



## **BEING AWARE OF STEPS TO REDUCE LOSS BEFORE A FLOOD IS THE FIRST STEP TO SAFETY**

Several of the Town's efforts to reduce flood damage depend on your cooperation and assistance. Please help us with this effort.

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO EVERY DAY:**

To ensure against flooding, it is important to maintain the water-carrying capacity of the Town's drainage system, therefore--

- Do not dump or throw anything (grass clippings, etc.) into the gutters, swales or Boca Ciega Bay. These areas must be free of debris in order to function as they have been designed, and edging of the curb area is mandatory to ensure that grass doesn't stop the flow of stormwater.
- If you observe any illegal disposal of materials into drainage facilities that could obstruct the flow of stormwater or if you see dumping of debris into gutters, swales or Boca Ciega Bay, please notify the Public Works Department at 391-4848.
- Always check with the Building Dept. before you build on, alter, re-grade or add fill to your property. A permit may be needed to ensure that these projects do not cause problems for other properties.
- If you see building or filling being done without a permit posted, contact the Building Department at 464-3888.

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO DURING SEVERE WEATHER:**

- Listen for weather updates on local TV channels and radio stations to stay informed.
- Keep a portable radio and flashlight on hand with fresh batteries.
- Clear your yard and porches of loose objects, furniture, plants, etc.
- **Moor your boat securely and make it as watertight as possible.**
- Place personal possessions and furniture in higher locations to reduce flood loss.
- **Consider sandbagging outside doors.**
- Turn off electricity and unplug small appliances from electrical outlets. Turn off the water to your home.
- Shutter or board all windows to help prevent glass from shattering and water from further damaging personal belongings.
- **Plan a flood-free evacuation route and know where to go.**
- **DO NOT** walk through flowing water. **DO NOT** drive through a flooded area. **Stay away** from power lines and electrical wires. **LOOK BEFORE YOU STEP!**