

THE FIRST STATE WATERMARK



Delaware's Floodplain Management Newsletter

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FEMA FIRM MAPS GOING EFFECTIVE

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) has been working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to produce new flood risk maps for all of Delaware's coastline and many streams in each County. This resulted in preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) being released by FEMA. These preliminary maps are scheduled to go effective on:

Kent County – 7/7/2014
New Castle County – 2/4/2015
Sussex County – 3/16/2015

All communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program will have to have a compliant floodplain ordinance adopted and approved by FEMA prior to their County's effective date. These new maps are a result of a coastal study conducted by FEMA that started in 2009.

You may go to FEMA's informational web portals to view a detailed map with side-by-side comparisons of the preliminary floodplain boundary and the effective floodplain boundary. These maps are an ESRI© product with recent aerial photographs. Go to:

<http://maps.riskmap3.com/DE/Kent/>
<http://maps.riskmap3.com/DE/Sussex/>
<http://maps.riskmap3.com/DE/Newcastle/>

Go to FEMA's GeoPlatform website: <http://fema.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=cbe088e7c8704464aa0fc34eb99e7f30> to view the current effective maps. This website is the National Flood Hazard Layer.

You can also view the effective floodplain layer for all three Counties on DNREC's Environmental Navigator website: <http://maps.dnrec.delaware.gov/navmap/>

For those of you wishing to download the DIRM data of the new maps, go to FEMA's Map Service Center website: <http://msc.fema.gov/portal>. The data can be downloaded by County or for the entire state.

UPCOMING ORDINANCE TRAINING WORKSHOP

Since all of the participating communities have adopted new floodplain ordinances within the last year, DNREC has decided to conduct a one day training workshop in each County. These workshops are geared towards the floodplain administrators, building code officials, and inspectors that handle the inspection, enforcement, and record keeping for compliance with the floodplain ordinance. The first workshop will be on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, in Lewes. The one in Kent County will be on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, in Dover. The one in New Castle County will be on April 23, 2015, in New Castle. Agenda will be sent out shortly.

HOMEOWNER FLOOD INSURANCE AFFORDABILITY ACT APRIL 2015 CHANGES

President Obama signed the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (HFIAA) on March 21, 2014. This law repeals and modifies certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 and makes additional program changes. There are several significant changes that are taking effect April 1, 2015. An annual surcharge will be added to all policies. This will be \$25 for all primary residences and \$250 for all non-primary residences and non-residential structures. Rate increases will also be implemented. HFIAA limited increases for individual premiums to 18%. The new law requires gradual rate increases for primary residential structures that are now receiving a subsidized premium instead of an immediate increase to full risk rates. The 25% annual increases are still in effect for subsidized policies on Pre-FIRM non-primary residential structures, non-residential structures, severe repetitive loss properties, and buildings that were substantially damaged or improved. These policies will increase 25% annually until they reach actuarial rates. See link for FEMA Fact Sheet <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/99601>

FLOOD VENTS AS ENGINEERED OPENINGS

NFIP regulations require that all fully enclosed areas below the lowest floor that are usable solely for parking, building access, or storage shall be designed to allow for the entry and exit of floodwaters. In order to meet this requirement, design must be certified by a registered professional engineer OR have a total net opening of not less than one square inch for every square foot of enclosure. There are only two products on the market, Smartvent and Flood

Flaps, that have an Evaluation Report issued by the International Code Council (ICC) Evaluation Service, Inc. (ICC-ES). This is the documentation that is called for in Technical Bulletin #1 for engineered openings. Smartvents are rated to provide 200 square inches of opening. Flood Flaps are rated to 220 square inches of opening. A copy of the individual certification or the Evaluation Report is required to be kept in the community's permanent permit files, along with inspection reports. Other openings can be used as non-engineered openings based on their net-area of open space.

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

FEMA – EMI COURSES

<http://training.fema.gov/EMI/>

- E273 - Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP – March 9-12; June 22-25; or Sept 21-24, 2015.
- E278 - NFIP/Community Rating System - April 27-30; July 27-30; or Aug. 31-Sept 3, 2015.
- E 194 - Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts – May 4-7, 2015.
- E282 - Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II – Aug 3-6, 2015.
- E284 - Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts III – Aug 24-27, 2015.
- E279 - Retrofitting Floodprone Residential Buildings – May 4-7, 2015.
- E386 – Residential Coastal Construction – Aug 31-Sep 3, 2015.

New Jersey Association for Floodplain Management

http://www.njafm.org/annual_conference

Maryland Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers (MAFSM)

www.mafsm.org/index.php

Annual Conference: October 15 2015, in Linthicum Heights, MD.

DNREC TRAINING

Plan on attending the trainings offered on page one. DNREC is also partnering with U of D's Institute for Public Administration to offer "Creating a Flood Ready Community" on June 12, 2015, from 9am-12pm at the Paradee Center in Dover. Register at www.ipa.udel.edu/events.html

If you are interested in taking the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) exam at a different time please contact Greg Williams at Gregory.Williams@state.de.us. We will schedule a time to proctor exam again once we have several people interested. The exam and a preparatory class can also be taken at either the NJ or MD conferences listed above.

CRS

The National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS) manual has been updated and has been released. For more info go to: www.CRSresources.org.

Wendy Carey with the University of Delaware Sea Grant Program has been working with DNREC and FEMA to host a quarterly meeting of the Delaware CRS Users Group. It is for current CRS communities and those interested in finding our more about the program. If you are interested in attending future meetings please contact DNREC.

DNREC WEBSITE:

Please check out the Division of Watershed Stewardship's website to learn more about the National Flood Insurance Program, FEMA, and other important reference material: www.dnrec.delaware.gov/swc/Drainage/Pages/Flooding.aspx

FEMA LIBRARY REFERENCES

FEMA's guidance document - **Zone A Manual: Managing Floodplain Development in Approximate Zone A Areas** www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/dl_zonea.shtm

FEMA's guidance document - FEMA 348 **Protecting Building Utilities from Flood Damage** www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1750

FEMA's guidance document - P-738 **Substantial Improvement/ Substantial Damage Desk Reference** www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=4160

FEMA's updated guidance document - P-936 **Floodproofing Non-residential Buildings** www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/34270

FEMA's guidance document – FEMA P-993 **Variations and the NFIP** www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1415994328968-8a331cb33b4b5aeb3ab26f9d382a7f68/FEMA_P_993_FPM_Bulletin_Variance.pdf

FEMA guidance document - **Reducing Flood Losses Through the International Codes (4th edition, 2014)** www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1411731781834-d0c7d7f9ff0d195ce3c33901ba73daac/ReducingFloodLosses_4thED_Final_508.pdf

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