

City of Detroit

# Coastal Flood Mitigation Updates and Resources

On Thursday, March 19, the City of Detroit will issue an Emergency Order to waterfront property owners in the Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood and surrounding properties affected by or threatened by coastal flooding in an effort to support mitigation of anticipated water levels in 2020 and threat posed to City infrastructure.

- Beginning March 19, 2020, the City of Detroit Buildings, Safety Engineering and Environmental Department will address properties with conditions preventing access and installation of emergency measures.
- Once a property is identified with conditions requiring remediation, the property owner will have 5 days to comply with the corrective action.
- If you have questions about your property, you can reach Donnie Wright, the District 4 BSEED Inspector, at **(313) 815-5542** or by email at **wrightdo@detroitmi.gov**.

Waterfront property owners can expect to see City of Detroit crews along with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and subcontractors installing temporary barriers on public and private property beginning the week of March 30. These barriers are commonly known as Tiger Dams and have been recommended as a solution to support our continued efforts to prevent excess water from entering the combined storm water drainage system. Other interventions may be used based on property conditions, but Tiger Dams will be used predominately. We expect to have this work completed by May 1, and there may be continued sandbagging efforts following this timeframe for a couple of weeks.

The presentation originally planned for the March 13 community meeting, which was cancelled due to public health precautions surrounding COVID-19, can be found on the City's Website at **<https://detroitmi.gov/how-do-i/find-information/flooding>**. It gives an overview and description of the work outlined above. There is also a link for submission of questions.

We strongly encourage occupants of waterfront and inland homes in the neighborhood to take the following measures immediately:

- **Remove belongings from their basement or raise them off of the ground.**
- **To obtain FEMA Hazard Insurance in advance of this season.**
- **Installation of sewer backflow preventers. (Cost may be covered by a 0% home loan which can be accessed through Jefferson East Inc.)**
- **Enroll with the Detroit Department of Homeland Security for community updates at <https://detroitmi.gov/departments/homeland-security-emergency-management-detroit/community-messaging-system>**



## The following resources links and partners agencies may be helpful in exploring these recommendations:

- <https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program>
- <https://theplumbinginfo.com/how-does-a-sewer-backflow-preventer-work/>
- Jefferson East Inc. for heat, housing and health resources at [www.jeffersoneast.org](http://www.jeffersoneast.org) or call (313) 331-7939.
- Wayne Metro Community Action Agency for water system and utility assistance in your home at <https://www.waynemetro.org/energy-and-water-assistance/> or call (313) 388-9799
- Donnie Wright, District 4 BSEED Inspector, at (313) 815-5542 or by email at [wrightdo@detroitmi.gov](mailto:wrightdo@detroitmi.gov)
- Detroit Water and Sewerage Department for concerns not related to coastal flooding  
Call (313) 267-8000.

## For questions or concerns not covered by or related to the above resources, please contact:

- Letty Azar, District 4 Manger can be reached at (313) 236-3518 or [azarl@detroitmi.gov](mailto:azarl@detroitmi.gov)  
or
- Dennis Perkins, District 4 Deputy District Manager (313) 236-3520 or [dperkins@detroitmi.gov](mailto:dperkins@detroitmi.gov)

## Additional information can be found at:

- 1) <https://detroitmi.gov/how-do-i/find-information/flooding>
- 2) Beginning the week of March 23, there will be public postings at:
  - The Manistique Treehouse, located on the 200 block of Manistique
  - AB Ford parking lot area, previously used for staging during 2019 flooding efforts

