

- (16) Provide information, testimony, or other evidence, as needed during variance request hearings.
- (17) Conduct the following actions when damage occurs to a building or buildings:
  - a.) Determine whether damaged structures are located within the Special Flood Hazard Area;
  - b.) Conduct damage assessments for those damaged structures located in the SFHA, and;
  - c.) Make a reasonable attempt to notify owner(s) of damaged structure(s) of the requirement to obtain a building permit / floodplain development permit prior to repair, rehabilitation, or reconstruction.
- (18) Perform such other inspections as may be required to insure compliance with the other provisions of this ordinance.

**ARTICLE 5. PROVISIONS FOR FLOOD HAZARD REDUCTION.**

**SECTION A. GENERAL STANDARDS.**

In all areas of special flood hazard the following provisions are required:

- (1) New construction and substantial improvements shall be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse and lateral movement of the structure;
- (2) Manufactured homes shall be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, and lateral movement. Methods of anchoring may include, but are not limited to, use of over-the-top or frame ties to ground anchors. Dry stacked blocks (stacked without the use of mortar or cement to bond them together) are not to be used as an anchor/elevation method. This standard shall be in addition to and consistent with applicable state requirements for resisting wind forces;
- (3) New construction and substantial improvements shall be constructed with materials and utility equipment resistant to flood damage;
- (4) New construction or substantial improvements shall be constructed by methods and practices that minimize flood damage;
- (5) Electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, air conditioning equipment and other service facilities shall be designed and/or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during conditions of flooding, such facilities shall be located a minimum of 2 feet above the Base Flood Elevation;
- (6) New and replacement water supply systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the system;
- (7) New and replacement sanitary sewage systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the systems and discharges from the systems into flood waters;
- (8) On-site waste disposal systems shall be located and constructed to avoid impairment to them or contamination from them during flooding;
- (9) Any alteration, repair, reconstruction or improvements to a building that is in compliance with the provisions of this ordinance shall meet the requirements of “new construction” as contained in this ordinance; and,
- (10) Any alteration, repair, reconstruction or improvements to a building that is not in compliance with the provisions of this ordinance, shall be undertaken only if said non-conformity is not furthered, extended, or replaced.
- (11) All gas and liquid storage tanks that are principally above ground shall be anchored to prevent floatation and lateral movement.

- (12) When new construction and substantial improvements are located in multiple flood zones or in a flood zone with multiple base flood elevations, they shall meet the requirement for the more stringent flood zone and the highest base flood elevation.
- (13) New construction and substantial improvement of any building shall have the lowest floor (including basement) at least one foot above the centerline of the designated street, unless the topography of the property does not allow for strict adherence as determined by the Floodplain Administrator.
- (14) New construction and substantial improvements built on fill shall be constructed on the properly designed and compacted fill that extends beyond the building walls before dropping below the base flood elevation, and shall have appropriate protection from erosion and scour.

**SECTION B. SPECIFIC STANDARDS.**

In all areas of special flood hazard designated on the community's FIRM, where base flood elevation data have been provided, as set forth in Article 3, Section B, the following provisions, in addition to the standards of Article 5, Section A, are required:

- (1) Residential Construction. New construction and substantial improvement of any residential building (including manufactured home) shall have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated to no lower than **2 feet above** the base flood elevation. Should solid foundation perimeter walls be used to elevate a structure, flood openings sufficient to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls of enclosures that are subject to flooding, shall be provided in accordance with standards of Article 5, Section B (4).
- (2) Non-Residential Construction. New construction and substantial improvement of any commercial, industrial, or non-residential building (including manufactured home) shall have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated to no lower than **2 feet above** the base flood elevation. Buildings located in all A-Zones may, together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, be floodproofed in lieu of being elevated provided that all areas of the building below the base flood elevation (plus a minimum of two feet of freeboard) are water tight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water, and use structural components having the capability of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and the effect of buoyancy. Dry floodproofing is allowed only where flood velocities are less than or equal to five feet per second. A registered professional engineer or architect shall certify that the standards of this subsection are satisfied. Such certification, together with an operation and maintenance plan, shall be provided to the Floodplain Administrator.
- (3) In special flood hazard areas with base flood elevations (Zones AE and A1-30) but without floodways, no encroachments, including fill material or structures, shall be permitted unless certification by a registered professional engineer is provided demonstrating that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all other existing and anticipated development, will not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than one foot at any point within the community. The engineering certification must be supported by technical data that conforms to standard hydraulic engineering principles.
- (4) Enclosures. New construction and substantial improvements that include fully enclosed areas formed by foundation and other exterior walls below the lowest floor shall be designed to preclude finished living space and designed to allow for the entry and exit of floodwaters to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls. Enclosed areas, including crawl spaces, shall be used solely for parking of vehicles, building access, and storage.
  - a.) Designs for complying with this requirement must either be certified by a professional engineer or architect or meet or exceed the following criteria:
    - (i) Provide a minimum of two openings, on different sides of each enclosed area; if a structure has more than one enclosed area below the base flood elevation, each shall have openings on exterior walls;

- (ii) The total net area of all openings shall be at least one square inch for each square foot of enclosed area, or the openings shall be designed and the construction documents shall include a statement that the design and installation will provide for equalization of hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters;
  - (iii) The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one foot above interior grade (which must be equal to in elevation or higher than the exterior grade);
  - (iv) Openings shall be at least three inches in diameter.
  - (v) Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, valves or other coverings or devices provided they permit the automatic flow of floodwaters in both directions; and automatically equalize hydrostatic flood loads on exterior walls, and;
  - (vi) Limited in use to parking of vehicles, storage, and building access, and;
  - (vii) Limited to 299 square feet.
- b.) Access to the enclosed area shall be minimum necessary to allow for parking of vehicles (garage door) or limited storage of maintenance equipment used in connection with the premises (standard exterior door) or entry to the living area (stairway or elevator); and,
- c.) The interior portion of such enclosed area shall not be finished or partitioned into separate rooms.
- (5) Detached storage buildings, sheds, or other like accessory improvements, excluding detached garages, carports, and boat houses, shall solely be used for parking of vehicles and storage. Such storage space shall not be used for human habitation and shall be limited to storage of items that can withstand exposure to the elements and have low flood damage potential. The storage space shall be constructed of flood resistant or breakaway materials, and equipment and service utilities, such as electrical outlets, shall be limited to essential lighting and other incidental uses, and must be elevated or floodproofed. Flood openings in accordance with the standards of Article 5 Section B (4) shall also be required. These accessory structures shall be constructed and placed on the building site so as to offer the minimum resistance to the flow of floodwaters. Accessory improvements and other appurtenant structures shall be firmly anchored to prevent flotation that may result in damage to other structures.
- (6) Standards for Manufactured Homes and Recreational Vehicles.
- a.) All manufactured homes placed, or substantially improved, on individual lots or parcels, in existing manufactured home parks or subdivisions, in expansions to existing manufactured home parks or subdivisions, in new manufactured home parks or subdivisions or in substantially improved manufactured home parks or subdivisions, must meet all the requirements for new construction, including elevation and anchoring and the flood openings requirements of Article 5, Section B (4). Manufactured homes must be:
- (i) Elevated on a permanent foundation to have its lowest floor elevated to no lower than **2 feet** above the base flood elevation, and;
  - (ii) Securely anchored to an adequately anchored foundation system to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement.
- b.) All recreational vehicles placed on sites must either:
- (i) Be on site for fewer than 180 consecutive days and;
  - (ii) Be fully licensed and ready for highway use, or

- (iii) Must meet all the requirements for new construction, including anchoring and elevation requirements of this Article 5, Section B (6) (a) or Article 5, Section B (6) (b) (i) above.

A recreational vehicle is ready for highway use if it is licensed and insured in accordance with the state of Mississippi motor vehicle regulations, is on its wheels or jacking system, is attached to the site only by quick disconnect type utilities and security devices and has no permanently attached additions.

- (7) Floodways. Located within areas of special flood hazard adopted by reference in Article 3, Section B, are areas designated as floodways. Since the floodway is an extremely hazardous area due to the velocity of flood waters which carry debris, potential projectiles and has erosion potential, the following provisions shall apply:
  - a.) Prohibit encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other developments unless certification (with supporting technical data) by a registered professional engineer is provided demonstrating that encroachments shall not result in any increase in flood levels within the community during occurrence of the base flood discharge;
  - b.) If Article 5, Section B (7) (a) above is satisfied, all new construction and substantial improvements shall comply with all applicable flood damage prevention standards of Article 5.
  - c.) Prohibit the placement of manufactured homes (mobile homes), except in an existing manufactured homes (mobile homes) park or subdivision. A replacement manufactured home may be placed on a lot in an existing manufactured home park or subdivision provided the anchoring standards of Article 5, Section A (2), and the standards of Article 5, Section B (1) through (3) and the encroachment standards of this Article 5, Section B (7) (a), are met.

#### **SECTION C. STANDARDS FOR STREAMS WITHOUT BASE FLOOD ELEVATIONS AND FLOODWAYS.**

When base flood elevation data and floodway data are not available in accordance with Article 3, Section A, in Special Flood Hazard Areas without base flood elevation data, new construction and substantial improvements shall be elevated or floodproofed to elevations established by the community. The following provisions in addition to the standards of Article 5 Section A and the enclosure standards of Article 5 Section B (4) shall apply:

- (1) Require that all new subdivision proposals and other proposed developments (including proposals for manufactured home parks and subdivisions) greater than 5 lots or five acres, whichever is lesser, include within such proposals base flood elevation data;
- (2) The Floodplain Administrator shall obtain, review, and reasonably utilize any base flood elevation and floodway data available from a federal, state, or other source, in order to administer the provisions of Article 5. When such data is available, standards of Article 5, Section B, shall apply. If data is not available from Article 5 Section C (1) or outside sources, then the following provisions shall apply.
- (2) No encroachments, including fill material or other development, shall be located within a distance of the stream bank equal to five times the width of the stream at the top of the bank or twenty feet each side from the top of the bank, whichever is greater, unless certification by a registered professional engineer is provided demonstrating that such encroachment shall not result in any increase in flood levels during the occurrence of the base flood discharge. The enclosure standards of Article 5, Section B (4) shall apply.
- (3) The Floodplain Administrator shall require that a single lot applicant develop the base flood elevation for the development site, utilizing accepted engineering practices and procedures. Upon review of the submitted data, the Administrator may accept or reject the proposed base flood elevation. When such data is accepted, standards of Article 5, Section B, shall apply.

- (4) Notify, in riverine situations, adjacent communities and the State Coordinating Office prior to any alteration or relocation of a watercourse, and submit copies of such notifications to FEMA. Assure that the flood carrying capacity within the altered or relocated portion of any watercourse is maintained.
- (5) Require that all manufactured homes be placed or installed using methods and practices which minimize flood damage. Manufactured homes must be elevated and anchored to resist flotation, collapse, or lateral movement. Dry stacked blocks (stacked without the use of mortar or cement to bond them together) are not allowed within the Special Flood Hazard Area.

**SECTION D. STANDARDS FOR SUBDIVISION PROPOSALS AND OTHER PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT.**

- (1) All subdivision proposals shall be consistent with the need to minimize flood damage;
- (2) All subdivision proposals shall have public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical and water systems located and constructed to minimize flood damage;
- (3) All subdivision proposals shall have adequate drainage provided to reduce exposure to flood hazards, and;
- (4) Base flood elevation data shall be provided for all new subdivision proposals and other proposed development (including manufactured home parks and subdivisions), which is greater than five lots or five acres, whichever is the lesser.

**SECTION E. CRITICAL FACILITIES.**

Construction of new and substantially improved critical facilities shall be located outside the limits of the special flood hazard area (one percent chance floodplain). Construction of new critical facilities shall be permissible within the SFHA only if no feasible alternative site is available and access to the facilities remains available during a 0.2 percent chance flood. Critical facilities constructed within the SFHA shall have the lowest floor elevated three feet six inches (3'6") above the base flood elevation at the site (or to the 0.2 percent chance flood elevation whichever is greater). Floodproofing and sealing measures must be implemented to ensure that toxic substances will not be displaced by or released into floodwaters. Multiple access routes, elevated to or above the 0.2 percent flood elevation shall be provided to all critical facilities to the maximum extent possible. Critical facilities must not only be protected to the 0.2 percent chance flood, but must remain operable during such an event. The community's flood response plan must list facilities considered critical in a flood, since loss of access can cause a critical situation. Other facilities in low risk flood zones that may also be needed to support flood response efforts must be included on the critical facility list. The use of any structure shall not be changed to a critical facility, where such a change in use will render the new critical facility out of conformance with this section. The list of the operators of the critical facilities affected by flooding must be updated at least annually, as part of the community critical facility planning procedures.

**ARTICLE 6. VARIANCE PROCEDURES.**

**SECTION A. DESIGNATION OF VARIANCE AND APPEALS BOARD.**

The Board of Supervisors of Lamar County shall hear and decide appeals and requests for variances from requirements of this ordinance and is herein referred to as the board.

**SECTION B. DUTIES OF VARIANCE AND APPEALS BOARD.**

The board shall hear and decide appeals when it is alleged an error in any requirement, decision, or determination is made by the Floodplain Administrator in the enforcement or administration of this ordinance. Any person aggrieved by the decision of the board may appeal such decision to the Circuit Court, as provided in Mississippi Code Annotated, § 11-51-75.