

City of Rye, NY

Repairing and Replacement Flood Damaged Equipment from Hurricane Irene

The City of Rye is concerned about your safety and that utility and mechanical equipment is properly repaired and replaced. We also want to make sure that we properly administer the Floodplain Management law. The City is required to comply with these laws because failure to do so may jeopardize the City participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and may result in residents not being reimbursed for damage claims.

Here's what you need to know.

- **Electrical equipment** (including your electrical panel and sub-panels) that was underwater during the storm must be replaced. This is a significant safety issue. Third party electrical inspectors that are retained by your electrician are aware of this requirement. In many cases depending on the extent of damage they are issuing temporary 30-day inspection certificates that allow you to keep electricity to your residence. This will give you time to replace mechanical equipment.
- If electrical equipment is replaced AND your residence is located in a FEMA-designated flood zone it must also be relocated to be above the FEMA-designated 100-year flood elevation. We understand that many may not be aware of this requirement and it may be a hardship, but it is a requirement of Chapter 100 Section B.(3) of the City Code. This Code was not in effect at the time of the 2007 floods. The purpose of this provision (which the City was required to adopt as part of its participation in the NFIP) is to reduce losses from future floods and reduce claims.
- **All other mechanical equipment** (i.e. water heaters, heating, ventilating and air conditioning equipment, etc.) that is replaced must obtain a permit from the City of Rye Building Department. If mechanical equipment is replaced AND your residence is located in a FEMA-designated flood zone it must also be relocated to be above the FEMA-designated 100-year flood elevation. Equipment that is repaired is not subject to this requirement and does not have to be relocated.
- The 100-year FEMA **Flood elevation** can be found online at: <http://www.msc.fema.gov/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/FemaWelcomeView?storeId=10001&catalogId=10001&langId=-1> . These are the official maps, but can be challenging to interpret. The City will be posting easier to read maps shortly of some of the more impacted areas in the City. Please check our website at www.ryeny.gov. In some cases you may need a surveyor to determine the exact location of the 100-year flood elevation on your property.
- Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. We understand the challenges of living in flood prone areas and the City is working hard to keep you and future families safe.