

## During the Storm

For more detailed information on this subject, please refer to the Town's website (<http://www.kingstonmass.org>), MEMA information or to the NFIP under "Preparation and Recovery."

## Flood Warnings

If a flood emergency is declared, residents will be notified by local radio stations, local TV stations or other sources.

## When Flood Warnings Are Issued

- Follow instructions given through flood warning systems
- Pay attention to your surroundings and evacuate if necessary
- Do not attempt to cross flooded areas on foot or in a vehicle
- Stay away from the ocean surf's storm surge
- Stay away from power lines and electrical lines
- Turn off your electricity
- Go to the highest ground possible

## After the Storm

- Avoid floodwaters for safety's sake and because the water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline or raw sewerage
- Clean flood damaged goods
- Check for structural damage before re-entering your home
- Contact your local conservation agent in order to properly dispose of storm debris
- When making repairs, be sure to flood proof your home

## Town Hall Contacts

[26 Evergreen Street, Kingston, MA 02364](#)

- Conservation: 781-585-0537
- Sewer: 781-585-4058
- Planning: 781-585-0549
- Building & Zoning: 781-585-0505

## Kingston Sewer Customers



If you are connected to the Town sewer you may face different issues in the case of long term power outages, hurricanes, or coastal flooding. In case of Town wide emergencies, like a hurricane, you should follow emergency directions including those to evacuate. If your home has been affected by flooding or sewage back-up, Mass DEP and Mass Dept of Health has information available at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/laws/flooding.htm>

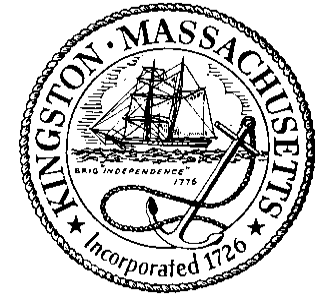
**If your home is serviced by a grinder pump you should be aware that :**

If power is interrupted, so is your sewer service. In case of power outages you should restrict your water use. Flush only if necessary. Use a closed basin for washing. If you have been without power for 24 hours, call our department for service at 781-422-2253 and leave your name, phone number and address. If you do not receive a reply within the same day please call our emergency pager number at 781-409-5669.

Please note that it is illegal to connect your Sump Pump to the municipal sewer. Sending storm water or ground water to the Wastewater Treatment Plant can cause extreme surges in flow that the Treatment Plant may not be able to properly handle. It also increases costs for treatment and in turn increases your bill.

# Town of Kingston

## Information On Flood Hazards



This public service information is provided by the Kingston Conservation Commission, Sewer Commission and Planning Board. The brochure was developed by the Duxbury-Kingston-Plymouth StormSmart Coasts Team through a technical assistance grant provided by the MA Office of Coastal Zone Management's StormSmart Coasts Program.

## Protect your family and home!

People and their homes in coastal communities, like Kingston, are regularly threatened by natural hazards. In 1991, Hurricane Bob caused nearly one billion dollars in damages. Nor'easters impact our coastline every year causing millions of dollars in damages. Although not all homes are in designated high-hazard areas (see below), your home may still be at risk due to erosion, localized flooding, and sea level rise. Last year, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) paid one-third of its claims to homes in low-risk communities.

*Patriot's Day Storm  
This could be you!*



## Before the Storm

### Understand Your Risk of Flooding

Currently state and local regulations use the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) to show the estimated extent of flooding during a hypothetical storm. This storm is called the "100-year storm" and it has an estimated 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded during any given year. Over the life-time of a 30 year mortgage a storm of this magnitude has a 25 % chance of happening.

Homeowners should find out if their home is in a FEMA flood zone. The maps along with additional information can be found at your local Building Inspector's Office and Conservation Office. In addition to your local source, a full scale map of your location (called a FIRMette) is available through FEMA's website ([msc.fema.gov](http://msc.fema.gov)).

For additional information on hazards mapping and risk, see the StormSmart Coasts' ([mass.gov/czm/stormsmart](http://mass.gov/czm/stormsmart)) section on hazard identification and mapping.

## Prevent Losses

There are several proactive measures a homeowner can take to prevent losses from storm events. Plus,



*Addition, partially funded by FEMA, constructed to elevate utilities*



*Example of an elevated home and the possible insurance savings*

these steps can lower one's flood insurance premiums and result in long-term savings (see fact sheet 5 on the StormSmart Coasts webpage):

1. Purchase flood insurance. This is not covered under your homeowner's insurance. To find an agent near you select agent locator at the NFIP ([floodsmart.gov](http://floodsmart.gov)) site.
2. Relocate appliances, including the main electric panel, washing machine, drier, furnace, and water heater to areas less likely to flood.
3. Elevate your entire home above FEMA's base flood elevation (BFE). You can save money in the long term.
4. Consult a contractor about retrofitting and flood proofing your home. Information is also available at your local Building Inspector's Office.

5. If you are considering doing work to your home, you or your contractor should be familiar with the best coastal construction techniques. These can be found through FEMA's coastal construction manual ([fema.gov/rebuild/mat/fema55.shtm](http://fema.gov/rebuild/mat/fema55.shtm)).
6. Be sure to check with your local Building Inspector, Conservation Agent and Town Planner to determine what local permits may be necessary for construction.

There are grants available through FEMA to NFIP-participating communities to help homeowners pay for these flood loss prevention options.

## Plan Ahead

How to information is available through MEMA's website ([mass.gov/mema](http://mass.gov/mema)) under the "Hot Topics" section. It addresses many subject areas, including:



*Emergency Personnel helping with an evacuation during the Patriot's Day Storm*

- Developing a family emergency plan
- Creating a disaster supply kit
- Sheltering in place
- Evacuating
- Safeguarding your possessions
- Preparing your home
- Ensuring your pet's safety