



The City of
Brevard
North Carolina

PRESS RELEASE

April 4, 2016

CONTACT:

Daniel Cobb

(828) 885-5630

Daniel.cobb@cityofbrevard.com

City of Brevard Reminds Residents of Flood Risks and Compliance
Please Build Responsibly

This time of year is a busy time as many homeowners are beginning renovation projects. Please remember to secure a permit from the City of Brevard Planning Department as well as the Transylvania County Building Department before starting any such projects. If you live in the special flood hazard area (SFHA), which are those areas especially prone to flooding, *any* work must be permitted, not just additions or expansions to the home or business. Substantial damage or substantial improvements to structures may require retrofitting or modification to existing structures. Increased Cost of Compliance Coverage, or ICC, provides additional funding to help rebuild a substantially damaged building after a flood. More information on this subject is available www.cityofbrevard.com/flood (click on the Chapter 34 of Brevard City Code once on the page) or www.floodsmart.gov. You do not have to live in close proximity to a river or stream to be located in a SFHA, some floodplains stretch over a mile in width.

Transylvania County and the City of Brevard is one of the wettest places in the United States. Only the Pacific Northwest annually averages more precipitation. Unfortunately, living in a setting such as ours, an area surrounded by mountains and high rainfall amounts, generates risks by way of flooding that are hazardous to life and property.

The City has seen its fair share of major flooding events in just the last 15 years due to the remnants of tropical systems Frances, Ivan and Opal. In addition, the headwaters of most of the streams in Brevard (The French Broad River, Kings Creek, Norton Creek, Lambo Creek and others) begin in higher terrain, allowing water velocity to rise quickly in a flooding event before reaching the City. As recently as this past fall there were several heavy rains that caused the French Broad to top its banks. Even if you have never seen a flood on your property that does not mean it is safe from flooding.

In order to make flood insurance available to the citizens of Brevard, the City joined the National Flood Insurance program (NFIP) in 1978. In an effort to reduce the cost of that flood insurance and protect life and property, the City of Brevard became part of the Community Rating System (CRS) in 1992. One element of the CRS program is education and outreach as well as development standards exceeding federal minimums. Because of these higher standards policy holders receive a reduced rate on their insurance premiums (Brevard is currently a level 8 of 10, allowing for a 10% reduction). If you think your property may be located in a SFHA you can visit www.cityofbrevard.com/flood and click on the link "Flood Risk Information System."

Please remember that Mother Nature is unpredictable and flash floods are extremely powerful natural events. If you ever encounter a road submerged in floodwaters do not attempt to drive through them. It only takes a few inches of water to wash a vehicle downstream.

Please contact Daniel Cobb with the City of Brevard Planning Department with any questions at (828) 885-5630 or Daniel.Cobb@cityofbrevard.com.
