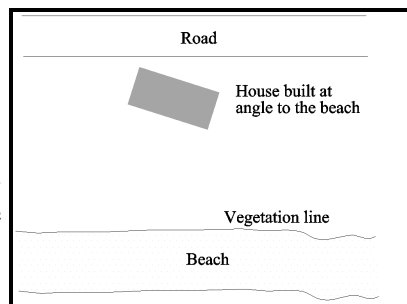


If you cannot build anywhere else but close to the coastline

If you have no other land to build on, other than close to the coastline, try to do as much of the following:

- Build your house as far back from the coastline as you possibly can.
- Try not to clear vegetation between your house and the coastline.
- Build your house on legs so that the floor level is at least 2 feet above ground level.
- Build your house at an angle to the coast (see figure)
- Try to position your septic tank at least 50 feet from the beach, mangrove area or river.
- Do not use sand from the beach or reef flat for construction.
- Be aware that building seawalls or putting rock on the beach will have little effect in reduce the risk of flooding or storm damage and may cause increased coastal erosion.
- Be aware that your house and family are at risk from coastal hazards.



Building a House

How to ensure that coastal erosion, flooding or storm damage does not affect you.



The Government of Kosrae is committed to ensuring that the risks from coastal erosion, storm damage and flooding have as little effect on the people of Kosrae as is possible. This factsheet is for people who are building a house or other property to help minimize the possible impacts of coastal hazards

Where to get more advice

If you would like more information on coastal erosion, flood risks or storm damage, please contact the Development Review Commission in Tofol on 370 2076.



Development Review Commission

Some facts

Over 90% of the existing houses, and people that live in them, on Kosrae are at some risk from coastal hazards such as storm damage, flooding or coastal erosion.

This problem is due to houses being:

- Built on land that is too low lying,
- built in the mangroves or swamp areas
- built on land that is too close to the coastline.

Building sea walls or putting rock on the beach will **not** help prevent flooding or storm damage in most cases. Building seawalls may also cause erosion to increase.

A serious typhoon or tidal wave, although rare on Kosrae, could happen and would cause damage to much property and possibly loss of life.

Where are the worst areas to build a property.

Virtually all areas on the seaward side of the circumferential road between Tafunsak and Utwe are at very high risk from the effects of coastal hazards.

However, the following areas in each Municipality should be noted as being at most risk:

Tafunsak – Sialat, Finfukul & Yekula, Walung coastline

Lelu – Pukusruk to Finpukal

Malem – Fukrin, Kotfwa & Pal; Kuplu

Utwe – Skarac & Sacrac; Finyalu



How can you ensure that your house will not be affected by coastal hazards.

The most effective way of ensuring that your house is not affected by coastal erosion, flooding or storm damage is to **ensure that you build on land that is back from the coastline (at a very minimum 100 feet) on ground that does not flood.**



Loto Ismael built his house on the landward side of the circumferential road, well back from the coastline on land that does not flood. This house is well protected from the impacts of coastal hazards.....

.....unlike this house, which is at a very high risk from coastal hazards.



Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken them to a wise man who built his house on the rock: And the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, and it did not fall for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: And the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on the house; and it fell. And great was its fall.

Matthew, Chapter 7, Verse 24 to 27