



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH PLANNING, BUILDING & ZONING

Dear Property Owner:

The United States Congress passed the Biggert-Waters legislation in 2012, beginning the process to eliminate all federal subsidies to flood insurance policies.

The process has, and will over time, increase the flood insurance rates in the Town of Surfside Beach dramatically.

Homeowners who had been paying subsidized rates will see their rates increase 15, 18 and 25% annually, until full market risk rates are reached.

The town is committed to assisting our citizens with these increases, with that commitment the town is a member of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) which was implemented in 1990 as a voluntary program for recognizing and encouraging community floodplain management activities exceeding the minimum NFIP standards.

Under the CRS, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reward community actions that meet the three goals of the CRS, which are: (1) reduce flood damage to insurable property; (2) strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP; and (3) encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management. The CRS uses a Class rating system that is similar to fire insurance rating to determine flood insurance premium reductions for residents. CRS Classes are rated from 9 to 1; 9 being a lesser discount and 1 being the most savings possible.

In 2010, when the town joined the CRS program we received a Class 9 rating, saving the citizens of the town 5% on their flood insurance. **Today, however we are very proud to be able to say the town is now classified as a Class 5 which translates to a 25% savings for properties located in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), and a 10% savings for policies (non-preferred risk) in the areas outside of the SFHA.**

Please present this document to your flood insurance provider. If they should need any additional information, I will be happy to provide it to them.

Thank you for your continued support in the efforts to reduce the cost of flood insurance within the town.

Sincerely,

David "Mitch" Combs, CFM
Building Official