing Committee, Attn.: CECW-PF, 20 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington DC 20314-1000. You can also get information on retrofitting from the main parish public library. In addition to retrofitting booklets, the main library has publications on flood insurance, flood protection, and floodplain management.

[Get more info on the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Levee here.](#)

[USACE](#) levee information.