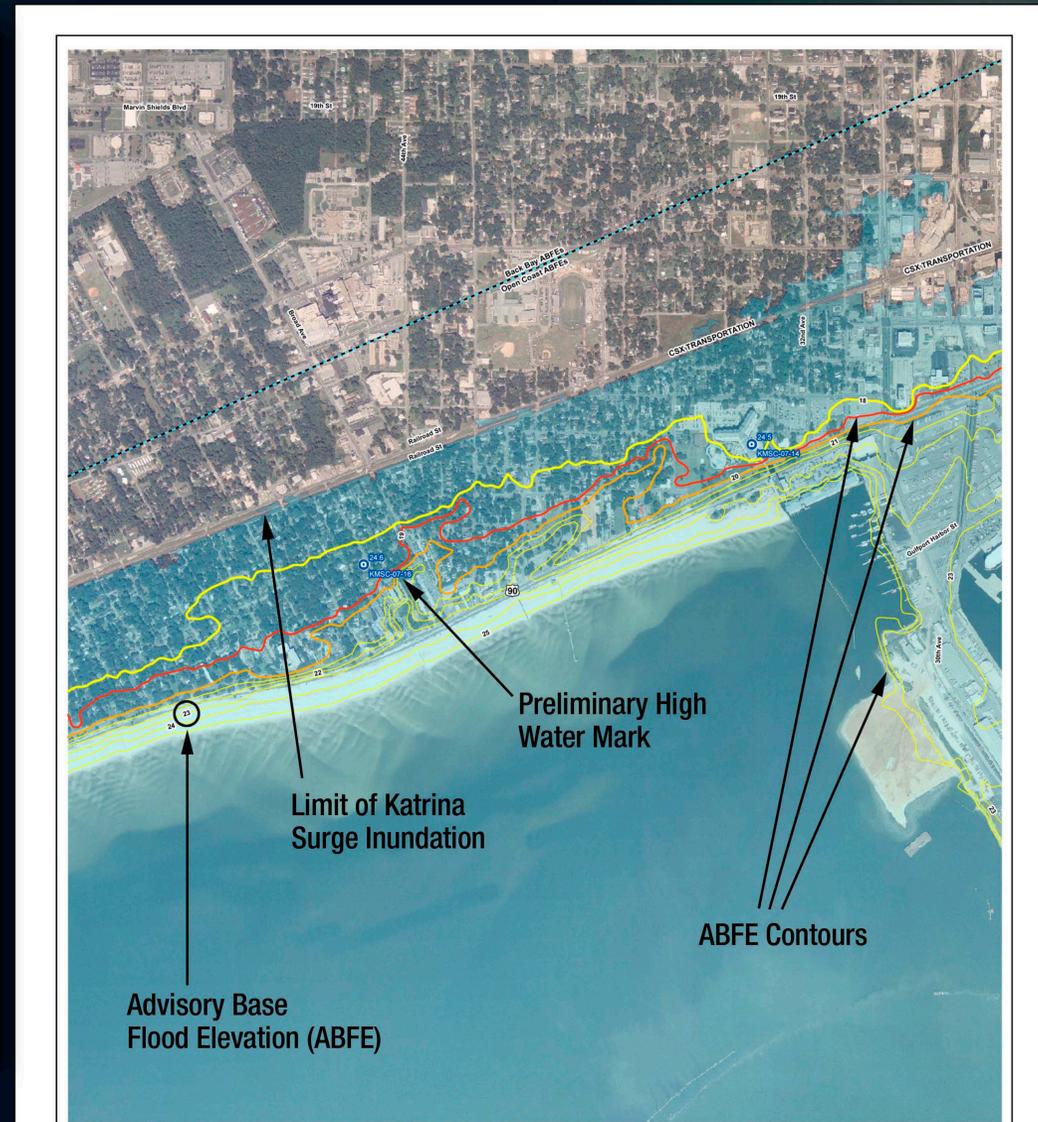
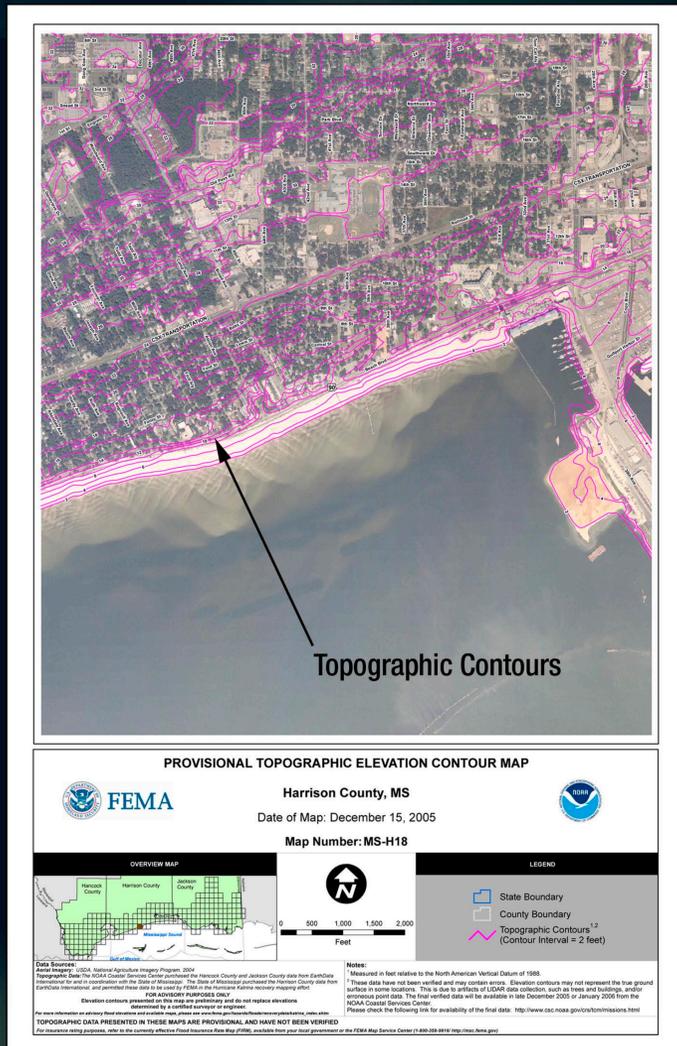


After Hurricane Katrina: FEMA Flood Recovery Mapping

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, FEMA initiated a project to produce high-resolution maps that show flood impacts from the storm for portions of Harrison, Hancock, and Jackson Counties in Mississippi. These maps were developed to provide local governments and citizens with the best and most current information available about coastal flood hazards to assist in the rebuilding process.



The Hurricane Katrina Surge Inundation and Advisory Base Flood Elevation Maps (also referred to as “Katrina Recovery Maps”) show preliminary high water mark flood elevations and flood inundation limits from Hurricane Katrina. The Katrina Recovery Maps also show coastal Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFEs). ABFEs are based on a flood frequency analysis completed by FEMA that updates the flood risk data with information on storms that have occurred in the 25+ years since the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) were published, including (but not limited to) Hurricane Katrina. In the title block of each map, effective Base Flood Elevations¹ from the FIRMs are provided for comparison to the ABFEs as well as Hurricane Katrina’s surge levels.

The effective BFEs remain the regulatory elevations for determining whether or not a structure is in the floodplain and for flood insurance rating purposes. Communities may use more stringent elevations to regulate development and better manage their floodplains. Many Mississippi coastal communities have adopted these ABFEs and are using them in recovery planning and reconstruction.

¹ A Base Flood Elevation (BFE) is defined as the elevation to which a body of water could be expected to rise during a 100-year flooding event.

For more information, please visit www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/recoverydata/katrina/katrina_ms_index.shtm

Topographic Maps

FEMA, in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has developed a series of detailed topographic maps for Mississippi to aid users in the interpretation of the advisory flood elevations shown on the Katrina Recovery Maps.



NOAA National Geodetic Survey aerial imagery of the Gulf Coast of Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina made landfall.

