

Surfside Colony Storm Water Protection District

Flooding Precautions and Recommendations

Due to the federal government not currently funding the Sunset-Surfside Sand Replenishment Project, the following recommendations should be considered. These recommendations regarding sea water flooding are from the lessons learned during the 1983 storm and floods which were extremely damaging to residences and the entire coastline of California.

Electrical: All receptacles within 24 inches of a garage floor or street grade should be Ground Fault Interrupter (GFI) protected. If no such protection is available a licensed electrician should complete the installation of the receptacles. Protected (GFI) switched circuits are necessary due to an individual standing in the flood water activating a switch.

Plumbing: Any toilets or other plumbing fixtures below or on street grade will need to be plugged to prevent sea water, debris, and sand from entering the sewer system possibly causing the system to back up and flood the streets with effluent. Do NOT remove any home clean-out caps or manhole covers as this will also overwhelm the sewer system (it is also against federal law to allow storm water to enter a public sewer system). A sump pump required for sub-grade plumbing fixtures must be taken offline to prevent flood waters being pumped into the sewer system. Sand and other debris going through the pump will destroy its operation.

Storage: Place all valuable stored items at least 24 inches above street grade. Salt water is very destructive to any item that becomes inundated with the salt water due to salt crystals that remain once items try to dry out. The salt crystals are like little sponges that do not let an item completely dry out, especially in our humid environment.

Remove your autos to unflooded area (along PCH just outside the main gate) should be done as soon as possible. If your auto is exposed to excessive salt water flooding, get the car to a car wash and wash the underbody, engine components and exterior areas. Again, salt water is especially corrosive to metal and electrical parts.

Sub-grade rooms with windows facing the ocean should be protected from wave surge that would break through the glass making clean-up dangerous from glass shards mixed with wave-pushed sand in addition to damaging contents of the room.

Surfside Colony Ltd. will try to prevent flooding with a sand berm, although there may not be enough sand to build one in some areas of the beach.

Residents should also be aware that should flooding occur as in 1983, electricity and gas might be shut off to the entire colony for several days.