

# Build responsibly!

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Before proceeding with retrofitting measures, or any construction and development, check with the Parish Planning and Zoning Department at (985) 651-5565 for applicable building codes, permit requirements, and zoning restrictions.

Additionally, if any citizen observes any illegal development in the floodplain, it should be reported immediately to the Community Rating System Coordinator in St. John Parish at (985) 651-5565.

- Before you do anything - including prepare construction plans, finalize financing, and/or purchase one 2" x 4", call the St. John Parish Inspection Department to find out what regulations apply to you.
- Explain, precisely, where your property is located and the entirety of your plans for construction. Find out the cost of the permit application fee.
- Don't hesitate to ask for certain requirements in writing; this protects you and the building official from miscommunication.
- If you are not sure about a regulation, ask for clarification; and
- Above all, don't assume that you won't get caught violating the building permit requirement. Code Enforcement and FEMA staff conduct regular inspections to verify that work is not done in the flood zone without a permit.

[Before you begin construction – be aware of substantial damage/improvement rules!](#)

[St. John the Baptist Parish Floodplain Ordinance](#)

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