Flooding can occur whenever a large amount of rain falls over a short period of time. Risks increase when rain coincides with high tide or if the ground is already saturated. Hollywood is a coastal city rising less than 10 feet above sea level (FASL) in many locations. Some areas are particularly susceptible to flooding because they are only 2-3 FASL.

Flooding risk increases exponentially when rainfall occurs at high tide because our stormwater drains to the ocean. During high tide, water from the Atlantic Ocean pushes inland (west) into inlets, canals, and the Intracoastal Waterway, causing water levels throughout the area to rise and backflow into the city’s storm system. If heavy rain occurs during high tide there is nowhere for water to go, drainage time increases and flooding results as shown in the adjacent illustration.