

# MESSAGE FROM CITY MANAGER Jack L. McLean Jr.



**The National Hurricane Center information on Tropical Storm Eta states that in the next 72 hours the storm is likely to leave heavy rains in our area.**

## **Please Take the Following Steps:**

- Have an emergency plan and practice survival skills, like first aid and how to disinfect water.
- Be prepared! Assemble an emergency kit in case you need to evacuate. Do not forget to include necessary prescription medications and a small first aid kit.
- Charge cell phone batteries and any reusable batteries for flashlights.
- Heed evacuation warnings. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground.
- Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed. Disconnect electrical appliances.

## **During A Flood**

- Avoid low spots, like ditches, basements, or underpasses.
- Do not walk through flooded areas.
- If you must walk in water, wherever possible, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. Remember: “Turn around, don’t drown.” If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car, and move to higher ground—only if you can do so safely.
- Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.

## After A Flood

- Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Listen for news reports to learn whether the water supply is safe to drink and where emergency shelters are located.
- Avoid floodwaters; water may be contaminated by oil, gas, or raw sewage. Water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Still avoid moving water—the danger decreases only when water levels drop.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Stay away from downed power lines and report them to the power company.
- Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits, and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.
- Only pump water out of a flooded building when water has receded outside.
- Clean and disinfect everything that was stuck in flooded waters. Mud left from floodwater can contain sewage and chemicals.
- Be wary of lingering water inside buildings after a flood. A dehumidifier will help remove excess water and minimize mold damage.

## Plan Now

- You'll need to plan for two situations: Remaining in your home after a disaster or evacuating to a safer location.
- Have a three-day supply of food and water on hand; plan for one gallon of water per person per day and food that won't spoil.
- Keep a manual can opener and emergency tools including a fire extinguisher, battery-powered radio, flashlight, and plenty of batteries.